



HABITAT GARDEN TOURS

WHAT IS A HABITAT GARDEN?

A native plant garden that provides habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

SECOND SATURDAY TOURS

Every month from April to October, visit three residential habitat gardens to:

- Experience diverse habitat gardens
- See the monthly succession of blooms
- Learn about native plants and habitats
- Meet other gardeners, native plant enthusiasts and wildlife supporters
- Find inspiration and information to grow your own habitat garden



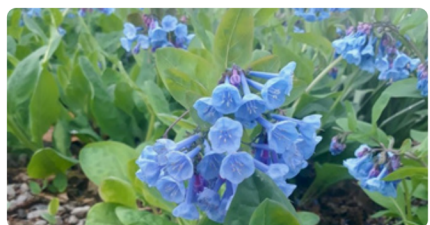
[DeepRoots.org](https://www.DeepRoots.org)



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BLUEBELL VALLEY

There were few native plant sales when Wendy began planting natives 30 ago, so her garden was assembled from swaps, native plant society events, a farm she owned in central Missouri, and rescue missions of plants from properties facing demolition.



SITE CONDITIONS & HABITATS

Woodland

The backyard is dominated by a significant slope down to a hollow formed by a nearby creek and an even steeper hill that rises behind it. Through trial and error Wendy learned what plants could survive her thin rocky soil and under the shade of the mature walnut trees growing in the hollow, not to mention deer — up to eight at a time.

Survivors include Wild Plum, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, and Winter Witch-Hazel. Under these is a wonderland of spring ephemerals: Virginia Bluebell, Shootingstar and other treasures.

Glade

By contrast, the front yard sits flat under beating southwest sun. With the soil along the driveway mimicking the hot, shallow conditions of an exposed Glade, glade plants like Blue Salvia, Pale Purple Coneflower and Lanceleaf Coreopsis thrive here.

LOOK FOR:

- Pawpaw trees
- Leatherwood shrub
- Dutchman's Breeches and Yellow Bellwort

GOODMAN GROVE

Begin your tour of Janine and Gerry's at the sidewalk, with the beautifully multi-stemmed Serviceberry in the shrub border. To its right is an equally nice Shubby St. John's Wort. Now look straight up, at the cup-shaped blooms of the soaring Tulip tree. Once you're inside the driveway, turn left past the Tulip tree to the corner of Flowering Dogwoods.



The Tulip and Flowering Dogwood trees were here when Janine and Gerry arrived. Since then, they have steadily expanded the grove, often with tiny saplings from Department of Conservation sales. Additions include Loblolly and Jack Pine, River Birch, Redbud, Elderberry, Wild Plum, Golden Clove Currant, Buttonbush, Aromatic Sumac and Wild Hydrangea.

While there are lovely perennials aplenty, this is a great opportunity to see mature versions of native trees and shrubs in a residential setting.

SITE HISTORY

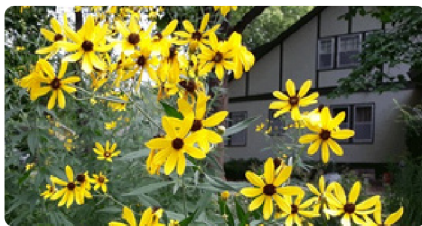
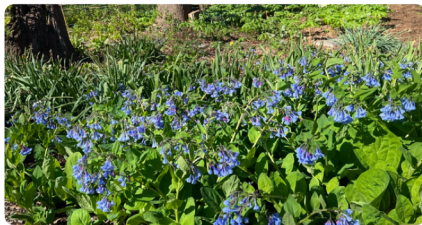
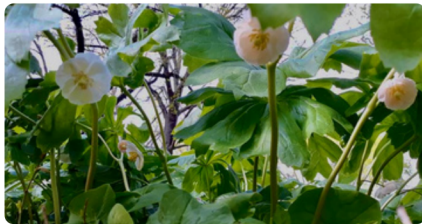
This property has had only one previous owner, Tillie, who grew and sold peonies. Her green thumb lives on in the peony shoots that still come up every spring long after Janine and Gerry dug them out.

LOOK FOR:

- The monumental Bur Oak
- Dog-Tooth Violet
- The shed and greenhouse Gerry built from the wood of Scotch pines that died over the years.

LOOMIS WOODS

Christopher began gardening very young, with his Mother, who loved to nurture growing things. He brings the same spirit to his garden, letting the plants flourish wherever they're happy, like the Columbine that clearly prefer his gravel driveway.



Seeds & Weeds

The side garden is, by Christopher's estimation, "92% native." The large beds of Golden Groundsel, Golden Alexander, Virginia Bluebells and Wild Ginger have expanded from an original handful of plants. Many other plants have been grown from seed, allowing Christopher to experiment with interesting species not available in nurseries, like Tall Hairy Agrimony, Northern Fog Fruit and Illinois Bundleflower. (Tall Hairy Agrimony!) He also embraces natives often considered weeds, like Violets, White Snakeroot and White Avens.

Big Beauties

Native perennials that grow tall or wide or reseed prolifically are unfairly maligned as "messy" or "thugs" by conventional gardeners. But Christopher welcomes them for what they are — ample, generous, enthusiastic givers beloved by butterflies. He grows masses of big species, like Jerusalem Artichoke, Prairie Dock, Wild Bergamot and Turk's-Cap Lily.

LOOK FOR:

- Mayapple and Trillium from Christopher's Dad
- Christopher's staking system for tall plants
- The hearty sidewalk strip of Anise Hyssop