

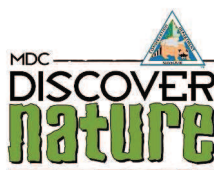
The News From Native Plant School

February 2016



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, February 11, 2016, 1-4 p.m.
Converting Lawn to Seeded Prairie or Savanna

Do you have too much lawn? Are you sick of cutting all the grass? Doug Tallamy states that there are over 40 million acres of lawn, more than all of the U.S. National Parks combined. Our children need a place to play ball, our pets need elbow room to romp but what about that extra lawn that nobody uses? It's a good time to get serious about converting that turf to prairie or savanna. Come learn how to create a natural-style landscape with high diversity and low maintenance. Mostly indoor. Class is full

March 10, 2016

Pruning Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines

Thinking about pruning this winter? Come learn the art of pruning. Learn how to remove large branches safely, prune dead and damaged wood and crossed branches. Also learn how to thin densely-branched trees and rejuvenate shrubs. Learn when to prune, how much to prune and explore strategies to keep plants short and dense or tall and graceful.

Please register at shawnature.org/NPS

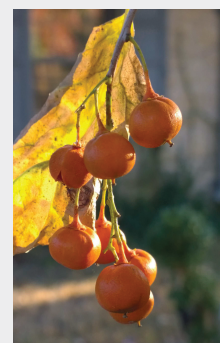
Warning: Oriental Bittersweet Invades Missouri

By Scott Woodbury

This past holiday season I attended a craft show and noticed a vender selling beautiful bittersweet wreaths. They sold out quickly. Only problem was that people thought they were purchasing American bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*, (pictured below) a 10-20 foot tall native vine, when they were actually getting Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, (pictured at right) a 50-80 foot tall invasive vine now spreading into Missouri like armadillos. It flowers and fruits profusely then spreads by birds and mammals that enjoy their tasty fruits. It has proven to be highly aggressive and difficult to control with quickly suckering roots. To make

matters worse, it hybridizes with American bittersweet creating plants that are tricky to identify. American bittersweet has flowers and fruits in clusters at the ends of branches while Oriental has flowers and fruits more scattered along the stem. Be sure to purchase live plants or holiday decorations with American bittersweet and notify vendors who may be selling Oriental Bittersweet. They may not know what they have. Wreaths with Oriental bittersweet seeds discarded into the compost bin or the edge of the woods is a natural area disaster waiting to happen. Oriental bittersweet displaces native plants and has the potential to kill mature trees over time.

If you already have an infestation, the first order of attack is to cut climbing vines off at the base. This will keep them from fruiting for a few years but if left to regrow they will quickly produce fruits and continue their rapid spread. Secondly pull up plants by the roots being careful not to miss any (roots are bright orange) or coat cut stumps with an herbicide that has the active ingredient triclopyr (like Ortho Brush-b-Gon or Poison Ivy-b-Gon). Plants are most easily seen and treated throughout winter when fruits are highly visible.



Native By Design

Feb. 26: Native by Design: Landscapes Beyond Beauty

Save the date! The Grow Native! Illinois Event Committee is organizing a rockstar lineup of speakers for an event in Edwardsville, IL on February 26. They'll present information from the frontline of concepts surrounding the value of native plants in our landscapes.

<http://grownative.org/events/feb-26-native-by-design-landscapes-beyond-beauty/>

Who should attend?: Wildlife Habitat Professionals, Landscape Contractors, Land Care Professionals, Growers, Garden Centers, Forest Managers, Arborists, Landscape Architects and Designers, Engineers, Sustainability Managers, Green Building Professionals, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and general landscape enthusiasts.

Location
Lewis and Clark Community College,
LeClaire Room at the Nelson Center,
600 Troy Rd, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Preseason Gardening Expo

At Rolling Ridge Nursery
Feb 13th, 10am -3 pm

Featuring:
Local Landscape Designers, Local Growers, Local Green Industry Experts, Plant Societies, CSA sign ups, Kids Seed Starting, and Shaw Nature Reserve. Find out more at rollingridgenursery.com

Gardening Tips

- Finish pruning trees, shrubs, and vines before leaf-out in late March.
- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or early March.
- Burn grass clumps where appropriate.
- Start seedlings indoors.

Partners for Native Landscaping

...a beginners' workshop for homeowners.
Sat., March 26, 2016 8am-4pm
at Powder Valley Nature Center • Kirkwood • MO

Beginners' Workshop offers information and resources on how to landscape with native plants for greener communities.

Dave Tylka
Keynote Presenter



An Introduction to...

- Gardening for Wildlife
- Gardening with Native Plants
- Rainscaping
- Basic Gardening Practices

Also...

- Hear about Organizations
- Discover Upcoming Events
- Meet Other Native Gardeners
- Purchase Missouri Wildflowers

Cost: \$10 Includes Lunch

Register Today! Space is Limited

Register Online at
www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL
Workshop at
Powder Valley Nature Center
11715 Cragwood Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Partner Organizations...



Honeysuckle Pull in the Garden

March 10, 2016
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Shaw Nature Reserve, Whitmire Wildflower Garden

We are looking for volunteers for a day of invasive species management. On Thursday March 10th from 9 am till noon SNR staff and volunteers will pull invasive honeysuckle shrubs out of our woodland. Please meet at the horticulture headhouse at 9:00 a.m. Dress for the weather with sturdy shoes and make sure to bring work gloves and water. After a short introduction we will be hand pulling small shrubs and digging out larger ones. If you have a favorite mattock, Pulaski, or spade please bring it.

R.S.V.P. to Besa at Besa.Schweitzer@mobot.org

Monarch Research

In An Evaluation of Butterfly Gardens for Restoring Habitat for the Monarch Butterfly (Lepidoptera: Danaidae)

BRIAN T. CUTTING AND DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY conclude;

"These results suggest that planting gardens with suitable larval host plants can be an effective tool for restoring habitat for monarch butterflies. If planted over a large area, garden plantings may be useful as a partial mitigation for dramatic loss of monarch habitat in agricultural settings"

Native Grasses

Native Grasses: Little Bluestem by Ellen Sousa

Whether you're growing your own "nano-prairie" or just enjoy the soft texture and flowing stems of ornamental grasses, little bluestem deserves a place somewhere in your garden for its fall color, winter interest, and wildlife value. The narrow blades of this native American native grass are an important food plant for tiny butterflies such as grass skippers and wood nymphs, and their abundant seed stems along road sides and in wild areas provide forage for many songbirds through winter.

<http://www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com/native-grasses-little-bluestem.html>

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."

Henri Matisse

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>

Seen in the Garden:



Ozark Witch Hazel
Hamamelis vernalis

Vernal witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) blooms in late winter with dark-yellow flowers that are delightfully fragrant while common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) blooms with lemon-yellow flowers in late fall. Both grow twelve to fifteen feet tall but give vernal witch hazel lots of space since it grows 15-20 feet wide as well. Both often have desirable yellow fall foliar color.

Winter blooming plants are an important food source for insects that emerge on warm winter days. Winter birds in turn feed on the insects attracted to the flowers.

Photos by Darla Preiss, Shaw Nature Reserve volunteer.

