

# The News From Native Plant School

July 2012



Native Plant School is a partnership between Shaw Nature Reserve, Grow Native! and Wild Ones Natural Landscapers. Classes are held in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Please register and pay [online](#)



## Upcoming classes:

Please register and pay [online](#).

### 2012 Schedule

Thur or Fri, July 12/13, 1-4 p.m.  
Small Flowering Trees, Shrubs and Vines Part 2 (Woodbury)

Fri, Aug. 17, 5-7 p.m.  
Book Review 1 Noah's Garden/Stein (Chapters 1-6) (Gilberg/Woodbury)

Friday, Sept. 7, 4-8 p.m.  
[Fall Wildflower Market](#)

Thur, Sept 13, 1-4 p.m.  
Reconstructing Tallgrass Prairies (Woodbury)

Thur-Fri, Oct. 11/12, 1-4 p.m.  
Small Flowering Trees, Shrubs and Vines Part 3 (Woodbury)

Fri, Oct. 12, 5-7 p.m.  
Book Review 2 Noah's Garden/Stein

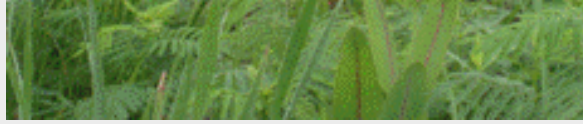
## Nature Connection:



### The year of the Indigo!

Two unusual things are happening with the wild indigos this year. First, they are being heavily eaten by Genista Broom Moth Caterpillars. Since this is a particularly good year for the caterpillars, baptisias are being hit hard; mostly blue and yellow wild indigos. The second interesting thing is that white wild indigo is coming up everywhere, even in places where it hasn't been seen for over five years! In the prairie it is magnificent. It will be a banner year for seed production as the white indigo does not seem to be as much affected by the caterpillars.

Come out to the [Whitmire Wildflower Garden](#) now to see the greatest show of white indigo's in fruit ever!



**Please register and  
pay [online](#).**

## July Native Plant Highlight



### **Slender mountain mint** (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

This species grows 2' tall and bears flat-topped flower clusters in July and August. Its white flowers contain abundant nectar and pollen that attracts an amazing number of beneficial insects including many species of butterflies. Slender mountain mint is found in prairies and old fields, along roadsides and grows in moist to average soil in a garden. An easy-to-grow perennial for full sun landscapes. In gardens it contrasts nicely with perennials such as purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*) and butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

## Gardening Tips:

Vigorous, unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened on new trees. Watch for forks in the main trunk and remove the least desirable leader as soon as it is noticed.

Cultivate and mulch. Mulching will reduce summer weeding and watering.

Continue to water new plantings deeply as needed. Apply at least one inch of water each time. During drought, water even established plantings and trees.

Collect seeds from spring blooming plants and store in indoor stratification or outdoor flats.

Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought.

Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.

“Motivated individuals can make a difference through voluntary efforts in their own yard and neighborhoods. Good neighbors pick up after their pets, manage stormwater on site, make sure their downspouts are not inappropriately connected to sanitary sewers and don't put trash or yard waste in the creek. “

Rick Holton

## Photos from the Spring Native Plant Sale

Shaw Nature Reserve volunteer Linghua Xiao took this photo of a happy shopper at the Shaw Nature Reserve booth. The sale attracted over 1,500 native plant enthusiasts.

We hope that by hosting our spring sale we will increase awareness throughout the region of native plants as desirable garden plants. We see each plant sold as an ambassador for native landscaping.

Note: the Native Plant Sale is now being called the **Wildflower Market** where we will offer local products like honey, bread, beer, wine, cut-flowers, and meat in addition to native plants!



## A spring plant sale vendor reminisces on her passion for native plants.

*Lillian Collins*



2012 was my second year participating in the Shaw Nature Reserve Native Plant Sale. It was a fabulous weekend. The weather couldn't have been nicer than if we had special ordered it!

I became interested in Native Plants when we rented a cabin along the Gasconade in 1995. I just HAD to know what all those gorgeous little flowers blooming along the roadside, in the fields, and along the river were.

I obtained my Master Gardener Certificate in 2003, and began volunteering at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center as it was close to home and I was interested in Natives. At first the Prairie there seemed like a lot of tall weeds. But then, after

Litzsinger Road Ecology Center as it was close to home and I was interested in Natives. At first the Prairie there seemed like a lot of tall weeds. But then, after learning the different plant characteristics, observing how the plants flowered, and their function in the environment, I was truly in love with Native Plants. 17 years later, after many many questions, ( thank you Mary Voges, Terry Brandt, Scott Woodbury, Diane Donovan, Besa Schweitzer, Jennifer Lee, and many, many others too numerous to name) I have become a little more knowledgeable about Missouri's Native Flora. Studying native plant books, much seed collecting, transplanting of itsy bitsy baby plants, and much trial and error in planting my own seeds has helped me to begin to know the individual plants more intimately.

I started growing native flowers a few years back. I just wanted to see if I could do it. I also wanted to have plants of my own to admire in the back yard. Each year I would grow a few different species. Then my husband challenged me to see if I could grow up to three thousand plants. I took up the challenge. At last years' sale I had around 30 different species of plants. In 2012, one year later, I was able to propagate more than 60 different species.

Thank you Shaw Nature Reserve and LREC for educating me and helping to preserve our native flora and fauna.

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