

Live Free and Dig with the Littleton Garden Club

WMGC celebrates 100 years with Doug Tallamy presentation

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Please join the Littleton Garden Club as we congratulate White Mountain Garden Club on attaining their century anniversary this year. What an accomplishment and a testament to the interest in gardening in the north country.

To commemorate the anniversary, WMGC has arranged for a special free program featuring renown researcher and

author, Doug Tallamy. Dr. Tallamy will present a program at The Rocks on Saturday July 20. The program is co-sponsored by the Forest Society which will open reservations for the program four weeks before the event. Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis.

Doug Tallamy is a founder of the website Homegrown National Park®. Thanks to Tallamy's leadership and influence, Homegrown

National Park® is hugely influential and attracting a large following. His premise is that every one of us can take action to give Mother Nature support. Tallamy says... "what if each American landowner converted half of his or her yard to productive native plant communities? Even moderate success could collectively restore some semblance of ecosystem function to more than 20 million acres of what is now ecological waste-

land."

Bringing Tallamy's presentation to our area is a wonderful and generous way for WMGC to celebrate 100 years of gardening service. The club was founded in 1924 by Rose Thomas. Rose Thomas was the wife of Theodore Thomas, conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the turn of the century (he died in 1905). They had a home in Bethlehem and together they created

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a garden called "Felsengarten." Mrs Thomas convened an organizing meeting in 1924 of friends who loved gardening. The first formal meeting was held June 23, 1925 and the name White Mountain Garden Club was adopted.

Today, WMGC has more than 50 members and tends window boxes and community gardens spanning from Franconia, to Whitefield, Lancaster and Jefferson. Rose Thomas and her founding members of WMGC would be proud to know that their organization is not only active in 2024, but is spreading the word how every one of us can take actions both large and small to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks.

The movement is optimistic and hopeful. The Homegrown National Park® Web site says...

We've reached a critical point. Local ecosystems are losing so many

species that their ability to provide the ecosystem services (oxygen, clean water, flood control, pollination, pest control, carbon storage, etc) that sustain us will become seriously compromised. But don't worry... this isn't a "bad human" moment. We can fix this together, with good stewardship, and have fun doing it! Our message is a solution-based action. By starting new habitats, we'll create new ecological networks together. Through these small actions by many people, our efforts will have an outsized impact; ensuring that our world will sustain the plant and animal populations which sustain us.

Littleton Garden Club congratulates WMGC on 100 years of service and thanks them for their generosity and leadership in hosting Doug Tallamy and helping all of us hear the call to action. For more information about the club and our meetings, please visit www.littletonnhgardenclub.org.