

*Osprey & Backyard Wild Life Habitat – Dave deCalesta – Reprinted from 6/05 KLA Newsletter*



*Ospreys*

Drat! We missed the window of opportunity for attracting ospreys to nest in nesting poles this year – I got as far as identifying several good candidate spots, and contacted a local Boy Scout troop for consideration of nesting poles as an eagle project (enthusiastic response) but ran out of time for this spring. Too bad, as one report had a pair fishing at the south end of Keuka Lake, and another of an unsuccessful attempt to build a nest on a power pole at the north end by Penn Yan. However – we will get a group of interested volunteers together and put up at least two poles in late summer. Volunteers should contact the KLA office by August 1, 2005 – you will be contacted regarding the what, where, when, and how.

*Back Yard Wildlife Habitat*

The Wildlife Federation has a program for certifying homeowners as having a yard certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Site. It sounds like a valuable program, and getting certified is easy. The Wildlife Federation promotes its program as such:



“Listen to the trill of the flitting songbirds... see the butterflies sipping nectar from native wildflowers...hear the plop of a frog jumping into the pond....This isn't your yard you say? Well, it could be, and it doesn't matter where you live or how much space you have. National Wildlife Federation will help you create a thriving habitat for wildlife and certify it as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site! “

We all remember those lectures about the birds and the bees, but chances are an important part of that lecture was left out. Collectively, this diverse group of wildlife including insects, birds, bees and bats – all contribute to a healthy ecosystem.

It's easy to get certified and you don't need to be a zoologist or a botanist to fill out the application. Basically, you are asked a few questions about the size of your property, what kinds of critters your backyard supports, what kinds of foods,

including birdseed feeders and hummingbird feeders you have, and access to water (no-brainer for us on the lake). If your habitat meets National Wildlife Federation requirements, they'll send you a certificate suitable for framing. For questions on how to complete the form, please call 1-800-822-9919. Note that it costs \$15.00 to get certified

"Reasons for getting certified include:

It's fun! You'll attract beautiful **songbirds**, cheerful **butterflies** and other interesting **wildlife** to your yard. Watching wildlife can be fun for the whole family.

It's **relaxing**! Your backyard will provide a peaceful place to relieve stress and unwind, day or night.

It makes your yard more attractive. **Wildflowers** and other native plants will provide a nurturing place for wildlife.

It benefits the environment! **Gardening** practices that help wildlife help to improve air, water and soil quality.

You'll automatically become a member of **National Wildlife Federation** and receive a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, *Habitats*, providing you with a steady supply of tips and projects to maintain your Backyard Wildlife Habitat site year after year.

You'll also get a year's subscription to the **National Wildlife** magazine.

For more information, go to the National Wildlife Federation website: <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat>.