

The News From Native Plant School

May 2013



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 at shawnature.org/NPS



SHAW NATURE RESERVE
a division of the MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Upcoming classes:

Please register at shawnature.org/NPS

2013 Schedule

Friday, May 10, 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.
[Shaw Wildflower Market](http://shawnature.org/NPS)
MBG/SNR Members Only sneak preview sale

Sat, May 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
[Shaw Wildflower Market](http://shawnature.org/NPS)
Sale for the general public

Thur, June 13, 1-4 p.m.
Garden Archaeology and
Ethnobotany (Woodbury)

Fri, Sept. 6, 4-8 p.m.
Shaw Wildflower Market

Thur, Oct. 10, 1-4 p.m.
Low-maintenance Ground Cover
Gardening

Thur, Nov. 7, 1-4 p.m.
Pruning, Training and Transplanting
Trees, Shrubs and Vines

Nature Connection:



The red shouldered hawk nests in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden year after year. The hawks enjoy our ponds that attract their food source, reptiles, and crayfish. They also build their nests in mature oak trees. Creating native plant water gardens is more than just a pretty place to put a bench. Many critters will come to your yard to enjoy a cool drink or take a bath. You will enjoy watching as your yard matures into a thriving ecosystem.

Please register at
shawnature.org/NPS

Market Vendors:

Plant Vendors:

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery
Forrest Keeling Nursery
Andy's Native Plants
A Blooming Paradise Nursery
Ozark Berry Farm
Pan's Garden
DJM Ecological Services
St. Francis Mountain Natives
Missouri Naturescapes

Non Profit Organizations:

Wild Ones St. Louis
Audubon St. Louis
Missouri Native Plant Society
Habitat Helpers
Missouri Prairie Foundation
The Folk School

Market Vendors:

Edge-Clif Winery
Restore My Soul Photos
Garden Girls STL (garden cottages)
Verdura Botanicals (soaps/lotions)
Great Harvest Bread
Williams Brother Meats
Doris Malon Baskets
Berry Nutty Farm
Yvonne's Honey

Music

Rosewood on Friday
The Folk School on Saturday

[http://
www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/
visit/family-of-attractions/shaw-
nature-reserve/things-to-do-at-
shaw-nature-reserve/events/
wildflower-sale.aspx](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/visit/family-of-attractions/shaw-nature-reserve/things-to-do-at-shaw-nature-reserve/events/wildflower-sale.aspx)

"One of the maxims of the new field of conservation biological control is that to control insect herbivores, you must maintain populations of insect herbivores."
— Douglas Tallamy

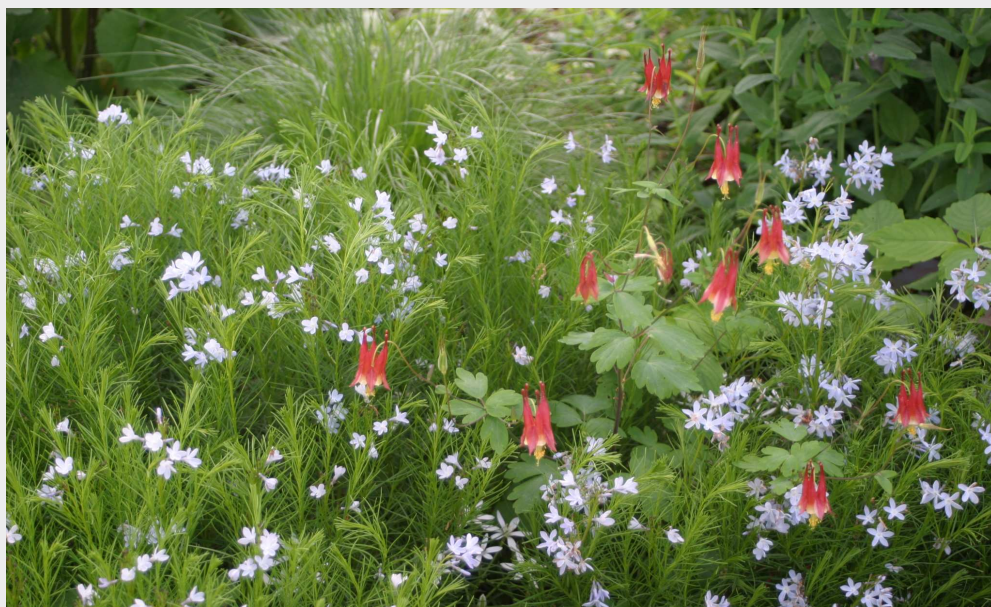
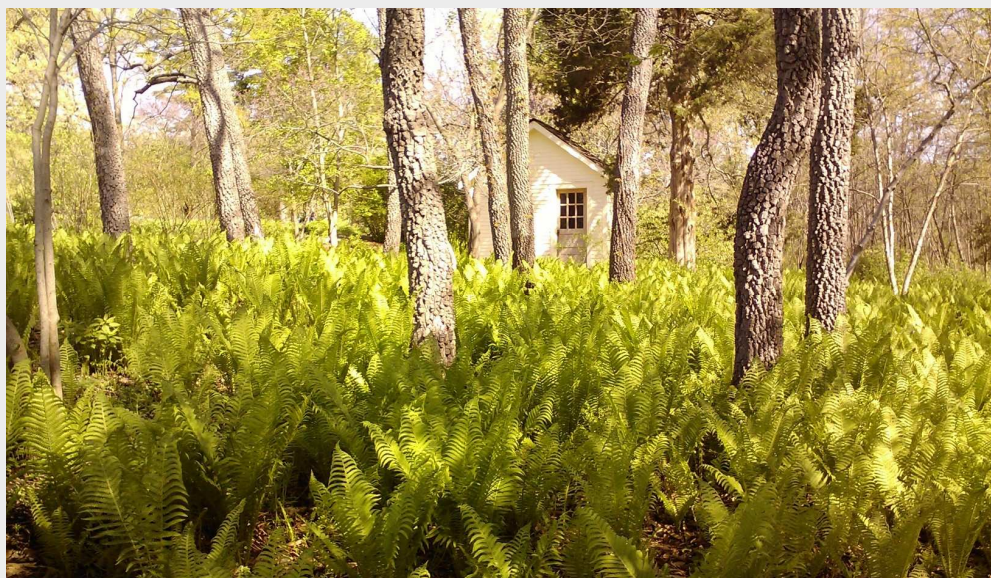
Whitmire Wildflower Garden Update:

In honor of spring finally arriving we are making this newsletter short and sweet so that you have more time to enjoy the outdoors. Come to the Whitmire Wildflower garden and be inspired! Here are a few photos of what is going on right now.

Right: wild hyacinth (blue) and golden Alexander blooming in the wildflower garden glade demonstration.

Below: Ostrich fern sprawling beneath a grove of mature persimmon trees.

Bottom: wild columbine (red) is attracting hummingbirds right now! Don't miss it.



Gardening Tips:

Attend Shaw Nature Reserve Wildflower Market on Mothers Day weekend (Friday evening and Saturday)

Sweep or blow clean all walkways and curbs on a weekly basis.

Nutsedge become visible during this month. Hand pull weekly or apply Sedge-Hammer or Pro Sedge according to label.

Water new transplants and newly planted shrubs and trees unless rainfall is abundant.

Plant Care Tips:

Protect Your Plants

Before planting keep your new plants in the shade, protected from strong winds, and well watered.

Right Plant, Right Place

Read your labels carefully and look up any cultivation information that you aren't sure about. Remember to put the right plant in the right place.

Plant and Water

Dig your planting holes larger than the pot size and then place the plant in with loose crumbly soil surrounding it. Keep the soil level of the plant in the pot the same as the soil level in your garden. Water thoroughly and mulch.

Continue Care

Keep a daily eye on your plants for several weeks. Make sure they haven't been dug up by a curious squirrel or armadillo. Keep them well watered and mulched. Throughout the summer check your plants once a week and water if it doesn't rain for a week. Trees need to be watered for two years and during severe droughts.

Shaw Wildflower Market, Then and Now:

Shaw Nature Reserve used to sell plants out of the greenhouse in the early 90's at what was then called The Spring Wildflower Sale. A couple hundred people showed up, mostly SNR and MBG members, to select from 50 to 75 wildflower species that were hard to get in those days. By comparison, there will be over 300 species of native plants available in 2013 to about 1,500 shoppers who attend what we now call The Shaw Wildflower Market. The market offers a broader array of local goods from the best and widest variety of native plants to wine, beer, honey, bread, meats, baskets, art, literature, garden sheds, soaps and more. At the SNR plant booth you will find species available nowhere else. Things that staff search for on collection forays into the Ozarks of Missouri and Arkansas every year including giant cane, star coreopsis, little-flower alumroot and zig-zag goldenrod to name a few. Be sure to shop early as plants are sure to run out!

Native Plant Highlight

Copper iris (*Iris fulva*) is one of our showiest wetland species, it is a welcome compliment in any home garden. It is quite versatile as it is equally tolerant of both wet and average soil in full to part sun situations. In mid-late May, when copper iris is in full bloom (photo to right), hummingbirds are surprisingly drawn to rich, coppery-red flowers. The leaves are broad and strikingly vertical, an attractive contrast for almost any other foliage in the garden. This gem is a must to include in rain gardens as well as traditional gardens for its unique flower color.



Cindy Gilberg's Five Favorite Native Plants

Blazingstars (*Liatris spp.*) – You can't go wrong with *Liatris* for full sun gardens. Approximately six species are commonly found in Missouri, each with a slightly different bloom time and cultural requirement. Select a few different species and you can have these glorious flowers blooming from June through September. The species that adapt well to average garden soils are *L. pycnostachya*, *L. scariosa* and *L. spicata*. Blazingstar has multi-faceted appeal for wildlife. It is attractive to several pollinators – butterflies, bees and other small insects and its ripening seed is a desirable autumn food source for countless birds and small mammals. From a gardener's point of view, the flowers are top of the list for use as cut flowers, both fresh and dried. The tall, lavender-purple spikes add a distinctive vertical element in the landscape, a welcome contrast to other mounded-form plants.

"For still there are so many things that I have never seen: in every wood in every spring there is a different green."
— J.R.R. Tolkien

Here's What You Missed:



If you missed the April Native Plant School class "Practical Gardening with Native Plants," taught by Scott Woodbury, you can find lots of information on our website at www.shawnature.org/NLM in the resource section.

Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) – A delightful small tree, fringe tree grows with a well-rounded habit to a height of about 10-15 feet. In May it becomes covered with panicles of fragrant white flowers, a breathtaking sight that makes it worthy of a special place in the garden. Male flower petals are longer than the female ones but the females produce showy dark blue berries in fall and fast becomes a meal for many birds. Shop for them in April so you can see them in flower and pick out one of each. Fringe tree prefers somewhat moist, rich soils though it is tolerant of average garden soils. Use it as a specimen tree or in as part of a woodland border. It is most dramatic when planted against a darker background.

Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) – This clump-forming perennial for shade is a real show-stopper in June when its red trumpet flowers open to reveal bright yellow star-shaped throats. The flower color and shape makes Indian pink among the best of plants that attract hummingbirds. With a height of roughly two feet it, it thrives in average to rich soils in light to full shade. It is an underused perennial for woodland shade gardens despite being readily available at some nurseries. Indian pink is well worth hunting down and adding en masse to your shade garden.

Missouri evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*) – Large, buttery-yellow blooms grace this diminutive glade plant. Also known as Ozark sundrops, this *Oenothera* is found in rocky to average dry soils that are well-draining. It is among the most desirable choices for rock gardens and for use at the edges of sunny gardens. If you watch in the evening, you may catch a glimpse of night-flying sphinx moths pollinating the flowers. The species name refers to the large (*macro*) seed pods (*carpa*) that form, resembling oblong winged torpedoes. In the wild, these pods break loose and are rolled by the wind, spreading seed as they go.

Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - This milkweed is a prominent species for use in rain gardens and wet soils. A sun-loving perennial, it grows three-four feet and sports large clusters of pink to white flowers in July and August. The flowers are slightly fragrant and full of nectar that draws in a multitude of butterflies. Swamp milkweed also serves as the host plant for monarch butterflies – remember this when you see all those caterpillars and