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

April 14, 2016
Gardening With Native Groundcovers
SOLD OUT

May 12, 2016
Spring Flowering Perennials and Grasses
Scott Woodbury
Missouri is full of showy native perennials, grasses and sedges for gardening. This class will focus on showy and useful landscape plants that bloom in spring and how to garden with them. Students will gain knowledge on planting design and plant placement considerations for sun and shade.
3 Spots Left!

June 9, 2016
Flower Arranging with Native Plants
Terri Brandt
Bring a small to medium vase to class and bring it home full of beautiful native flowers. Learn how expert flower arranger, Terri Brandt creates beautiful floral arrangements using a wide-array of plant materials and flowers. Class will be held in the horticulture greenhouse area at Shaw Nature Reserve.

Please register at shawnature.org/NPS

Shaw Wildflower Market
Sat, May 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission is free to members, $5 for non-members.
More info at: http://shawnature.org/swm

Photo by Patsy Hodge

Members Pre-Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden members can shop early on May 6th from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Members get first pick of the plants for sale. Includes live music by Augusta Bottoms Consort!

This years vendors include

Shaw Nature Reserve
Audubon St Louis
Wild Ones St. Louis
SNR Habitat Helpers
MO Wildflowers Nursery
St. Louis Herb Society
Forest Keeling Nursery
MO Prairie Foundation
Andy's Native Plants
Gateway Gardener
St. Francis Mt Natives
MBG Membership
Pure Air Natives
Edg-Clif Farm & Winery
Pan’s Garden
Williams Brothers Meats
Smiling Sun Garden
Great Harvest Breads
Forest ReLeaf
Colleen's Irish Toffee
St. Louis Herb Society
Yvonne's Honey
Restore My Soul Photos
Malone Baskets n Books
Rob's Rings
Think about Tables
Kakao Chocolate
Corinne's Honey Farm
Hummingbird Bread
Six Mile Bridge Beer
St. Louis Herb Society
Song of the Flower Art
Think about Tables
Going in Circles Rugs
Malone Baskets n Books
Miramiguoa kids activities

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

Photo by Patsy Hodge
**Garden Tours**

The Sustainable Backyard Tour  
Sunday June 12th.  
[www.sustainablebackyardtour.com](http://www.sustainablebackyardtour.com)

St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour  
Hosted by Bring Conservation Home and St Louis Wild Ones.  
Saturday June 18 from 9 am -4 pm.  
[www.stlouisaudubon.org/NPT/](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/NPT/)

**Working Trees**

Find out how your tree is benefiting you by decreasing your electric bill, cooling the house, preventing erosion, providing habitat for critters, and much more.

National Tree Benefit Calculator  

**Wild Ones**

Wild Ones Gathering  
Wednesday, April 6, 6:00 p.m.  
Deer Lake Savanna tour  

**The Dirt on Soil**

May 11th  
Wild Ideas Worth Sharing  
The Dirt on Soil: Life Underground.  
[www.deercreekalliance.org/wiws](http://www.deercreekalliance.org/wiws)

**Gardening Tips**

- Begin planting native perennials, grasses, sedges, vines, trees, and shrubs.
- Replace mulch which has been washed out with spring rains. Smooth mulch layer if it has been disturbed. Use leaf compost.
- Prune winter-damaged branches on shrubs or trees that have not leafed out by May (especially beautyberry).
- In late April and early May cut back tall grasses, goldenrods, wild bergamot, sweet coneflower, garden phlox, and asters by 50% to promote more compact growth.

**SNR plants have added value!**

Do you know that SNR plants have added value? They start from seeds collected by SNR staff and volunteers from wild populations in our region. This is called local eco type. Why does it matter? Doug Tallamy tells us that insects have very localized relationships with native plants. In other words, blue wild indigo grown from plants originally from Wisconsin may be rejected by local insects. Secondly, SNR introduces 18 species of Mycorrhizal fungi into the potting soil during production. These beneficial fungi grow in pot and when you take them home they continue to grow and thrive in your garden. Mycorrhizal fungi help plants utilize soil nutrients by attaching to plant roots.

**A Garden for Zebras and Tigers**

Whether your garden is in containers on a balcony or sprawling over acres, it can attract zebras and tigers. Ok, not the four-legged mammals you might be envisioning, but swallowtail butterflies.  
[http://blog.nwf.org/2016/02/a-garden-for-zebras-and-tigers/](http://blog.nwf.org/2016/02/a-garden-for-zebras-and-tigers/)
GN! Workshop

Grow Native! invites gardeners, conservation enthusiasts, students, municipal employees and others to an all-day workshop, "Living Landscapes: Native Plants Get Us Back to Our Roots"

Saturday, May 14, 2016.
9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Arcadia Academy
211 South College Street
Arcadia, Missouri 63621

Attendees will learn from experts about the beauty and benefits of using plants native to the Lower Midwest in your landscaping. This includes native plant design, maintenance and species selection to support beneficial insects or meet your other landscaping priorities.

Cost is $18 for GN/MPF Members, $22 for Non-Members and $15 for Students (includes lunch).


Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

A campaign to register a million public and private gardens and landscapes to support pollinators.

Register your pollinator habitat below. It is free and easy! Explore other pollinator friendly SHARE landscapes all over the globe!

millionpollinatorgardens.org

Mycorrhizal Fungi

Mycorrhizae are symbiotic relationships that form between fungi and plants. The fungi colonize the root system of a host plant, providing increased water and nutrient absorption capabilities while the plant provides the fungus with carbohydrates formed from photosynthesis.

Below is an article from the Missouri Prairie Journal of the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF). About some very exciting research on mycorrhizal fungi.

Mycorrhizal Research on MPF Prairies

Alice Tipton, a graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will conduct research at multiple MPF sites in 2014 as part of a large Missouri grassland mycorrhizal study. Mycorrhizal interactions are relationships between fungi and plants in which the fungi provide the plant with nutrients and water in exchange for some of the plant’s carbon resources.

These relationships are ancient, dating back to the first land plants on earth. More than 80 percent of land plants make mycorrhizal relationships with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), which are also the most common mycorrhizal fungi associated with prairie plants. Some prairie plants cannot grow without AMF. Surveys in other grasslands have shown that AMF diversity is strongly associated with plant diversity, and that agricultural disturbances and invasive plant species can alter AMF communities below ground.

Tipton will be working at MPF’s La Petite Gemme Prairie, Stilwell Prairie, Schwartz Prairie, and many other prairie and glade sites across southern Missouri. The survey will examine the diversity and richness of AMF taxa living on plant roots in restored and remnant glades and prairies of different land use histories and soil types. Tipton will genetically sequence AMF DNA and use these sequences to identify different taxa of AMF living in and on grassland plant roots.

This research will help identify whether current grassland restoration practices are restoring the community of AMF needed by native plants, and whether it may be helpful to begin implementing soil microbial restoration in Missouri grasslands. Tipton’s research is funded through the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Wildlife Diversity Fund.

To see the results of Alice Tipton’s research go to;

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alice_Tipton/publications

"We don’t have to—indeed, we neither can nor should—each provide all habitats, every sort of food. You plant nut trees and I’ll plant spruce, you keep a berry thicket and I’ll do the tall grass, or the bog, the woodlot, the crowds of fruiting shrubs and beds of wildflowers. But let us weave them together into something big enough to matter by connecting each patch with others at the corners and along the boundaries. This is the rich, new landscape; this is the new kind of gardener who asks not whether he should plant this ornament or another but which patch is missing from his community, how he can provide it, and how animals will move from his patch to the next.
This is the ark."

~ Sara Stein
Native or Not

What is native? What is not? When does it matter?

“Definitions of native plants abound. None is entirely satisfactory in all circumstances but each may serve a specific function. Some strive for scientific accuracy; others serve practical purposes. Moreover, in some instances the nativity of a plant may not matter to the native-plant gardener. None of us is about to give up growing tomatoes regardless of their non-native status.”

http://beautifulnativeplants.blogspot.com/2016/03/what-is-native-what-is-not-when-does-it.html

Spring Fling

Weekends in April at the Butterfly House
For all ages. Join us as we celebrate the important insects that help to make our gardens grow! Each week, we will highlight a different beneficial insect through fun facts, crafts, games, and other family-friendly activities. Come and learn more about bees, ladybugs, ants, and of course, butterflies!

Editors Note:

Please send me your before and after photos of your yard. I am especially interested in pictures of the transformation of honeysuckle infested woodlands to native plant gardens.


Monarch Garden Resources

There are many online resources for planting monarch gardens and waystations.

The Xerces Society has a wonderful resource focusing on pollinator plants of the Central US that discusses appropriate milkweed species for particular habitats and best planting practices: Milkweeds of Central US
Also from Xerces Society: Milkweeds: A Conservation Practitioner’s Guide
http://www.xerces.org/milkweeds-a-conservation-practitioners-guide/
Missouri Department of Conservation has a great brochure about backyard monarch gardens: Backyard Habitat for Monarch Butterflies
Also from Missouri Department of Conservation — two wonderful articles in The Conservationist magazine:
The Plight of the Pollinator by Bill White, Plight of the Pollinator
http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2016/02/plight-pollinator?page=0.0
Homegrown Milkweeds by Norman Murray Homegrown Milkweeds
http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2016/01/homegrown-milkweeds
If you are a landowner and want to establish or improve grassland habitat for monarchs, cost-share programs are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/
If you are interested in starting a school garden, Monarch Lab at the University of Minnesota has several resources at: Monarch Lab School Gardens
http://monarchlab.org/education-and-gardening/
You can purchase seeds and plants from Grow Native! Professional Members who are retail garden centers, nurseries, or see producers. Find seed plant vendors at Grow Native! Resource Guide and note which businesses sell retail, wholesale, and/or mail order.
http://grownative.org/resource-guide/

Provided by our friends, Missourians for Monarchs