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photos by Sue Stafford

Lupine adds a splash of blue or lavender as part of the native plant landscape

necessary to qualify. It isn't difficult.

Ecologist Douglas Tallamy's book, "Nature's Best Hope," explains that the best way to protect biodiversity is for people to plant native plants and promote conservation in every yard.

Kalin Emrich, of The Garden Angel here in Sisters, believes you can be a good steward while also enjoying a great garden. He says that using native plants and organic materials in the landscape can yield beneficial results over the long term for you and nature.

Emrich and his crew practice a natural approach to landscape maintenance.

Another local source, C & C Nursery, on the corner of West Hood Avenue and South Pine Street, can provide you with cold-hardy, deer-resistant shrubs and perennials. You can also find butterfly-, bee-, and hummingbird-friendly plants as well as succulents and ornamental grasses.

Winter Creek Restoration and Nursery on Deschutes Market Road has an informative website (www.wintercreeknative.com) and sells native plants grown from local seed and cuttings. They also offer

knowledgeable consultation, design, and installation services for those deciding to "go native."

Now, while we are waiting for the snow to leave Black Butte, is a great time to do your homework by researching information about native plants suited to your landscape environment. You can start small; no need to tackle the whole yard at once. We can't change the world or stop climate change, but we can begin to restore the biodiversity in our own backyard and improve habitat for our crawling, winged, and four-footed neighbors.

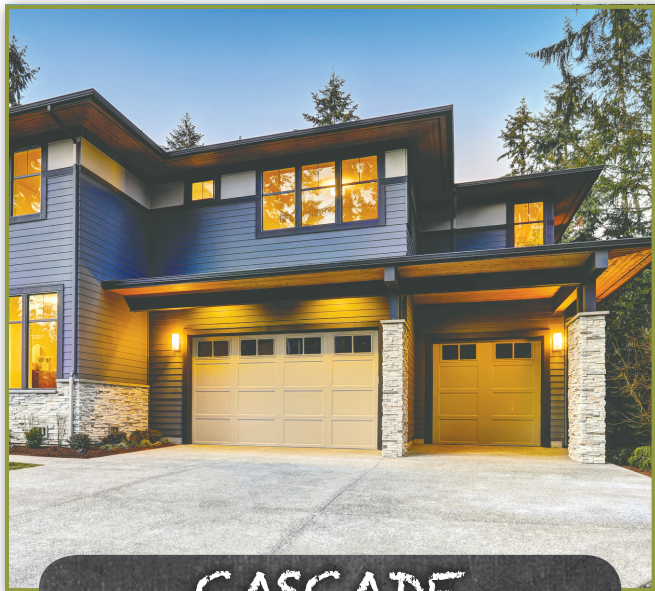
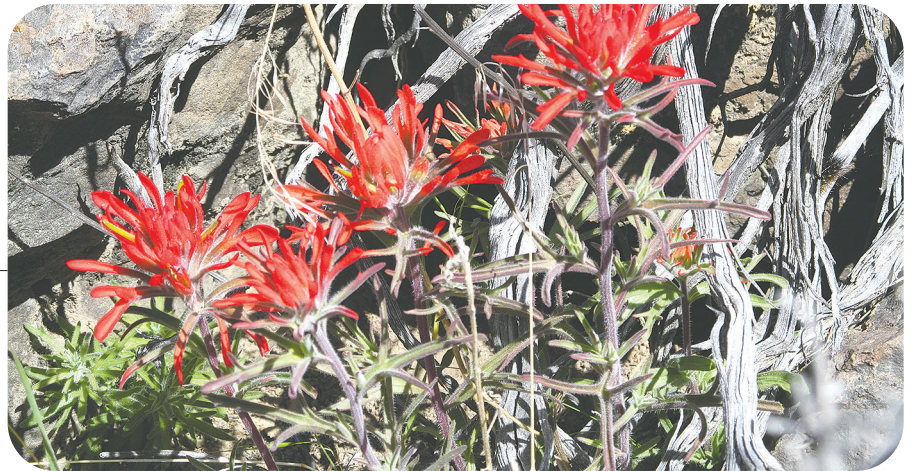


California Tortoiseshell butterflies make a stop in Sisters every April to sample the sap on the River Birch in my backyard. Their numbers are dwindling each year.

deschutes), as well as plant, tree, and shrub lists.

The National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org) offers a program that will recognize your yard or garden (or a portion thereof) as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The \$20 application processing fee and sign purchase directly support the NWF's programs to protect wildlife and its habitat. Their website outlines what is

Indian paintbrush is a colorful addition to a native-plant landscape, although it is hemiparasitic – has the ability to photosynthesize on its own, but it forms modified roots that draw water and nutrients from its chosen host plant, often a perennial wildflower or grass. So plant carefully.



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