Gardening for Wildlife

Butterflies need nectar sources and larval host sources, so choose both:

Nectar for adults:
- Butterfly weed/milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.)
- Purple coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.)
- Blazing star (*Liatris* spp.)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)
- Asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.)
- Ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.)
- Thoroughworts/Joe pye (*Eupatorium* spp.)

Larval host plants for caterpillars:
- Milkweed (*Asclepias* - Monarch butterfly)
- Passionvine (*Passiflora* - Gulf fritillary)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras* - Eastern swallowtail)
- Paw paw (*Asimina* - Zebra swallowtail)
- Cherry and plum (*Prunus* - Viceroy)

Birds feast on seeds, fruit and insects that grow/host on native plants:
- Viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.)
- Wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)
- Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis* - nectar for hummingbirds)
- Chokeberry (*Aronia* spp.)
- Deciduous hollies (*Ilex* spp.)
- Hearts a bustin’ (*Euonymus americanus*)

Hungry for more information? Visit our website and also find us on Facebook.
What is a native plant?

Though many definitions exist, this brochure includes information on plants that evolved in this area or were growing here prior to the arrival of European settlers.

Advantages of gardening with native plants

- To add natural beauty to your landscape.
- Native plants are adapted to the local soil and climate.
- They support the local ecosystem as a building block for native insects, birds, and small mammals.
- They are often low maintenance when sited correctly and properly established.
- They provide a refuge for native plants losing their habitats.

What threats are facing native plants?

- Primarily they are threatened by habitat loss due to development.
- They are also under threat from non-native plants invading natural areas and displacing them. These are sometimes even sold as landscape plants.

What can you do?

- Use native plants wherever possible in your landscape.
- Don’t use non-native identified as invasive.
- Encourage your favorite nursery to sell native plants.
- Buy native plants from reputable sources (look for “nursery propagated”).
- Join or support your local native plant society.
- Support or encourage habitat conservation.

Join us!

Membership details and forms are available on our website. You can join online or print off a PDF form to mail in: [Website URL]