Canopy Groups: Week of June 7, 2015 #4 - Feeding Birds and Squirrels

Related Participants
Everyone

Need To Know Information About Feeding Birds and Squirrels
Background information about feeding birds and squirrels is available in an article that I wrote in 2010. See: http://articles.x10.mx/feeding_birds_and_wild_animals_05_13_10.pdf

Two of Wisconsin’s most impressive coffee shops have outdoor areas with feeders—for birds and squirrels. The Lakeside Coffee House in Madison has bird feeders outside windows facing Lake Monona including tube feeders, platform feeders for large birds and platforms with spikes for holding dried corn cobs (for squirrels). Mocha Moment in Janesville has a large deck with bird feeders. Mocha Moment owners leave peanuts in the shell on the deck railing for squirrels to find.

Tube feeder outside Lakeside Coffee House, 02 W Lakeside St, Madison, Wisconsin
Mocha Moment, 1121 Center Avenue, Janesville, Wisconsin, built by Hughes Custom Carpentry. Parking lot entrance at the rear of the building.

Mocha Moment, 1121 Center Avenue, Janesville, Wisconsin, front coffee shop deck facing the woods
To Begin Immediately (Applies to Every Similar Realm)
Use the following steps to begin a an alternative permaculture project:

**Step #1: Dowse and Map Locations for Bird/Squirrel Feeders and Fountains**
The large format color printout of the Bay Colony Club property described in the previous post should be printed at FedEx Office and dry mounted on foam core (purchase the largest size available). Wall space should be dowsed at Rec #1 or Rec #2 for hanging the map and a large dry erase board. See: [http://articles.x10.mx/bay_colony_map_01_16_15.pdf](http://articles.x10.mx/bay_colony_map_01_16_15.pdf)

**Step #2: Purchase Triangular Map Flags**
Triangular map flags are available at Amazon. See: [http://www.amazon.com/Advantus-Triangular-Flags-Assorted-MF375/dp/B00125KYF8/ref=pd_sim_229_14?ie=UTF8&refRID=0W9K3N8Q7HWPG94V00DG](http://www.amazon.com/Advantus-Triangular-Flags-Assorted-MF375/dp/B00125KYF8/ref=pd_sim_229_14?ie=UTF8&refRID=0W9K3N8Q7HWPG94V00DG)

Colors can be used to identify types of feeders:

- Red: Tube feeders
- White: Tray feeders
- Blue: Corn Cob Spikes
- Yellow (color white flags with a yellow marker or glue post-it paper): Fountains

Dowse locations for feeders (and fountains) and pin map flags to the Bay Colony Club map.

**Step #3: Purchase and Install Equipment (and Fill With Food)**
The Perky Pet tube feeder in my budget article is at the extreme low end of available
tube feeders. An EcoClean (available at Wild Birds Unlimited), Droll Yankees (available at Amazon.com) and Aspects (available at Amazon.com) tube feeders, with bottoms that pop out for cleaning, are at the high end:
Wild Birds Unlimited sells a line of “Eco Tough” tray feeders for larger birds. Walmart also sells hanging tray feeders that can be suspended from a sturdy Shepherd’s hook (Pancea brand, Ace Hardware) as well as a ground feeder for larger birds.


Look for bird seed that contains a mixture of millet and Black Oil Sunflower seeds.

Many bird enthusiasts purchase squirrel-proof feeders which is a cruel practice. According to Wikipedia, the oldest squirrel fossil, Hesperopetes, dates back to the Chadronian age or late Eocene Epoch (40-35 million years ago) and is similar to modern flying squirrels. Corn cob holders, such as the one below, need to be nailed to something secure.

![Backyard Boys Woodworking BBW1 Squirrel Chair Feeder (Amazon)](image)
Birds and squirrels need fresh water. The solution is garden fountains that circulate water (with easy-to-clean components). This solar powered blue glazed ceramic fountain is close to the ground for large birds. See: Smart Solar 21372R01 Ceramic Solar Koi Fountain, Blue Glazed Finish, [http://www.amazon.com/Smart-Solar-21372R01-Ceramic-Fountain/dp/B003BEA3SG/ref=sr_1_10?ie=UTF8&qid=1434035701&sr=8-10&keywords=bird+bath+with+solar+fountain](http://www.amazon.com/Smart-Solar-21372R01-Ceramic-Fountain/dp/B003BEA3SG/ref=sr_1_10?ie=UTF8&qid=1434035701&sr=8-10&keywords=bird+bath+with+solar+fountain)

![Solar powered bird fountain](image_url)

**Step #4: Inspect Feeders and Fountains and Develop a Schedule for Refills**

Pool your observations about the food and water you provide to God’s animals. Develop a preliminary schedule for refills and dowse whether you are correct.

**Note:** Add 2 drops of Thyme extract (available from the Vitamin Shoppe or Amazon) to the fountain each time you change the water.