



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

And
Meigs County Extension
Presents:

Native Plants to Know and Grow



When: **April 18, 2015**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: **Mulberry Community Center**

260 Mulberry Avenue

Pomeroy, Ohio 45769

Donna VanBuecken- Keynote Speaker

“Stewardship: Taking Responsibility”

Presenters:

Sierra Patterson

“Native Trees and Shrubs

Gale E Martin

“Creating a Native Prairie”

Dr. Frank Porter

“Using Native Vines in the Landscape”

Dr. Melanie Schori

“Landscaping with Native Grasses”

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Native Plants to Know and Grow

It should come as no surprise to us that our natural areas and parks are once again under attack. Whenever there is a decline in the country’s economy, the resources which were meant to be protected for posterity are instead viewed as a way to renewed posterity. Those individuals charged with the responsibility of protecting and conserving our natural resources fail to understand that once our forests are cut down they will never return to their original state. Understory species, wildlife, and waterways will be drastically, and in some cases, permanently affected.

Growing native plants in your gardens and on your landscape is more important than ever. This year’s conference focuses on “Native Plants to Know and Grow.” Creating native plant gardens will offer increased awareness to your neighbors of the importance of native plant species and habitat, provide wildlife habitat, and demonstrate that native species can be used as landscaping alternatives to non-native invasive species. Specifically, the presenters will discuss how to establish native plant species in currently degraded habitats; how to increase biodiversity; how to provide quality habitat for wildlife; how to educate the public and government about native plants species; and how to identify community organizations who are committed to the importance of using native plants in the landscape.

Donna VanBuecken

Donna VanBuecken has served as Wild Ones Executive Director since 1998. She has a Bachelor of General Studies in Organization Management from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and has been working in the field of organization management since 1955. A member of Wild Ones since 1986, she brings to her role as Executive Director not only a love of wildflowers, but also the ability to solve problems and carry out solutions.

Stewardship: Taking Responsibility

If we are to be successful in preserving and conserving our biodiversity, our efforts must be carried out by a number of entities – Wild Ones members; environmental organizations; businesses and industries; municipality, state and federal governments; and just everyday citizens. Getting all these forces to come together in a unified effort is the secret to success. Donna will discuss the importance of stewardship.

Sierra Patterson

Having grown up in the suburbs of Chicago, Sierra realized the importance of bringing a sense of nature and forest into your landscape. Gardening and landscaping was instilled in her at a very young age, along with a respect for nature. She pursued a Bachelor’s in Biology and English at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, followed by a Master’s in Forest Ecology. Working with her advisor, Dr. Donald Zak and the late Dr. Burt Barnes (author of *Michigan Trees*) her research concerned the effects of global change on the establishment of sugar maple in four forests in the Lake States. In 2011, she started working as the botanist with the Forest Service in the northeastern lower peninsula of Michigan, on the Huron-Manistee National Forest. In June of 2014, Sierra began work as the Forest Botanist on the Wayne National Forest.

Native Trees and Shrubs

Callery pear, Tree-of-heaven, privet, honeysuckle and lilac. While attractive plants in landscaping, these all have one gruesome quality in common—they are non-native invasive plants that harmfully impact our native forest community. What’s more, is they were intentionally planted in this country as ornamental attractive trees and shrubs. As an alternative to non-native trees and shrubs, natives are not only just as aesthetically pleasing, but are also adapted to local/regional conditions and function ecologically within the landscape. These effects scale up to even the highest trophic level within our communities, affecting birds, toads, and mammals alike. Planting native trees and shrubs can serve both and ecological and aesthetic function within the built environment for private home owners and land managers alike.



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Gale E. Martin

Gale E. Martin, owner of Natives in Harmony Nursery near Marengo Ohio, is also a trustee on the Ohio Prairie Association Board of Trustees. The Ohio Prairie Association encourages restoration, establishment and conservation of native prairies and prairie gardens within Ohio.

Gale believes that everyone can share the beauty of the prairie by planting and caring for a prairie garden. Although prairie restorations take careful planning and many years to accomplish, prairie gardens are places that people can enjoy the beauty of prairie plants more quickly. She feels that schools, communities, even families, can turn weedy patches into thriving prairie gardens.

Gale has an intense love of prairies. In 1997, as a student, Gale assisted Dr. John Furlow of the Ohio State Herbarium in conducting a biota survey of the Killdeer Plains area in Wyandot County. This helped to pique her interest in Ohio's prairies. As her college career progressed, the prairie located on the campus of The Ohio State University, Marion, intrigued her. In April of 1998, Gale began working for the prairie as a student employee where she remained until July of 2002. For several years she was the Student Coordinator for the Prairie and Nature Center located on campus and worked intensively on seed collection strategies and promoting local prairie conservation efforts while developing prairie interpretation programs using the reconstructed prairie on campus. Gale is also currently the director of the Marion County Historical Society, a position she has held for over 10 years.

Creating a Native Prairie

Today there is growing trend toward using "native" plants in the landscape. Many homeowners want the lower maintenance promised by using these plants and are thrilled with the prospect of attracting wildlife such as birds and butterflies. Native prairie plants have many virtues: they can handle the local climate, are drought-tolerant and require less maintenance if the right native plant goes in the right place. Not to mention that native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Gale Martin will touch on topics such as landscaping your yard with native prairie plants, planning and planting larger prairie areas, what some of the choices for prairie plants are and which wildlife they support, and maintaining your planting.

Dr. Frank Porter

Dr. Porter is the owner of Porterbrook Native Plants in southern Ohio along the beautiful Ohio River. He is the author of *Back to Eden: Landscaping with Native Plants*. For the past twenty-five years, he has been growing native plants from the Ohio Valley and surrounding regions. Dr. Porter continues to collect seeds from threatened and endangered species in this vast geographic area in order to create a permanent seed bank. In addition, he provides native plants for gardeners and public gardens, which he also designs throughout Ohio and West Virginia.

Using Native Vines in the Landscape

Using native vines can be an exciting and challenging experience. The number of species to choose from is surprisingly large, from the diminutive Allegheny Vine to the sprawling Pipevine. Native vines offer three types of growing habits: rambling, twining, and sprawling. In making your selection, be sure your vine does not strangle the tree or shrub that it depends on for support and does not grow to such a length that it becomes unmanageable. The secret is selecting the right vine for the proper place and understanding the growing habits of each species.



Dr. Melanie Schori

Melanie Schori received a BS in Plant Science from Cornell University and a PhD in Plant Biology from Ohio University. Her areas of specialty include plant classification and reproductive anatomy, but she has also been involved in floristic surveys, rare plant monitoring and invasive species management. Melanie has enthusiastically turned her front yard into a prairie full of plants that would not survive in her home state of New Hampshire. She prefers landscaping with native plants when possible and has reviewed a forthcoming book on Midwest native trees and shrubs.

Landscaping with Native Grasses

You know what a grass is, but can you tell it from a rush or a sedge? Do you know the difference between a lemma and a palea? Is Kentucky bluegrass really from Kentucky? Grasses are a tremendously diverse and economically important group, but they tend to be overlooked as mere turf when it comes to landscaping. If you have wanted to landscape with native grasses but are not sure where to start, this presentation will help. We will go over basic grass parts and terminology, growth patterns, classification before focusing on native species that are suitable for different landscaping situations. Wet or dry, sun or shade, there are native grasses that will thrive around your home. Whether you are looking for lawn plants, showy accents or a food source for wild animals there is a group of grasses that will fit the bill. We will also cover non-native grasses to avoid and suggest substitutes.



Registration Form:

(please mail registration form and check payable to Meigs County Extension before deadline March 15, 2015)

“Native Plants to Know and Grow”

Number of Attending _____

Price per person x \$35.00

Total Amount \$ _____

Make check payable to
Meigs County Extension

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

****Lunch and Refreshments included****

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