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\* Denotes Plan It Native sponsors



## Please join us for a Walk on the Wild Side!

We are hosting a series of garden walks in May and hope you can join us! Tours include:

- The Loose Park Native Plant Gardens,
- The Missouri Department of Conservation's Discovery Center, and
- The Shawnee Mission School District's Center for Academic Achievement.

Tour leaders will share their vast knowledge of native plants and the wildlife these plants support.

We are emailing event details on Monday, April 26. Please check your inbox to RSVP. Didn't get our email? Please email [mary@deeprootskc.org](mailto:mary@deeprootskc.org) or call 816.301.7545.

Attendance is limited for social distancing. Plan to wear your favorite mask!

## Deep Roots KC is changing our region's landscapes.

Through public programming and professional education, we're helping more people grow successful native plant landscapes.

**What You Plant Matters.** Native plants create a sense of place. Native plants provide "room and board" for native pollinators, insects, birds, and butterflies with their nectar, fruit and seeds, and stalks and leaves. Native plants also clean our air, filter our water, reduce erosion and trap carbon.

From webinar episodes to demonstration gardens, Deep Roots teaches people how to incorporate native plants into their landscapes.



Monarch Caterpillar

Loose Park Garden

Garden for function and beauty.

“We just moved into our home a year ago. I want to figure out what I have and what to plant. I am a Master Naturalist and love all the webinars. They are awesome. Always informative!! I always learn something!”

Webinar attendees added more than 20,000 new, native plants to their landscapes last year.



97.6% of conference attendees report that Plan It Native improved their native plant landscaping practices.

Deep Roots and our partners present the Plan It Native Landscapes Conference annually. We hosted the 2020 event online and featured three half-days packed with interactive sessions, inspiring keynote speakers, and opportunities to connect with the native plant community.

Plan It Native 2020 hosted more than 560 people from 40 states and four countries, turning a regional conference into an international event.

“I have been gardening for decades and feel as if I have just now begun to understand and appreciate the impact our gardening and landscaping choices can make.”

## What You Plant Matters

Photo: Bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*

Oak trees are a keystone species. Their branches, leaves, and acorns provide shelter and food to thousands of species including caterpillars and other insects, birds, and more.

Planting an oak tree along with other native plant species supports local habitat and maintains biodiversity.

## Native Plants Support Habitat Throughout the Year

Plan your garden for blooms throughout the growing season. Whether on acreage or in small gardens, these native plants support local habitat.



Chickadee Feeding Clutch



Variable Oakleaf Caterpillar



Polyphemus Moth



Polyphemus Caterpillar

At left, from top: A single pair of breeding black-capped chickadees must find between 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to rear one clutch of young.

Oak trees support more than 500 species of caterpillars. Caterpillars transfer more energy from plants to animals than any other kind of plant eater.

Oak trees are "host plants" for the polyphemus moth. The caterpillar eats the leaves of its host to survive.



## Spring

The serviceberry tree (*Amelanchier arborea*) supports a variety of pollinators with its blossoms, and many songbirds rely on the fruit in the summer. Photo above right: cedar waxwing on serviceberry.

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) supports several native bumblebees. Above left: common eastern bumblebee.

Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) supports black swallowtail caterpillars, green metallic bees, and a variety of other pollinators. Photo at left: black swallowtail caterpillar.



Serviceberry



Spiderwort



Golden Alexander

Many thanks to Deep Roots' volunteer, Tom Schroeder, for being a resource on this project and to the research of Douglas Tallamy, PhD. Photos courtesy of Sarah Beier, Matt Garrett, Courtney Masterson, Mary Nemecek, Cydney Ross, Tom Schroeder, and Linda Williams.

## Summer

Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is the host plant for monarch butterflies and milkweed tussock moths. It also supports milkweed longhorn beetles. At left: monarch butterfly and caterpillar on milkweed.

Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) supports sphynx moth caterpillars with its leaves. Ruby-throated hummingbirds and hummingbird moths nectar from its flowers. At left: hummingbird clearwing moth.

Blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*) supports the black and gold bumblebee (as seen in Deep Roots' logo!), as well as the caterpillars of the indigo duskywing moth and the orange sulphur butterfly. Below left: black and gold bumblebee.



Aromatic Aster



Pale Purple Coneflower



Winter Garden



Butterfly Milkweed



Wild Bergamot



Blue Wild Indigo



## Fall

Aromatic Aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*) is a host plant of the pearl crescent butterfly and provides nectar and pollen for many native bumblebee and moth species. At right: pearl crescent butterfly.

Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) supports seed-eating birds, crab spiders, and is a great nectar source for butterflies. Photo: goldfinch enjoying coneflower seeds.

## Winter

Resist the urge to "clean up" the garden in the fall. Over the winter, dried stalks and fallen leaves provide important habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and more!



Find resources for these native plants and more at [deeproots.org](https://www.deeproots.org).