

The News From Native Plant School

September 2015



Native Plant School is a partnership between Shaw Nature Reserve, The Missouri Department of Conservation, and Wild Ones Natural Landscapers. Classes are held in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Please register at shawnature.org/NPS



Upcoming classes

Thursday, September 10, 1-4 p.m.
If You Plant It, They Will Come – Gardening for Pollinators
by Susie Van de Riet

Friday, September 11, 4-7:30p.m.
Shaw Wildflower Market

Thursday, October 8, 1-4 p.m.
Gardening with Asters and Goldenrods

Saturday, October 17, 1-5 p.m.
Celebrating 10 Years of Greener Gardens: Native Plant School's 10th Anniversary!

Thursday, November 12, 1-4 p.m.
Growing Native Trees and Shrubs from Acorns, Nuts and Berries

Please register at shawnature.org/NPS

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

John Lubbock

Shaw Wildflower Market Friday, September 11, 4-7:30p.m.

Shop for locally produced native plants, food and crafts. Also, experts will answer your native gardening questions.

Adults \$5
Seniors \$3
Members Free



The Shaw Wildflower Market is geared for new and experienced gardeners and people looking for locally made products for a greener community, including Wildflowers from Missouri Wildflower Nursery, Wine, Bread, Meats, Honey, Books, Crafts and more.

Bring checks and cash to pay vendors. One vendor, Missouri Wildflower Nursery, will accept credit cards. Cash or check accepted by all vendors.

The event is located in the pavilions behind the Bascom House, near the Whitmire Wildflower Garden at Shaw Nature Reserve. The garden is devoted to showcasing native plants in many habitats and design styles. Participants will be able to stroll through the gardens, gaining inspiration from the mature plantings within each area.

This event is planned rain or shine. Native Plant Experts will be on hand to answer questions, identify plants and give guidance to gardeners wishing to expand their plant palette with native plants.

More info at shawnature.org/SWM

Celebrating 10 years of Greener Gardens

You are invited!

Celebrating 10 Years of Greener Gardens: Native Plant School's 10th Anniversary!

Keynote speaker Alan Branhagen (director of horticulture at Powell Gardens) will be introducing his new book *Native Plants of the Midwest*. (Timber Press).

Saturday, October 17, 1-5 p.m.
Free to the Public
RSVP at besa.schweitzer@mobot.org

10th Anniversary Schedule:

1 -3 p.m.

Tour the Whitmire Wildflower Garden and visit exhibits.

3 p.m.

Social, music, light food and refreshments.

4 p.m.

Keynote Address: ALAN BRANHAGEN.

Special thanks to Wild Ones St. Louis for Sponsoring this 10th Anniversary Celebration!

Exhibitors Include:

- Conversations with native plant experts
- Wild Ones St. Louis
- Audubon's Bring Conservation Home
- MO Master Naturalists
- Grow Native!
- Wild Bird Rehabilitation
- Lincoln University
- Bird bubbler demo
- Perennial Insect Hotels
- Dale Dufer Honeysuckle Tables
- The Art Center at Gilbergs
- Edg-Clif Vineyard

Live music in the Garden: Nathan Gilberg, Matt Rowland and Friends

Lemonade, vegan snacks and Asian carp nuggets served on honeysuckle tables.

Free willow seedlings (prairie and diamond) to the first 100 attendees. Tallamy says there are 456 caterpillars on willow!!

Monarch is the New Bluebird

In case you left earth recently, monarch butterflies have become a big deal. And for good reason. Butterfly populations are in sharp decline. Wintering grounds (near Mexico City) are being logged and summer grounds (in central North America) are losing the one plant they depend on; milkweed, a plant listed in agriculture handbooks as a common weed. Gardeners and conservation organizations are taking notice and stocking up on butterfly, marsh, green, common, prairie, whorled, purple, spider and four-leaf milkweed plants. Nurseries are scurrying to keep up with demand. They are also selling other native plants full of nectar that fuel butterfly migration in late summer and fall to Mexico. Plants like New England aster, purple daisy, showy goldenrod, purple coneflower and sunflowers to name a few. The idea is that while wild habitat and agricultural lands may be slow to change in favor of Monarchs, developed land in parks, churches, schools, businesses and especially our homes are ready for planting. That's why Monarch Waystations (a project of Monarch Watch) are popping up across the country and why the City of St. Louis has created Milkweeds for Monarchs, a program that promotes native plants used by Monarchs. It is also why you may struggle to find milkweeds in nurseries this fall. Monarch butterflies have become the new bluebird.

Milkweeds will be for sale at the Shaw Wildflower Market on Friday September 11 from 4-7:30 p.m.

Find out about Missourians for Monarch at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Missourians-for-Monarchs/441431742673348>

Rattlesnake Master

Did you know that each rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) flowerhead is composed of over a hundred individual five petaled flowers? When each plant can have up to 40 flowerheads it is no wonder that the pollinators love it.



Native Plant Expo & Sale

St. Louis Audubon's Bring Conservation Home is putting on a Native Plant Expo & Sale on Sept. 26 from 9a.m. - 2p.m. at Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood.

The Native Plant Expo and Sale is a venue for homeowners involved with Bring Conservation Home and gardeners new to natives to learn more and purchase native plants.

Come visit me at the Native Plant School booth!

I will have information about Native Plant School, Shaw Nature Reserve events, and Missouri native plants. You can visit me and buy gardening books for sale like Cindy Gilberg's book "Gardening is a Verb" and Dave Tylka's book "Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People".

www.stlouisaudubon.org/calendar/content/native-plant-sale-flyer-2015.pdf

Grow Native! Workshop

Glade Restoration and Converting Cropland and Fescue to Native Plantings on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

With three great presenters and site tours, the workshop will provide practical and step-by-step advice on how to restore and maintain glades, and convert tall fescue or other non-native vegetation to native grasses and wildflowers. You will also learn about various cost-share programs available to assist you with your habitat projects.

Cost of the workshop, including lunch, is \$35 per person for non-Missouri Prairie Foundation and Grow Native! members; \$25 per person for members. To register, visit www.grownative.org. See Events on the homepage, or call 888.843.6739 with questions.

Monarch Madness

Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. at the Weldon Springs Interpretive Site in St. Charles. The event is free and everyone in the family is welcome.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-and-partners-host-monarch-madness-event-sept-12>

BioBlitz at SNR

Academy of Science – St. Louis
BioBlitz at Shaw Nature Reserve

The Academy of Science – St. Louis BioBlitz is an exploration and inventory of the biodiversity of urban parks. Teams of public volunteers led by biologists, naturalists and environmental enthusiasts search natural areas, listing as many different species as they can find. The event is Friday, September 18, 2015 from 3:30 pm – 9:00 pm and Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 7:00 am – noon. At the end of the day, participants have a new appreciation of St. Louis urban parks and their own backyard!

Great Family Adventure!

Cost: *free*

www.academyofsciencestl.org/event/academy-of-science-st-louis-bioblitz-at-shaw-nature-reserve/

The Ethics of Native Plant Gardening

By Benjamin Vogt

How I view my garden shifted when plants matured and I noticed what was using them: what was gathering nectar and pollen, what was eating leaves, what was predated what. I had to unlearn decades of “perfect garden” mentality, research my new world, and be more selfless to be a better gardener. I’m sure if you’re visiting this site the same thing has happened to you – your choices in the garden move from a completely human perspective to one informed by other life. Maybe you stopped using sprays, left your garden up for winter, let some things self sow a bit more. Maybe you’ve started using more native plants and even torn out some exotics that don’t seem to be doing much for wildlife.

Read more at

<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/the-ethics-of-native-plant-gardening/>

Time to Remove Bush Honeysuckle



It is always a good time to remove honeysuckle but as fall progresses and the leaves begin to fall from the native trees, bush honeysuckle becomes more visible. Honeysuckle of the size pictured or smaller can be yanked out by hand. On a cool weekend after a rainy week is the easiest time because the soil is soft and all the roots come out with a good tug. If your plant is being stubborn a sharp shovel dug in next to the base can be used as a pry bar to pop it out. Bush honeysuckle does not re-sprout from the roots so it is ok if the roots break off while you pulling it out, just as long as you get the entire crown of the plant. Another precaution during fall involves the berries. The ripe red berries on the plants pulled out can re-sprout so be careful not to spread them to uninfested areas. If you chip your plants, spray the wood chips into an already infested area. If you plan to compost the shrubs, the berries and crowns may sprout in the compost pile and need to be killed all over again. Even after an area is cleared of bush honeysuckle it is wise to look the ground over each spring and fall and pull up any re-sprouts before they get too big. As Benjamin Franklin says, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Pictured above,

Dave Tylka shows off the root system of a bush honeysuckle he pulled up.

Gardening Tips

- Attend Shaw Nature Reserve Wildflower Market in early September.
- Check plants for signs of water stress, nutrient deficiency or disease. Fertilize only when necessary.
- The first two weeks of September is a good time to plant perennials and grasses. Mulch to a depth of 1-2 inches. For trees and shrubs, be sure to mulch to a depth of 2-3 inches.
- Divide and move perennials and grasses.
- Mulch where needed to reduce weeding and maintain moisture and protect from winter freezing and drought.
- September and October are the best months to kill invasive bush honeysuckle. Cut and spray stumps with 10% glyphosate. Properly dispose of cuttings if they contain berries to prevent spreading the seeds and reinfesting the newly cleared area.

Monarch Butterfly Migration

It's time to get ready for fall migration. The monarchs born in the north after mid-August will be the first members of the migratory generation. So watch for the signs and report your findings to Journey North. <https://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/FallWatch.html>



An archive of this newsletter is available at: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/visit/family-of-attractions/shaw-nature-reserve/gardens-gardening-at-shaw-nature-reserve/native-landscaping-for-the-home-gardener/native-plant-school/the-news-from-native-plant-school.aspx>

The Native Plant that No One Wants



Poison ivy seems to be having a very good year unfortunately for those of us allergic to it. But remember like all native plants, poison ivy still provides food for insects and birds and also has beautiful fall color. To clear up some confusion about Toxicodendron please read on...

- Poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*) doesn't exist in MO though it is native in states north and east of MO.
- Poison oak (*Toxicodendron pubescens*) uncommonly exists in the Ozarks along the Arkansas-Missouri boarder in Taney, Ozark, Howell and Oregon Counties. It can be found on glades and dry woodlands. It is not as common as poison ivy and is encountered by people much less frequently than poison ivy. It is a shrub that grows less than 2 ft. tall and suckers into colonies. Its 3 leaflets have rounded lobes along the margin that resemble small oak leaves.
- Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is very common throughout the Ozarks and is often found in disturbed landscapes, river bottoms, creek banks, woodlands, prairies, pond edges and roadsides. It can grow as a vine into tree canopies or as a suckering shrub that grows up to 3 ft. tall. Its 3 leaflets have smooth to bluntly saw-toothed margins.

If you do get into poison ivy in your garden or out hiking wash your skin immediately with soap and cold water to remove the oils that cause a rash. Rubbing alcohol can also be used to wash skin and tools. Even if you are not allergic, do the rest of us a favor and wash contaminated tools, gloves, and dogs after they get into poison ivy. One of the ways to get poison ivy is from contaminated shoe laces. Wash everything that comes into contact with the plant. If you do end up with a rash there are many creams that can stop the itch or even go to the doctor to get a prednisone shot.

Poison ivy does have a place in our natural areas but many of us think of it as a weed in the garden that can be difficult to remove since you don't want to touch it. Remember leaves of three, let it be. One method of removal I use for seedling plants is to put a newspaper sleeve over my hand like a glove and turn it inside out over the plant as I pull it out and throw it in the trash.

The best way to prevent the rash is to develop keen ID skills for every stage of the plant, from the tiny red leaves of spring to the white berries, loved by birds, dangling from trees in fall. Good luck!