

FRIENDS OF CEDAR CREEK MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2018

Members and visitors gathered at 6:30 pm with snacks at the Dustin Preserve. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by President, Dave VanGilder. Having skipped the wildlife sightings in November, Dave asked that those present give updates on what had been seen. Fred Feitler had seen 10 male cardinals in one bush. Carol Roberts had heard an owl call (probably a Barred Owl) and a sad story about a young deer which had tried to cross Cedar Creek but did not make it up a steep edge and drowned. Dave VanGilder had a Great Horned Owl in the top of a tree at his house.

Our speaker was Martha Ferguson, native plant specialist and grower, spoke on preparation for native plants with the theme being "Inspiration". Winter is a time for rest and renewal and dreaming and scheming. To help us with the dreaming and scheming, she brought a list of resources, available at the next meeting for those who would like copies, and attached as a document to the minutes.

1. Evaluate what you have, what worked, and what did not work. Native plants take time to establish and a way to think about them is first year sleep, second year creep, third year leap (as they can become aggressive).
2. Look at the bones of the garden (not distracted by flowers, etc): paths, levels, things (nooks, benches). The cultural framework where you live (lawns in suburbia), mown paths, other structures such as bird houses/bird feeders, plant masses for the pollinators, borders/boundaries with fences, trees and shrubs for height, arches, pergolas, benches.
3. Habitat connectivity to natural corridors in suburbia can shortcut the travel time and the like for animals, bees and other insects. There are 416 species of native bees in Indiana. (Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide by Heather Holm). Solitary bees need access to bare earth (don't mulch). Mason bees use hollow stems for broods. Connectivity for native plants is important for diversity i.e. to avoid inbreeding. One corridor named was from Martha's place on the St Joe River following the river down to the McNabb-Walter Preserve.
4. For inspiration, recall gardens you like, native and non-native. Two she recommended were Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago and Chicago Botanical Gardens. Water is part of the structure which is pleasant. Books to consider: Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy, Living Landscape by Rich Darke and Douglas Tallamy, and Planting in a Post-Wild World by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West.
5. Hints for diversity for your plant use: oaks support lots of varieties of caterpillars, ginkgo only three. Caterpillars are a food source for birds. Green mulch, as defined by Martha, is a layer of plants as ground cover. Prairie dropseed is a good addition to a prairie. Matrix planting uses several species. Leaf litter is good: insects will hide in it where they can be a food source for baby birds (adults may eat the seeds).
6. For online inspiration, there are Facebook groups, and the internet can be checked for native gardens in Indiana (or elsewhere). A New Garden Ethic by Benjamin Vogt has beautiful pictures for inspiration.
7. Try thinking about your garden for what to do: tweak? reduce a lawn? expand the garden(s) to make connections? eco-balance? Look to nature for what is in the canopy, understory, ground, wildlife diversity. Special plants for insects, birds, mammals while considering seasonal interest. Take a walk in the woods to get a different feel of your environment.
8. You can manage a prairie by mowing to 6" or height in the spring. Burning is used for killing trees sprouting in the prairie.
9. Think about moss as a feature. To encourage moss, you must provide acidic soil and poor drainage. Acidify an area with sulfur.
10. Winter gardening activities include pruning where you can shape the plant and remove dead parts. Remember that spring flowering plants will require more thinking so you don't remove the flowering branches. Consider landscaping repair where you can do winter direct sowing, plant in sterile seed starting media in buckets with drain holes (plant the cov-

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ered bucket outside in the ground: this will allow stratification, germination and growth).

Get your tools in shape, organize your tool shed if you have one, order seed and pre-order your plants from Riverview Nursery (a commercial word from the speaker).

11. Take classes at various events such as at Little River Wetlands and bundle up and go outside. Keep limber (do yoga and stretching).

Carol Roberts showed a copy of the printed summary of Guide to Cedar Creek which is available for distribution at libraries and other places where people might be.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MA Feitler, Secretary

Native Plant Resources

Books

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Douglas W. Tallamy
Go Native! Gardening with Native Plants and Wildflowers in the Lower Midwest by Carolyn Harstad
The Living Landscape: Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden by Rick Darke & Doug Tallamy
Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West
The Monarch: Saving Our Most-Loved Butterfly by Kylee Baumle
A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future by Benjamin Vogt
Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide by Heather Holm

Organizations

Friends of Cedar Creek
INPAWS
ACRES
Little River Wetlands
County Soil and Water Conservation District or watershed organization, NRCS

Native Plant Databases

Native status: plants.usda.gov is easy to use but you need to click through to county level to see outliers. *BONAP* is more accurate but harder to use.
illinoiswildflowers.info—Excellent section on faunal associations
missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder—Geared to gardeners
www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc/invasiveplants.php—Official list of Indiana invasive plants)

Facebook Pages and Groups (Like and Follow, “See First”)

Riverview Native Nursery
In Defense of Plants
Monarch Gardens LLC
Northeast Chapter of Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society
Pollinators on Native Plants - Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast Area
Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) (over 10,000 member)
Indiana Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (over 800 members)
IN Nature (almost 4000 members)
Birding in Indiana (over 7500 members)
Pollinator Friendly Yards (over 7500 members)

Email Newsletters

Riverview Nursery – sign up on Contacts Page of website
Habitat Network at Content.yardmap.org – Cornell University and The Nature Conservancy
Cornell Lab eNews
Monarch Gardens

Local Genotype Nurseries

Retail Plants: Riverview Nursery—260-704-5092, RiverviewNativeNursery.com
Wholesale Plants and Retail Seeds – Heartland Restoration— 260-489-8511