

The News From Native Plant School

May 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:

Thursday, May 21, 1–4 p.m.
Rain Gardening
class is full

Thursday, June 11, 1–4 p.m.
Landscaping for Deer Resistance
Some native plants are resistant to deer browse others are not and some fall in between. This class will focus on 100 native plant species and their resistance to deer. We also will look at methods to prevent deer antler rubbing.

Fall schedule:

Thursday, September 10, 1–4 p.m.
If You Plant It, They Will Come – Gardening for Pollinators
by Susie Van de Riet

Friday, September 11, 4–7p.m.
Shaw Wildflower Market

Thursday, October 8, 1–4 p.m.
Gardening with Asters and Goldenrods

Thursday, November 12, 1–4 p.m.
Growing Native Trees and Shrubs from Acorns, Nuts and Berries

Please register at
shawnature.org/NPS

Don't Forget! Shaw Wildflower Market: Sat, May 9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Shaw Nature Reserve and several nurseries from throughout the area will offer hundreds of varieties of Missouri native plants to use in home landscaping and to attract wildlife. Admission is free to members, \$5 for non-members.

Members night on May 8th. from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Members get first pick of the plants for sale. Includes live music by Rosewood!

More info at:
<http://shawnature.org/swm>

“Each of us can create small oases in our own yards - natural gardens where we can observe nature on a daily basis. Always include a place to sit and rest, observing all there is to see. A native plant garden offers the opportunity to rediscover nature up close, reconnecting with the natural world around us. Sit back, grab your binoculars and enjoy the show! What can one person do in restoring the biodiversity of our area? “Think globally, act locally” - step by step, garden by garden we can all contribute and make a big difference.”

~ Cindy Gilberg

Garden Tours:

The Sustainable Backyard Tour will be Sunday June 14th.

www.sustainablebackyardtour.com

St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour
Hosted by Bring Conservation Home
and St Louis Wild Ones.

Saturday June 20 from 9 am -3 pm.
<http://stlwildones.org/st-louis-native-plant-garden-tour-registration-is-open/>

St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour

Saturday, June 20th
9 am to 3 pm
Various Locations in Brentwood, Clayton,
Glendale, Kirkwood, Webster Groves and more

A self-guided tour of 10 residential native plant
gardens in central St. Louis County.

Sun, shade, butterflies, birds, dry sites and wet.

Traditional and natural designs.
Take pictures. Ask questions.

Cost: \$20 per person
Proceeds benefit tour organizers,
St. Louis Audubon's Bring
Conservation Home program
and Wild Ones — St. Louis
Chapter.

Registration

www.stlouisaudubon.org
www.stlwildones.org



“Weeds coerce my attention as tenaciously as a toddler hanging on my knees. They raise all kinds of questions, not the least of which is what they are doing in my garden in the first place.”

~ Sara Stein

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. Don't forget to add spreader sticker to spray tank.
- Water new transplants and newly planted shrubs and trees unless rainfall is abundant.



How to make the most of the Shaw Wildflower Market:

Before the Sale - Do your Homework

Become a member

Special sneak preview sale for members only on Friday.
Membership

Make a Shopping List

Look over your planting beds and decide what types of plants you need and how many. Look through your favorite native plant guides. We recommend *Tried and True Missouri Native Plants for Your Yard*. Plants available at the SNR booth are listed on our website. Create your dream plant list, include scientific name, and possible substitutions. Don't forget trees and shrubs! Sign up for our monthly newsletter. Many useful plant lists can be found at the end of Chapter Four: *Landscaping with Native Plants, A Gardener's Guide for Missouri*.

Come Prepared

Carpool with a friend if you can but make sure you have plenty of space to fit all your purchases. If you plan to hike during your visit to SNR, do it first so that your plants don't bake in your hot car. Allow plenty of time, you may spend longer shopping than you think. Bring plenty of cash and checks, some vendors don't take credit cards.

Be on Time

Many popular species sell out within the first few hours. Visit each vendor to look over what they have and then go back to make your purchases. Remember to pay each vendor separately.

After the Sale - Take Care of Your Plants

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 your 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. Follow our Native Landscape Maintenance Schedule.

Spring Blooms to Look for in May:

American feverfew
bittersweet
blue flag iris
blue wild indigo
bush's skullcap
Carolina larkspur
cream wild indigo
fringed poppy mallow
goats rue
goatsbeard
green dragon
green milkweed
heart-leaved Alexanders
heart-leaved skullcap
Jack-in-the pulpit
lance-leaved coreopsis
large-flowering beard-tongue
limestone calamint
long-bracted spiderwort
meadow rue
Missouri evening primrose
ninebark
Ohio spiderwort
pagoda dogwood
pink daisy
purple coneflower
purple milkweed
purple poppy mallow
rock pink
rough-leaved dogwood
Sampson's snakeroot
showy evening primrose
silky dogwood
smooth beard-tongue
smooth phlox
Solomon's seal
spider milkweed
stiff dogwood
swamp rose
trelease's larkspur
tulip tree
Virginia waterleaf
wild hydrangea
yarrow
yellow wild indigo

Celebrating 10 years of Greener Gardens:

You are invited!
Native Plant School is having a ten year anniversary celebration on October 17th in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden. The keynote speaker will be Alan Branhagen author of *Native Plants of the Midwest*. More info coming soon in this newsletter.

Volunteer to help MDC with breeding bird survey:

Volunteers need transportation, good hearing and eyesight, and the ability to identify birds in the area.

Calling all bird-lovers and nature enthusiasts. Are you someone who can tell the difference between a Baltimore oriole, indigo bunting, and a scissor-tailed flycatcher? Do you know what a cerulean warbler sounds like? The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is in need of volunteers to assist with the 2015 North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).

The BBS is a long-term, large-scale, international bird monitoring program that started in 1966. According to MDC Resource Scientist Janet Haslerig, the purpose of the BBS is to track the status and trends of North American bird populations.

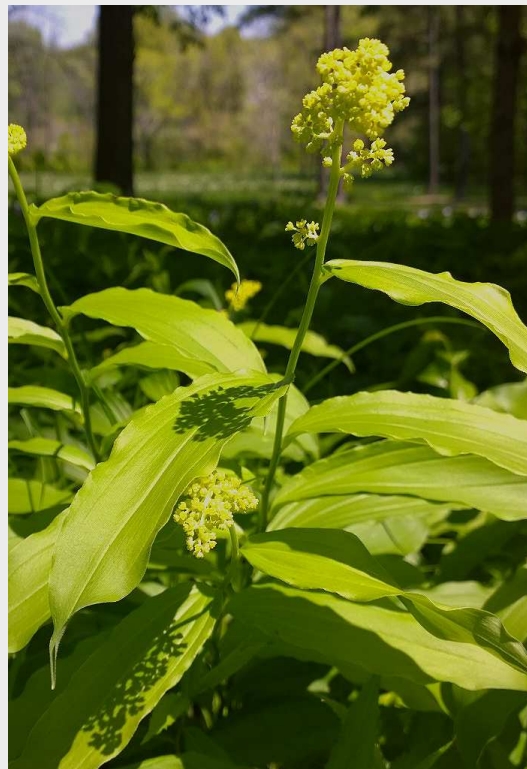
"Bird populations are subjected to numerous, widespread threats including habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, land-use changes, and other chemical contaminants," said Haslerig. "If significant declines are detected, their causes can then be identified and appropriate actions taken to reverse them before populations reach critically low levels."

Each year during June—the height of the bird breeding season for most of the U.S.—volunteers collect bird population data along roadside survey routes. Each survey route is 24.5 miles long with stops at 0.5-mile intervals. At each stop, a 3-minute point count is conducted. During the count, every bird seen within a 0.25-mile radius or heard is recorded. Surveys start one-half hour before local sunrise and take about 5 hours to complete.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Janet Haslerig at Janet.Haslerig@mdc.mo.gov or 573-522-4115, ext. 3198.

Weird insect interactions:

During the month of May check out your Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*) flower heads for this strange beetle behavior. The fire colored beetle (*Pedilus spp*) will visit the Solomon's plume flower head to feed on pollen. If a male fire colored beetle comes across a blister beetle (*Meloidae spp*) he will climb onto the blister beetles back. The blister beetle responds by excreting a chemical called cantharidin to deter the attack but this is just what the fire colored beetle wants. The male fire color beetle licks the cantharidin off the blister beetle and stores it for his own use. Later the male fire colored beetle will use the cantharidin as a chemical attractant to find a female to mate. The female fire colored beetle will then take the cantharidin and use it to coat her eggs to help protect them from predation. I bet you had no idea that you could witness so much drama on an innocent looking Solomon's plume!



Show Me Raingardens:

A new resource for all your information about raingardens. You can even create an account and submit information about your own raingarden.

<http://showmeraingardens.org/>

Monarchs & Milkweed:

Take a microcosmic safari through a field of milkweed and discover a whole world of life, from bees to wasps to hummingbirds to butterflies. The charismatic Monarch butterfly is completely dependent on milkweed for its survival, and places like Yosemite National Park offer protection for this often overlooked plant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3jpu2th34o>

“Yards and gardens patched with grass and stitched with hedges all across America constitute a vast, nearly continuous, and terribly impoverished ecosystem for which we ourselves, with our mowers, shears, and misguided choice of plants, are responsible. We cannot in fairness rail against those who destroy the rain forest or threaten the spotted owl when we have made our own yards uninhabitable. Yet how quickly we could grow this land, spangle it with blazing stars, stripe it with red winterberries and white summersweet, let it wave again with grass!”

~ Sara Stein, Noah's Garden

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:



Scott Woodbury teaches a Native Plant School class on Woodland Gardening.



Volunteers dig up sedges in the raingarden in preparation for new plantings.



Terri Brandt leads a tour for Missouri Botanical Garden volunteers.



Jacob's ladder, blue eyed Mary, wild sweet William, bluebells, and Celandine poppy all bloom as once in the upper woodland.