



My Journey with Native Plants

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1st VP Ohio Association of Garden Clubs



My Story

- Owned Mill Pond Acre B&B in Fairborn
- Opportunity to purchase adjacent property
- Major renovations
- Finally move in – Spring 2020
- Landscaping starts



Master Gardener Volunteer Class of 2019



This is what I bought



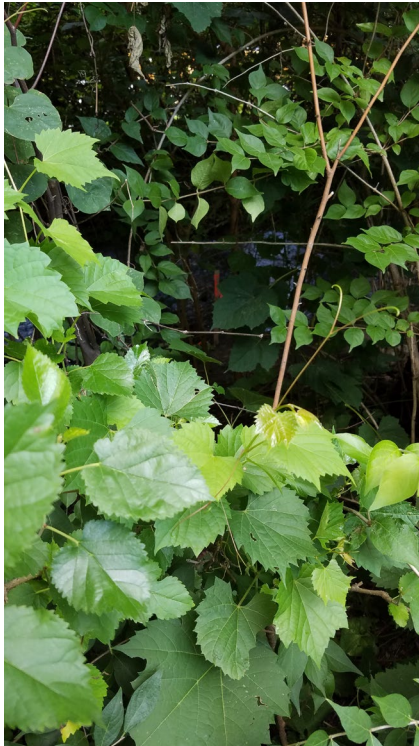
Renovations old to near complete



Renovations old to complete



On to the landscape



Months after moving in...





So what I did...starting late fall



Summer 2022



Summer 2022



Summer 2022



Summer 2022



Summer 2023



WHY NATIVES?



Their merits exceed their virtues of beauty, resilience and appeal to birds and pollinators.

Ecosystem Restoration: Tallgrass prairies are North America's most threatened major ecosystem, with about 99% plowed up or paved over since the 1830s. By planting native species, you are restoring ecosystems and preserving countless species that might otherwise be lost forever.

Clean Air: Like forests, prairies and meadows sequester pollutants and carbon from the atmosphere. Small plantings can help filter the air around your home, and large plantings can help to mitigate climate change.

Clean Water: Because of the deep root system of most native plants, they act both as a sponge and a filter. They help water soak down into the soil and filter out excess nutrients and pollutants, improving water quality.

WHY NATIVES?



Healthy Soil: Prevent soil erosion, create topsoil and build fertility.

Invasive Species: Some plants aggressively out-compete others because they lack natural checks and balances like pests and predators. Ex – Honeysuckle -- first planted in gardens. By choosing natives, you can help prevent further habitat loss.

Resource Conservation: Once established, native plants can save you time and money because they require little or no irrigation, fertilizer, pruning or mowing.

Keep the Circle complete: Predators (foxes, snakes and birds of prey) rely on small mammals, amphibians, birds and insects for their survival. Prey species are sustained by native plants. 90% of our native insects are specialists, meaning they require a native host plant in their life cycle. Birds sustain their young almost exclusively on native insects, primarily caterpillars. It takes thousands of caterpillars and insects to raise and fledge a clutch of young birds. A few square feet or several acres, can make a difference.

Some favorite plants



- Agastache foeniculum
- Anise Hyssop
- Licorice scent
- Bees love it!
- Herb
- Beautiful color
- Spreads
- Easy

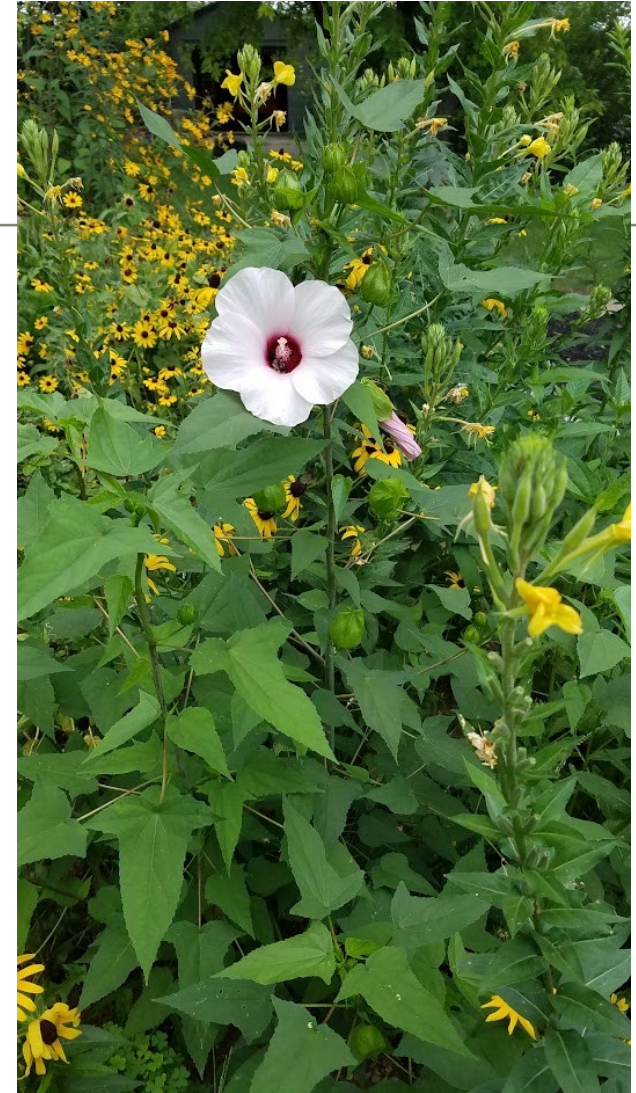
Some favorite plants



- *Gentiana andrewsii*
- Bottle Gentian
- Full sun – as most natives
- Closed flowers
- Blooms Sept – Oct
- Wonderful next to short goldenrods

Some favorite plants

- Hibiscus laevis
- Rose Mallow
- Grows 6' tall
- Blossoms 3" long
- Bush-like





Some favorite plants



- *Chelone lyonii*
- Turtlehead
- Prefers moist soil, swamps, bogs, stream side
- Snap dragon-like flowers
- Blooms late season

My favorite plant!

- *Silene regia*
- Royal catchfly
- Grows in clumps
- 3-4' tall
- Poachers are a problem
- Winter sowing



Some favorite plants

- *Physostegia virginiana*
- Obedient plant
- How did it get it's name?
- Bloom June – Sept
- 2 – 4' tall



Some favorite plants



- Eryngium yuccifolium
- Rattlesnake master
- 4 – 6' tall
- Stiff upright
- Blueish Greenish
- Yucca-like leaves
- Bloomed 2nd year I planted

Some favorite plants

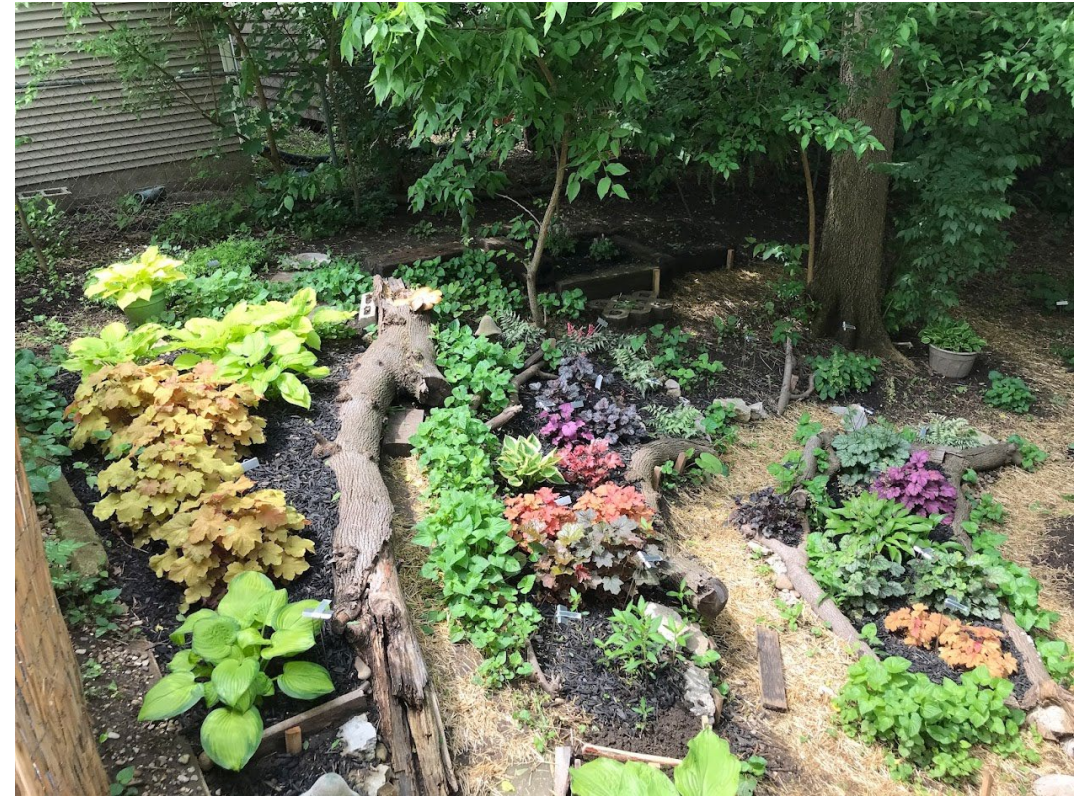


- Gray coneflower, Rudbeckia, Yellow prairie coneflower...
- Yellow is dominate in the garden
- Also have butterfly weed, swamp milkweed, Joe pye, monarda, echinacea, partridge pea...

In the meantime



In the meantime





Go visit:

- Pearl's Fen
- Huffman Prairie
- Follow Dave Nolin on Facebook
- Beavercreek wetlands





Great Resources

- Dayton Wild Ones
- The Milkweed Patch, Ruth Bowell
- Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association
- Doug Tallamy - Home Grown National Parks





Thank you

