

The News From Native Plant School

November 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, November 12, 1-4 p.m.

Growing Native Trees and Shrubs from Acorns, Nuts and Berries

Growing native trees and shrubs is a challenge but it is well worth the effort. Entomologist Doug Tallamy states that the best trees for wildlife are oak, willow, plum, wild cherry, river birch, cottonwood, hickory, hawthorn and walnut to name a few. Come learn how to propagate these and other trees and shrubs that are vital food for insects and birds.

Thursday, January 14, 2016, 1-4 p.m.

Woodland Restoration for Larger Landowners

Are you battling a heavy infestation of bush honeysuckle on 1-100 acres of woodland. In this class we will explore the challenges of bush honeysuckle in large-scale areas. Instruction will focus on the best removal practices, forest thinning, reseeding/replanting with appropriate native plants and long-term maintenance. Annual scouting, spot spraying and prescribed burning are the key maintenance components in the fight to tilt the battle in your favor. Indoor/outdoor.

Please register at shawnature.org/NPS

Bittersweet: Native vs. Invasive

Oriental bittersweet is a highly aggressive invasive plant that is difficult to control. To make matters worse, it hybridizes with American bittersweet creating plants that are tricky to identify. Be sure to purchase live plants or holiday decorations with only American bittersweet. Wreaths with Oriental bittersweet seeds discarded into the compost bin or the edge of the woods may get established and spread into nearby creeks. Once established they are difficult to control growing 30-50 feet into the canopy of mature trees.

Bittersweets pictured are American at right and Oriental below.



Conservation of the Bees

The decline of bee populations concerns native plant gardeners who know how important bees are for pollination. The 2015 Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum is presenting "Conservation of the Bees". Topics will address the population decline, behaviors, environmental impacts, and conservation of bee populations across the globe.

Speakers include: Sydney Cameron, Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign who specializes in bumble bee behavior, Gerald Hayes, Jr., Ph.D. from Monsanto on honey bees, Nigel Raine, Ph.D. from Guelph University on pesticides, and Alexandra Harmon-Threatt, Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

A panel discussion is scheduled as well as a light dinner and exhibits.

When: Thursday, November 5 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: The Living World at the St. Louis Zoo

Parking: The zoo lot is free after hours.

Cost: Free and open to the public. However, registration is required.

RSVP: To Ashley Johns by calling (314) 516-4246 or email Ashley at johnsa@umsl.edu

Wild Ones Seed Exchange

Wild Ones monthly gathering - Wednesday, November 4, 6:00 p.m. Annual potluck and seed exchange. Bring a food dish and seeds to share if you have them. This will be our last meeting for the year. This event is free and open to the public. Location: The HEIGHTS Community Center, 8001 Dale Ave, St. Louis, 63117

The Buckeye and the False Foxglove

By Cori Westcott



While enjoying the expansive vista of a prairie, my eye stopped upon a strange looking little creature just beyond the boardwalk.

A Buckeye caterpillar, *Junonia coenia*, was dining upon a Slender-leaved False Foxglove, *Agalinis tenuifolia* (formerly a *Gerardia*). The False Foxglove was in the middle of its flowering time, from August to October. Its pink, tubular-shaped bloom has five petals. Like its name, the leaves are indeed very slender. Don't be discouraged if you can't find a vendor who sells *Agalinis tenuifolia* because it's partially parasitic and needs a host plant to grow.

The Buckeye caterpillar, being a generalist insect, can feast on a variety of plants. If you do not treat your lawn with herbicides, you may already have one of the Buckeye's favorite host plants, the Plantain. Common Plantain, *Plantago major* and its cousin Narrowleaf Plantain, *Plantago lanceolata* are weeds that interrupt the grass in a lawn with seed stalks that hold thousands of seeds. Plantain likes to establish itself along roads, wherever there may be disturbed soil. It's not only good for the Buckeye caterpillar. It carries calcium and vitamins A and C and can be eaten by humans. Folks look for the young, tender leaves for additions to their salads. Other favored foods of the Buckeye caterpillar are *Linaria* (Toadflax) and *Antirrhinum* (Snapdragon).

The Buckeye butterfly is an acrobatic dare-devil of a flyer compared to the leisurely up and down flutter pattern of the Monarch. The male often settles close to the ground, waiting for a female, but will give chase to anyone flying overhead! On top of being aggressive, they're also very skittish. That might be due to their extraordinary aerial skills. They might appear to be skittish when in reality, they simply move faster than other butterflies.

The beautiful Buckeye gives us another reason to refrain from our use of herbicidal lawn treatments. Perhaps, we might even taste a plantain!

Buckeye caterpillar photograph taken at Shaw Nature Reserve by Dr. James Trager. Bill Hoss photographed the adult butterfly.



Healthy Soil, Happy Pollinators and Huge Harvests

Grow Native! is sponsoring an event that explores how vegetable gardeners can use native plants to make the most of their garden space. This all-day workshop will be held at Meramec Community College on Saturday, November 21. Speakers include Mike Arduser -- expert on native bees and a presenter at a Wild Ones meeting a few years ago, Ross Braun -- formerly with USDA and currently a teacher-naturalist at SNR, and Kris Larson -- of Riverbend Roots Farm in Alton, IL. Cost is \$25 for GN! or Mo. Prairie Fdn. members, \$35 for non-members, and \$15 for STLCC hort. students. For more information and registration, go to November 21 workshop on Healthy Soil, Happy Pollinators and Huge Harvests. <http://grownative.org/events/november-21-workshop-on-happy-plants-happy-pollinators-healthy-soils-a-huge-harvest/>

Guess The Plant



Several readers guessed correctly that this is a Dutchman's pipe vine seed, *Aristolochia tomentosa*

Pollinators Last Supper 2015



Pictured above is a male sweat bee, *Augochlora pura*.

At right top is a bumblebee, *Bombus*, most likely *B. griseicollis*.

Middle is a Hoverfly, family *Syrphidae*, tribe *Syrphini*.

Bottom is a moth named the Fiery Skipper, *Hylephila phyleus*.

Our photo volunteer, Darla Preiss, has been photographing aromatic aster this month and the pollinators it attracts. Does your garden offer a variety of fall blooming plants like asters and goldenrods? Pollinators depend on this final show of the season to provision their nests to make it through the winter.



Money for Monarchs

Missourians for Monarchs is a statewide partnership to provide plentiful and high quality habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

The National Fish and Wildlife Federation announced \$3.3 million in grants from their Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund. The first round of grants was made possible through funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Monsanto Company, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and private funds from NFWF.

Congratulations to Missourians for Monarchs collaborators who will receive close to \$1 million in grants aimed at protecting, conserving and increasing habitat for monarchs and other insects and pollinators in Missouri. Among these "High Flyers" are Burroughs Audubon partnering with Osage Trails Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist in the "Kansas City Metropolitan Area Monarch Butterfly Conservation" grant to restore 1,400 acres of habitat, and St. Louis Milkweed for Monarchs. The St. Louis effort will create a 19 mile pollinator pathway along the Mississippi River.

Gardening Tips

- Continue to seek out and remove invasive species.
- Blow or rake tree leaves from lawn or mow. Compost leaves and use the following season.
- Clean tree leaves and debris out of gutters.
- Winterize hoses and outside water sources. Clean out rain barrels. Clean and/or remove water feature pumps and winterize.
- November 15 to March 15 is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs. Remove conflicting and crowded branches, dead limbs, double-leaders and unsightly branches.
- Clean up all tools. Sharpen blades and order replacement parts.
- Fall is a good time to make improvements to hardscapes (pavers, walls, stonework, woodwork, etc.)
- Order new trees from the Missouri Department of Conservation on their tree seedling orders website. <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/seedling-orders-and-planting-guide/seedling-order-how>

“This is not someone else's problem. We—you and I and everyone who has a yard of any size—own a big chunk of this country. Suburban development has wrought habitat destruction on a grand scale. As these tracts expand, they increasingly squeeze the remaining natural ecosystems, fragment them, sever corridors by which plants and animals might refill the voids we have created. To reverse this process—to reconnect as many plant and animal species as we can to rebuild intelligent suburban ecosystems—requires a new kind of garden, new techniques of gardening, and, I emphasize, a new kind of gardener.”
~ Sara Stein

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>

The Emerald Ash Borer



Scott Woodbury took the above photo in Columbus Ohio in July. These ash trees are showing the classic signs of an emerald ash borer infestation.

The EAB beetles have been found in several places throughout the St Louis area so you may be seeing signs of them in your yard soon. Learn the signs of EAB by visiting the websites below. EAB infected trees are dangerous because they are very weak and branches may fall at any time.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a serious threat to ash trees in Missouri. This invasive pest will eventually kill unprotected ash trees. Many trees can be saved with the careful use of systemic insecticides. However, not all ash trees should be treated, and for many locations the start of treatments should be delayed.

Missouri Department of Conservation's Emerald Ash Borer Management Guide for Missouri Homeowners
http://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2015/04/mo_eab_management_guide_2015.pdf

Latest map of EAB detections in Missouri: <http://extension.missouri.edu/treepests/whereeab.aspx>

Here is the national EAB quarantine map:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/eab_quarantine_map.pdf

The cross-hatched portion of Illinois represents the former protected area. Movement of regulated articles (ash wood and bark and hardwood firewood) is allowed within the yellow quarantine area, but all parties should still limit movement as much as possible to reduce the rate of spread of EAB. Persons in Missouri who have questions about interstate movement of regulated articles should contact USDA APHIS PPQ at 573-893-6833.

The below photos were taken by Jason Pratte of St. Louis County Parks.

