

OSU, Meigs County Extension
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In Harmony With Nature Creating Green Space with Native Plants



*The Ohio State University Extension,
Meigs County*

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When: April 1, 2010

9:00 am - 4 pm

Where: Mulberry Community Center

260 Mulberry Avenue

Pomeroy, Ohio 45769

Guest Speakers:

Jim McCormac - Keynote Speaker

“Backyards and Beyond:
Plant Locally, Save Globally”

Ann Bonner

“What About Trees? How to Successfully
Use Natives in the Landscape”

Michael Flanders

“Going Green, how we are complying
with EPA mandates”

Hal Kneen

“What Could Be?”

Dr. Frank W. Porter

“Creating Rain Gardens”

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Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency has demanded that public utilities create green space to offset the tremendous cost of maintaining lawns and to lessen the amount of runoff into over-taxed and antiquated storm drain systems. All too often, public authorities choose non-native species to satisfy this mandate. Many of these non-native species are invasive and only exacerbate the situation. Properly using native plants to create green space can rectify many of the environmental problems caused by the misuse of land in public areas. Native plants are also increasingly being used in gardens as ornamentals. Little attention is given to the environmental importance of using the proper species to create natural habitats for insect pollinators and wildlife. Private landowners can do their part to provide green space by creating rain gardens and wildlife habitats with native plants.





**Keynote Speaker:
Jim McCormac**

Jim works for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, specializing in birds, education, and wildlife diversity issues. Prior to that, he was a botanist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas. He is president of the Ohio Ornithological Society, and served for seven years as secretary of the Ohio Bird Records Committee. Jim is author of *Birds of Ohio* (Lone Pine 2004); *Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage* (Kent State University Press 2009); *The Great Lakes Nature Guide* (Lone Pine 2009). He has written a column entitled "Biodiversity" for the Columbus Dispatch since 2005. He is the 2009 recipient of the Ludlow Griscom award, given annually by the American Birding Association to individuals who have made significant regional contributions to ornithology.

In an increasingly urbanized landscape, the role of habitat restoration - backyards or bigger projects - takes on growing importance. The use of native flora is vital to the success of such projects. We will explore some fantastic and little-known plants, and the interesting ecological relationships that spring up around them. Our urban landscapes become globally important when one considers their value to winged wildlife, and we'll look at the big picture of urban landscape roles. With native plants, we can paint a picture of beauty and biodiversity that no ornamental garden of non-natives can match.

- Sponsors/Exhibitors
- DNR Fish & Wildlife, USDA - Forestry
- Soil & Water Conservation
- ODNR Nature Preserve
- Handouts: Ohio Invasive Plant Council
- Wild Ones, Rural Action
- West Virginia Native Plant Society
- Wayne National Forest
- Bob's Market
- AM Leonard and BFG

Speakers: Ann Bonner

Ann Bonner has been a regional urban forester with the ODNR Division of Forestry for fourteen years. Prior to that, Ann worked for the cities of Upper Arlington and Dublin, Ohio as an urban forester. Ann has a B.S. in Environmental Sciences from The Ohio State University. Ann lives with her husband and two teenagers on a family horse farm in Morgan County.

Believe it or not, using native trees in the garden and landscape is not the norm. Traditionally, urban forest managers opt for the "Perfect Tree:", otherwise known as a tree that does not drop any stick, leaf, seed, or nut, attract insects or animals or act in any other way like a natural, living thing. Native trees are not perfect, but they contribute invaluable to our native ecosystems and to the cultural landscape as well. Native trees are often better adapted to local soils and climate. They can also serve as an anchor or "keystone" species that will support other species around them. Native trees are often long lived and better adapted to thrive overtime. Using native trees requires patience and knowledge.

Mike Flanders

Mike has been with the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati for 18 years. He is a professional Engineer in the State of Ohio, and holds Master's Degrees in Engineering and Business from the University of Cincinnati. He has a long-standing interest in natural process based solutions to environmental problems and is currently involved in bringing green site management techniques to the 11-acre MSD sewer maintenance facility. Mike, his wife Julie and their two children are Cincinnati natives. They are involved in local music and have a growing fondness for the backwoods of southern Ohio.

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSDGC) is under a federal consent decree mandating significant reductions in sewer overflows. MSDGC has agreed to utilize and foster the development of green techniques for rainfall runoff management as a part of this consent decree. The District's Wastewater Collections Division has begun experimenting with native plants and other vegetation as a way to decrease maintenance requirements and rainfall runoff. This presentation will discuss what MSDGC has done, learned and spent since beginning this program and what our next steps are likely to be.

Dr. Frank W. Porter

Frank is the owner and operator of Porterbrook Native Plants, located along the beautiful Ohio River in Meigs County, Ohio. For the past twenty years, he has been collecting seeds and plants of native species from the Ohio Valley region and growing them in display gardens to determine their suitability for home landscapes. He has also been studying the native grass and sedge species of this region. He is a past president of the Ohio Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society and served on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Native Plant Society.

In recent years, the amount of damage to private and public property because of flooding has totaled billions of dollars. As mountains are reduced to negligible semblances of their former stature; as more highways are built and paved; as more and more new homes are constructed; and as more parking lots cover once productive meadows, the ability of the soil to absorb rainfall is limited. These impervious surfaces are areas that quickly shed rainwater into already overtaxed storm drains and nearby streams and rivers. Because the runoff is untreated, the amount of pollution from our own yards and gardens is increased exponentially. One way to help prevent these pollutants from pouring into our precious waterways and contaminating underground water supplies is to create a rain garden

Harold "Hal" Kneen

Hal is the Ohio State University Extension Educator for Meigs County, Ohio. He has worked for extension the past 19 years specializing in horticultural crops and for the nursery industry in the 70's and 80's. He assists Master Gardeners, commercial horticultural operations and landowners in both Ohio and West Virginia.

As homeowners, businesses and government become aware of the attributes of native plants in the landscape we realize we can make a difference in our environment. Educational opportunities are needed for the masses especially our youth. Let's discover together ways to improve drainage, use native plants and reduce impact of invasive plants.

Registration Form:

(deadline March 17, 2010)

**In Harmony with Nature:
Creating Green Space with
Native Plants**

Sign up for:

Number of Attending	_____
Price per person	x _____
\$25.00	
Total Amount	\$ _____

Name

Address

Phone

Email address:

Lunch and Refreshments included

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