

The News From Native Plant School

February 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:

Thur, Feb. 12, 1-4 p.m.

Naturescaping Beyond Beauty: The Art and Function of Native Landscaping

In need of the tools necessary to transform your yard into a beautiful and functioning landscape that enhances life for you and wildlife and fits into the neighborhood? This class will go into basic design styles, planning methods and plant selection that maximizes wildlife potential while also fitting in with the neighborhood. Come learn how to select, arrange, install and maintain native plants for optimal owner, neighbor and wildlife satisfaction.

Thur, Mar. 12, 1-4 p.m.

Greenhouse Propagation

Growing native perennials, grasses, trees and shrubs from seed isn't a mystery. This class will introduce the basic propagation methods that involve stratification, scarification, timing, soils, containers, fertilization and basic insect management.

Thur, April 9, 1-4 p.m.

Woodland Gardening

Sat, May 9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

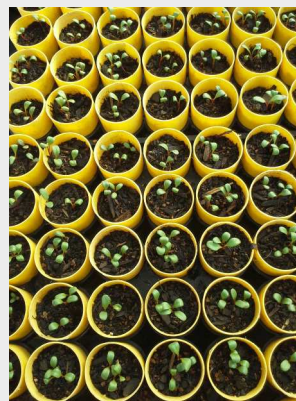
Shaw Wildflower Market

Please register at

shawnature.org/NPS

Seeing Green in the Green House:

It might officially be winter but there are signs of spring in our greenhouse. Starting seeds indoors is a very enjoyable experience. I get excited watching seedlings emerge from the soil. Baby plants are vulnerable and need constant loving care until they get their roots established. Growing a plant to maturity gives me a sense of pride knowing that I have shepherded a new life into this world.



Partners Workshop:

The Partners for Native Landscaping Workshop on Sat, Feb 28. 9am-4pm, at Powder Valley Nature Center is full. Congratulations to the early birds that will get to participate in this fun and educational event.

Go Native:

Dave Tylka is now offering his Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People class through a series of short continuing education classes at Meramec Community College, starting in April. They've created a new section for just such classes, focused on native plants, called Go Native. Here's the complete schedule, but see page 50 for Go Native: http://www.stlcc.edu/Document_Library/Cont_Ed/CE-Spring-2015-Schedule-web.pdf

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."
— Lewis Carroll

Great Backyard Bird Count and Festival:

February 13–16, 2015
Great Backyard Bird Count
Count birds in your own back yard to contribute to the global picture of bird populations.
For more details on this citizen science event, visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

Saturday, February 21st 10am-2pm
attend the Backyard Bird Festival at the Forest Park Visitor Center
Sponsored by St Louis Audubon

Pollinators of Native Plants:

"All pollinators are in trouble, not just bees. Major factors impacting pollinator populations include the loss of forage plants and nesting habitat, the spread of pathogens and the use of pesticides. Native plants play a critical role in supporting pollinator and beneficial insect populations. Pollinators have evolved with native plants over thousands of years developing unique and interdependent relationships. Incorporating more native plants into the home garden, agricultural or large natural landscape can have an extremely positive impact on pollinators and all wildlife. Every individual can make a difference by planting native plants."
- Heather Holm, author of Pollinators of Native Plants



The abundance and diversity of beneficial insects in a particular landscape depends on these four conditions:

The quality and abundance of forage plants

The availability of prey

The number of nesting sites

The overall health of the plant community

The maintenance of the landscape including pesticide use

Plants that attract the most beneficial insects (Fiedler et al., 2007):

Golden Alexanders, *Zizia aurea*

Canada anemone, *Anemone canadensis*

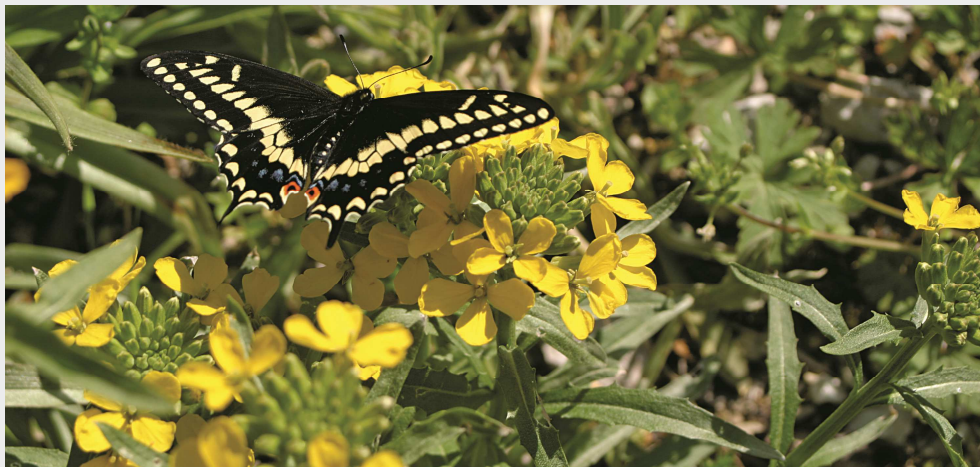
Grayhead coneflower, *Ratibida pinnata*

Spotted bee balm, *Monarda punctata*

Cup plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*

Great blue lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*

New England aster, *Aster novae-angliae*



Native Plants for Homeowners Workshop

Feb 21 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

New to native plants, but not sure where to start? Naturally resilient native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees are great solutions to common gardening problems. They also attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds. Learn landscape design ideas, sources to purchase plants, and more. Take home some seedlings in time for spring planting. Please dress for the weather for field time in the native gardens. Programs are free. (Reservations begin February 6. Call 636-441-4554)

At August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Gardening Tips:

- Prepare garden equipment for another year.
- 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 (stay away from buildings).

Maple Sugar Festival

at Rockwoods Reservation
Feb 7 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

It's maple sugar time! Experience conservation success and forest resources at their finest and sweetest. See trees tapped. Boil sap down. Taste delicious syrup, sugar-on-snow taffy, and pure maple sugar. No reservations necessary. Parking available on-site and off-site via a shuttle bus.

Seen at Shaw Nature Reserve:

Shaw Nature Reserve staff and volunteers put a warm Saturday morning to good use and collected all of this trash out of our bottomlands near the Meramec River. Each time the river floods it deposits trash that has washed from upstream into our woodlands. Winter time is a good time to pick up trash and scout for invasives in an area that is overgrown in lush plants like stinging nettle during the summer. Make time to scout your back 40 for trash, invasives, and erosion before spring growth hides the ground.



Top 10 Native Small Flowering Trees:

Our Top 10 Outstanding Native Small Flowering Trees for Small Landscapes

Selection was based on the trees qualifications in four categories; attractive, durable, long lived, and attracts pollinators.

Native Plant Name	Height	Unique Quality
Aesculus pavia Red Buckeye	10'	Red flowers attract hummingbirds
Amelanchier arborea Serviceberry	10-15'	White flowers before trees leaf out
Asimina triloba Pawpaw	20-30'	Attracts zebra swallowtail butterflies
Carpinus caroliniana Hornbeam	10-15'	Horizontal branches
Cercis canadensis Redbud	15-20'	Pink flowers in spring
Chionanthus virginicus Fringetree	10-15'	Fragrant white flowers in spring
Cornus florida Flowering Dogwood	10'	Berries in Winter
Crataegus viridis Green Hawthorn	15-20'	Orange berries in Autumn
Hamamelis virginiana Witchazel	10'	Yellow fragrant flowers in Autumn
Prunus americana Wild Plum	10-15'	Attracts many Butterflies

Experiential Rainscaping Workshop Series:

Deer Creek Watershed Alliance has announced an Experiential Rainscaping Workshop Series! This series of quarterly workshops in 2015 will offer those that attend, a chance to gain knowledge on a broad range of topics, including rainscaping design and maintenance, invasive species control, and more, by participating in hands-on activities in the classrooms and on the campus of Mary Institute and Country Day School "MICDS". The workshops are open to the public and there is no cost involved.

Save the Date

The first in this series of workshops, "Rainscaping: Designing for Easier Maintenance" is scheduled for the evening of February 25th. Save the date and watch their website for information coming soon! Space will be limited.

<http://deercreekalliance.org/>

"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water."
— Carl Reiner

Editors Note:

We are seeking feedback for this newsletter in 2015. What do you want us to write about? What are your favorite parts of the newsletter? How can we improve?

Send your feedback to Besa at besa.schweitzer@mobot.org

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>

Native Plants Beautify Landscapes while Attracting and Feeding the "Web of Life"

by Mervin Wallace



If you're a gardener who would enjoy watching butterflies flitting about your property, birds nesting in your trees and shrubs and lizards enjoying a sunny spot, then you could benefit from a landscape plan that includes native plants. Birds, butterflies and other native wildlife species appreciate properties landscaped with native plants. The food chain that feeds native animals begins with native plants. The second step up the food chain is often insects that eat plants. It's all one big web of life dependent on native plants.

If you're lucky enough to live near native oak trees, you have likely experienced the constant chatter of spring migrating birds in the treetops as they feed on all sorts of insects that are feeding on the oak leaves. The birds are doing their part to keep a delicate web of life in balance as they offer a pleasant serenade.

For the past 30 years, Missouri Wildflowers Nursery has been providing native plants that beautify landscapes as they attract and feed that "web of life." Their plants are as similar as is possible to what the first settlers encountered. The plants are propagated from seeds with genetic origin within the state of Missouri.

While there are many cultivars of native species available on the market today, Missouri Wildflowers Nursery sells only one, buffalo grass for lawns. Cultivars are generally selected by plant breeders with the idea that the plant will be more attractive to the customer without regard for wildlife benefit, and the wildlife benefit is compromised the more a plant is changed by plant breeder selection. Missouri Wildflowers Nursery wants part of the beauty in a landscape to be butterflies and birds that are best attracted and fed by the plants that these animals took part in selecting.

In big cities and suburbs, people (including children) miss a lot of wildlife action because the native plants are missing. Most native plants in these areas have been replaced by plants from other continents, plants often referred to as exotic species. Our native insects, the second step up the food chain, usually don't recognize exotic species as being tasty, or in the case of bees and butterflies there is little nectar or pollen available in cultivar flowers.

You can obtain genuine native plants at Missouri Wildflowers Nursery. They have plants for sun, shade, and everything in between, including perennial wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and vines.

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery is a privately owned, retail nursery in Brazito, MO. To receive a copy of their catalog e-mail mowldflrs@socket.net, or visit www.mowildflowers.net