

# The News From Native Plant School

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

### 2013 Schedule

Thur, Jan. 10, 1-4 p.m.  
Control & ID of Common Invasive Plants (Woodbury)

Thur, Feb 14, 1-4 p.m.  
Conducting Small Controlled Prairie/Woodland Burns (Woodbury)

Thur, Mar. 14, 1-4 p.m.  
Native Plant Propagation from Seed (Brandt/Woodbury)

## Nature Connection:

Trees are home for many creatures. Tree cavities and peeling bark provide protection for insects during cool autumn nights. Some tree cavities will be used year round by colonies of bees looking for a place to store their honey and raise their young. Bee trees are full of life and you can even hear the buzzing when you are near the tree. If you find a bee tree at Shaw Nature Reserve enjoy watching the bees fly in and out of their home as they scavenge for nectar among the flowers. As long as you keep a respectful distance from their home the bees will ignore you and not sting.



Spontaneous connections to the lifecycle of many species that use dead

(Woodbury)

Thur, Mar. 14, 1-4 p.m.  
Native Plant Propagation from Seed  
(Brandt/Woodbury)

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Spontaneous connections to the lifecycle of many species that use dead trees as shelter can be made doing every day activities like chopping wood. Find out more by reading this article called "It may be dead, but it promotes life for many."

<http://ournativebees.com/it-may-be-dead-but-it-promotes-life-for-many/>

## Photos from Shaw Wildflower Market:



We had a great turn out last month for the Shaw Wildflower Market. Most visitors arrived as soon as the gates opened and made their purchases before the predicted rain. We saw a lot of familiar faces from Native Plant School and a few new native plant enthusiasts. Many thanks to our new vendors Edg-clif Vineyard, Great Harvest Bread Co. , Healthy Harvest Gardens, Urban Chestnut Brewery, Williams Bros. Meats, and L&F Produce. The storm did arrive before the sale was over so the evening ended on a wet note. We didn't mind waiting out the rain because it gave us extra time to talk to our favorite people about plants. The next Shaw Wildflower Market will be May 11th 2013. We already have our seeds stratified.

## October Native Plant Highlight

**Aromatic aster** (*Aster oblongifolius*)

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One of the last asters to bloom, aromatic aster (*Aster oblongifolius*) is one of the showiest asters as well. It's rich, sky-blue flowers have clear yellow centers atop two foot tall plants in October and November. It is not the flowers that have fragrance but the crushed foliage. This aster ranks high on the list for home gardens not just for fall color but also for its attractive low, shrub-like appearance. Adaptable to many soil and light situations, aromatic aster is found naturally in savannas, upland prairies and glades. This is indicative of its use in full sun to part shade dry gardens and it is even tolerant of clay soils. Butterflies love this aster for its late fall nectar and in winter the plants provide shelter and seed for small birds and mammals.

## Gardening Tips:

Container grown or B&B trees and shrubs are most successfully planted in the fall. Broadleaf evergreens or bare-root plants are best planted in the spring.

Scout property for invasive bush honeysuckle. Leave are bright yellow with red berries in Oct.

Remove leaves and litter from parking lots and turf areas or mow with mulching mower.

Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.

Continue to water, we are still in a drought.

“Let’s create gardens like fairy tale landscapes, places that seduce, tempt, and above all, lure the visitor to walk down the path.”

~Thomas Rainer

Read his blog at <http://landscapeofmeaning.blogspot.com/>

## Gardening for Wildlife Facts from Doug Tallamy’s lectures and book [Bring Nature Home](#)

*“Plants allow insects and birds to eat sunlight”*

### On insect herbivory...

- 11,400 species of caterpillars in the US
- 524 species of caterpillars on oaks in the eastern US
- 456 species of caterpillars on plums and wild cherry in the US

### **On insect herbivory...**

- 11,400 species of caterpillars in the US
- 524 species of caterpillars on oaks in the eastern US
- 456 species of caterpillars on plums and wild cherry in the US
- 0 species of caterpillars on Ginkgo in the US

### **On bird insectivory...**

- 96 % of bird species in the eastern US rear their young on caterpillars, adult insects and spiders
- Cardinals feed their young 90% on caterpillars, adult insects and spiders
- A chickadee pair feeds one clutch of nestlings about 300 caterpillars per day and 4,800 per clutch

### **On insect and bird habitat loss in the US...**

- 34% of US land is in agriculture
- 55% of US land is in cities and suburbs
- 5% of US land remains high quality habitat
- There are 40 million acres of turf
- The total turf area in the US is greater than the size of all of our national parks combined!

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