



*the* SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

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CREATE A  
"CRITTER  
COZY"

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## DEAR PARTNER IN CONSERVATION,

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One simple way to nurture the diverse wildlife in your backyard is to create a hibernaculum. Wait a sec—*a what?*

A hibernaculum is a shelter for overwintering larvae, emergent caterpillars and pollinators, lizards, salamanders, frogs, and snakes. These mini-habitats can also serve as cozy hideouts on hot summer days. You can make one with stones, logs, stumps, or brush piles. Your refuge can be as simple or fancy as you like, and it doesn't have to be big to have a worthwhile impact.

Other ways to enhance wildlife habitat in your yard:

- Provide a source of shallow water throughout the dry season, including muddy areas for native bees who use mud to build their nests.
- Plant native host and nectar plants. Elderberry and dogwood not only supply nectar, but the pithy centers of their branches provide tunnels and crevices utilized by many insects.
- Eliminate constant night lighting. Light and dark patterns are essential for migration, rest, and reproductive health for many species.

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To see a hibernaculum we made to enhance a pollinator garden, go to:

***[sjpt.org/critter-cozy](http://sjpt.org/critter-cozy)***

For more ideas on caring for your land in the San Juan Archipelago (and beyond), go to:

***[sjpt.org/your-backyard](http://sjpt.org/your-backyard)***

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