**Contact:**

Linda Argueta

National Wildlife Federation

202-797-6662

ArguetaL@nwf.org

**National Wildlife Federation Certifies New Wildlife Habitat in Lake Junaluska, NC**

***Out of state visitors making a difference to protect wildlife***

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina—June 14, 2015 – [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org/) (NWF), America’s largest wildlife conservation and education organization, is pleased to recognize that Family Nature Summits in conjunction with the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center near Asheville, NC has successfully created a [Certified Wildlife Habitat](http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx)® through its Garden for Wildlife program at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. NWF celebrates the efforts of Family Nature Summits and the Lake Junaluska Retreat and Conference Center to create a garden space that improves habitat for birds, butterflies, frogs and other wildlife by providing essential elements needed by all wildlife – natural food sources, clean water, cover and places to raise young. Certification also makes our [Certified Wildlife Habitat](http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx)® part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to restore critical habitat for pollinators.

“We are so excited to have another passionate wildlife gardener join us and create a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Over the last 40 years, nearly 200,000 wildlife gardeners have joined NWF’s Garden for Wildlife movement and helped restore wildlife habitat right in their own yards and neighborhoods,” said David Mizejewski, naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation. “Whether you garden in a suburban yard, an apartment balcony or a 10-acre farm, a schoolyard or a business park, or anything in between, everyone can create a home for local wildlife. Turning your space into a Certified Wildlife Habitat is fun, easy and makes a big difference for neighborhood wildlife,” he added.

We were so inspired by the Corneille Bryant Native Plant Garden at the Conference Center,” said Sue Sabo*,* Programming and Recruiting Director for Family Nature Summits*,*that we decided to create a smaller handicap accessible native plant garden closer to the Lambuth Inn. Janet Manning and Roddy Ray from Lake Junalsuka along with Brian Yinger and Monica Piche from Family Nature Summits have planned the new garden path to include additional native plants, bird houses, bird baths, and benches for enjoying the area.

During the 2015 Family Nature Summits Summit, June 27 – July 3, our Summiteers, children and adults alike will work on the garden. By the end of the week, plants will be planted, brush will be cleared, and anyone, regardless of mobility will be able to enjoy the garden. It will be left as natural as possible, and will encourage birds, butterflies, and wildlife to live in the garden.

NWF’s Garden for Wildlife program encourages responsible gardening that helps pollinators and other wildlife thrive. It encourages planting with native species like milkweed and discouraging chemical pesticide use. With nearly 200,000 locations and growing, NWF’s Certified Wildlife Habitats and Community Wildlife Habitats recognize individuals, schools, groups and whole communities committed to providing habitat for wildlife, including pollinators. Each of the nearly 200,000 certified locations provides food, water, cover and places to raise young. This makes yards, schools, businesses, places of worship, campuses, parks, farms and other community-based landscapes into wildlife sanctuaries. For more information on gardening for wildlife and details on how an entire community can become certified, visit [www.nwf.org/habitat](http://www.nwf.org/habitat) or call 1-800-822-9919.

For more National Wildlife Federation news, visit: [www.nwf.org/news](http://www.nwf.org/news).

[*National Wildlife Federation*](http://www.nwf.org) *is America’s largest conservation organization, inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future.*

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