In spring of 2012 Shaw Nature Reserve built a green rooftop on top of its new bathroom near the picnic pavilions. First, the building was engineered to support the extra weight! You can’t just put a green roof on top of any building. The next step involved rolling out a protective layer of rubber liner. Then inter-locking rigid plastic trays were spread out over the entire area followed by a six-inch layer of soil that was hoisted onto the roof with a crane (see photo). The soil is a lightweight mixture of heat-expanded rock, compost and sand. In early May seed was hand sown (see photo). Seed had been kept cool and moist in a refrigerator for over two months to break seed dormancy. Germination occurred within one week followed by a light fertilizing three weeks later. The seed mix consisted of the following species:

- *Achillea millefolium*
- *Agalinis tenuifolia***
- *Allium cernuum*
- *A. stellatum***
- *Amorpha canescens*
- *Aster oolentangiense*
- *Bouteloua curtipendula***
- *Calamintha arkansana*
- *Chamaecrista fasciculata***
- *Chrysopsis villosa***
- *Coreopsis lanceolata*
- *Dalea purpaea*  
  *Echinacea simulata*  
- *Gentiana andrewsii*
- *Helenium amarum***
- *Heuchera richardsonii*
- *Koeleria macrantha*
- *Liatris punctata*
- *Manfreda virginica*  
- *Polanisia callosa***
- *Polanisia dodecandra***
- *Pyrcnanthemum tenuifolia*  
- *Ratibida columnifera*  
- *R. pinnata*
- *Rudbeckia hirta*  
- *R. missouriensis*
- *Solidago missouriensis*
- *S. nemoralis*
- *Sporobolus compositus*
- *S. heterolepis*
- *Talinum calycinum***
- *Tridens strictus*
- *Zizia aurea*

* species that germinated by August  
** species that bloomed in the first year