

The News From Native Plant School

June 2016



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

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.

July 14, 2016

Monarch Gardening

Susie Van de Riet

Monarchs have become the new Bluebird. Students will learn why Monarchs have declined and how we can act to help them by planting more milkweed and other plants that they depend on for nectar.

Please register at

shawnature.org/NPS

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

~John Lubbock

National Pollinator Week Events June 21-27, 2016

Sunday, June 19, 2016,

5 pm Tour, 6 pm Dinner

The Mizzou Botanic Garden in Columbia invites you to kickoff -National Pollinator Week with a Native Pollinator Dinner. Visit Mizzou Botanic Garden for more information and reservation details. The speaker will be Gary Nabhan, an agricultural ecologist, ethnobotanist, and writer from the University of Arizona.

<http://gardens.missouri.edu/>

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

6 to 10 p.m.

In celebration of National Pollinator Week, sit down at the St. Louis Zoo to a special farm-to-table Pollinator Dinner, in the Living World, where you can sample the many foods pollinators help provide. The menu will focus on locally-sourced produce from EarthDance Farms in Ferguson, MO. Sip mead and honey wine, enjoy a honey tasting, and peruse booths with information and activities related to pollinators. After a buffet dinner, hear a presentation on *Crossing the Corn-Bean Desert: Prospects for restoring pollinator habitat on a meaningful scale*, by Laura Jackson, Director of the Tallgrass Prairie Center and Professor of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa. More information is available, including the menu, on the zoo's website.

<http://www.stlzoo.org/events/calendarofevents/pollinatordinner>

Thursday, June 23, 2016

8 am to 3:30 pm

As part of National Pollinator Week, join the Mizzou Botanic Garden in Columbia for a Native Pollinators Symposium. Experts will highlight and share the importance of pollinators, including bees, birds, butterflies, and bats. Discover new information about native pollinator conservation through lectures, roundtable discussions, and Q&As with national experts. The symposium is free of charge. Speakers include Doug Tallamy, Roy Diblik, Candace Galen, Christine Nye, and Mike Arduser.

<http://gardens.missouri.edu/Pollinator%20Symposium%20Poster.pdf>

We are Looking for a few Great Volunteers

Garden volunteers are special people. They care. They have a sense of commitment to something greater than their own personal needs. They have a direct impact on achieving the mission and goals of Shaw Nature Reserve. We recognize that our volunteers provide a resource of talent that is unavailable in any other way. We value this contribution and hope to offer each volunteer a satisfying, productive, and rewarding experience. Take action to bring more significance to your daily life. Become a part of a vital volunteer community.

Shaw Nature Reserve is seeking volunteers to assist with gardening outdoors in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden and Trial Gardens. Tasks include weeding, mulching, potting, planting, watering and seed collecting. Volunteers are needed between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Email to apply, scott.woodbury@mobot.org

Gardening Tips

- Vigorous, leaning or flopping limbs should be removed or shortened on trees and shrubs. Watch for double-leaders in the main trunk and remove the least desirable leader as soon as it is noticed.
- Cultivate and mulch. Mulching will reduce about 70% of the summer weeding and watering.
- Continue to water new plantings deeply as needed. Apply at least one inch of water each time.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root in potting soil.

Rainscaping Small Grants Program

MSD Project Clear Applications for 2016-17 are now available for some city residents.

One of the initiatives for MSD Project Clear includes \$100 million in rainscaping investments. Rainscaping is any combination of plantings, water features, catch basins, permeable pavement, and more, that manage stormwater as close as possible to where it falls, rather than moving it someplace else. Below ground level, improved soils store and filter stormwater, allowing the surrounding area to slowly absorb it over time. Above ground level, native plants, basins, and water features create public green spaces that also help store water. Used effectively, rainscaping can reclaim stormwater naturally, reduce sewer overflows, and minimize basement backups. The purpose of the Rainscaping Program is to reduce the volume of stormwater in our combined sewer system by installing landscaping that helps capture rain where it falls, instead of allowing water to run off-site. Rainscaping can also be employed to solve a drainage problem, increase aesthetic appeal, improve property values, and attract birds and butterflies, in addition to other benefits.

www.projectclearstl.org/get-the-rain-out/rainscaping-small-grants-program/



Garden Tours

June 12, 2016

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Attend the 2016 Sustainable Backyard Tour, taking place on June 12 at various locations around St. Louis city and county. The tour provides an opportunity for neighbors to meet each other and see firsthand how others are transforming their yards from energy intensive lawns to something more sustainable. Beautiful and sustainable yards, no matter what size, can be created by anyone with the right guidance and motivation! Be sure to register through the link below.

www.sustainablebackyardtour.com/grassrootsgreenstl.com/Home.html

June 18, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you are not signed up to attend the 2016 St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour, presented by St Louis Wild Ones and the St. Louis Audubon Society, sign up now, invite your friends, and take the tour! This year's tour features ten yards in Olivette, Ladue, Clayton, and University City with a lot of variety including age of plantings, size, type of habitat, sun, and moisture conditions. Ask questions, take pictures, and get ideas for your own landscape. Be sure to register through the link above.

stlwildones.org/calendar/st-louis-native-plant-garden-tour-2016/

Events

National Prairie Day, established by the Missouri Prairie Foundation, is designated as the first Saturday in June on the National Calendar. This year, National Prairie Day will be celebrated on Sat 4 June 2016.

Nationalprairieday.org

June 4, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Help your family live green! Attend the Green Homes Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden for a hands-on, day-long festival of learning, playing, and engaging with people of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in sustainable, healthy lifestyles. Those attending will explore the links between sustainability, energy efficiency, conservation at home, and a healthy environment. Take advantage of this opportunity to talk with green product and service exhibitors and learn more about home improvement and healthy homes.

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/signature-events/green-homes-festival.aspx

June 18, 2016

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Join the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF) for a special 50th Anniversary Event, a film screening of *Jens Jensen The Living Green* at the Nine Network's Public Media Commons in St. Louis. Carey Lundin, the director of *Jens Jensen The Living Green*, will also be present at the event to answer questions and interact with the screening audience. Our own national Wild Ones is an educational and promotional partner for the film. The event is free, but you must register by June 1 via EventBrite, to join in this celebration of native plants, parks, and the native habitats that we all care about and are working to conserve and perpetuate.

www.jensjensenthelivinggreen.org/

Tracking the EAB



Emerald Ash Borer traps have been set out around Shaw Nature Reserve to trap the beetle. EAB has not yet been detected here and the traps will help us determine when the beetle arrives at SNR. EAB beetles have been detected in the St Louis area and will probably arrive at SNR soon.



Xerces in Your Grocery Store:

Working to Make the Food You Eat Better for Bees

By Hillary Sardiñas

Over the past decade the Xerces Society has helped farmers contribute to the creation of over 250,000 acres of pollinator habitat nationwide (and to reduce pesticide use on those lands), but it has been challenging to track food produced on that cropland all the way to the plate. To better connect consumers with products that benefit bees we've been working with a number of food companies to incorporate pollinator conservation into their sustainable sourcing initiatives.

<http://www.xerces.org/blog/xerces-in-your-grocery-store-how-we-are-working-to-make-the-food-you-eat-better-for-bees/>

Citizen Science Opportunity

With over 4,000 species of native bees in the U.S. alone, and over 1,000 in the Midwest, it's nearly impossible for scientists to have a large-scale understanding of the diversity and distribution of these important pollinators, especially on private land. Interested in filling in data gaps that will help contribute to humanity's understanding of these extraordinary insects and inform conservation policies and practices? Then check out these citizen science projects:

www.beespotter.org

www.bumblebeewatch.org

www.xerces.org/citizen-science

Workshops

June 4, 2016

8:30 a.m. to noon

Register for and attend the Brightside Urban Gardening Symposium, featuring a series of 40-minute workshops led by experts in their respective fields to help gardeners learn how to plan, plant, and care for a neighborhood or home garden. This is a very exciting native-landscaping learning opportunity, not to be missed.

www.brightsidestl.org/?p=3320

Aug 13, 2016

The Midwest Native Plant Society Pollinator Workshop will be held at the Caesar Creek Visitor Center in Lebanon, Ohio. This one day workshop will include educational presentations and time in the field. Presenter, Heather Holm will have copies of her book for sale, titled *Pollinators of Native Plants*.

<http://midwestnativeplants.org/workshops/native-pollinators/>

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.

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>

A Woodland Alive

by Margy Terpstra 5-17-16

When we first stepped out onto the deck to look at this property in May 1996, the birdsong was overwhelming. The migrant birds were high in the canopy finding caterpillars in the oaks, black cherries and hickories. However, invasive bush honeysuckle had completely taken over the understory. We knew that we could do much to improve the habitat for



birds and we bought it. Since then, we have removed at least 8,000 square feet of invasive bush honeysuckle, English ivy and wintercreeper.

Once the honeysuckle was gone, dormant natives emerged like roughleaved dogwood, blackhaw viburnum, gooseberry and mayapple. We have added many native species that span the seasons with high wildlife value, such as hazelnut, paw-paw, serviceberry, spicebush and black chokeberry. The canopy layers were filling in.

We installed our Bubbler pond in the fall of 2000. Blackhaw viburnum, smooth hydrangeas, celandine poppies, wild ginger, Virginia creeper and Virginia bluebells surround it and it has been the biggest attraction for birds with its magical sound of moving water. At least 117 different species of birds have been documented at our bubbler. It runs every day of the year and visitors include mammals such as fox and even American mink. Butterflies and moths are numerous in the woodland. Our trees are healthier and the soil seems to be healthier, too as new plants take hold. Now, we can't imagine our life-filled woodland any other way.

<http://hummerhavenunltd.com/blog>

Pictured above, before honeysuckle removal, and below, after restoration.

