Our conference plant for 2022 is the Wafer Ash, *Ptelea trifoliata* or Hop Tree. It is an attractive, tall shrub or small understory tree, for both moist conditions and dry rocky sites and does well in gardens in full sun or part shade. If grown in full sun and cut back, wafer ash will be quite bushy. Sweet nectar of this plant attracts many species of butterflies and it is the host plant for the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, *Papilio cresphontes*. This is not in the "Ash Tree" family and not susceptible to the Emerald Ash Borer. Artwork by Ann E. Geise, www.anngeiseart.com.

Please check the agenda for times of presentations and field trips.

**Early Bird Afternoon Field Trips**

All Friday walks are on the grounds of the 150-acre property that is the hub of the conference, the Mount St. John Nature Preserve.

- **Hiking Mount. St. John Preserve, Tom and Penny Borgman.** Tom and Penny Borgman will hike the 150-acre Mount. St. John Nature Preserve seeking plant and animal diversity. They will head into some of the more natural wooded areas of the preserve, as opposed to the planted areas. These experienced interpretive naturalists will look at how native plant communities function as integrated wholes. This will be a more rigorous hike so hiking shoes are recommended.

- **Pollinator in our Gardens, Macy Reynolds & Sandy McHugh.** This walk will focus on plants for pollinators including discussion on the different types of native bees, where they live and how they use native plants to survive. This will be an easy walk in the surrounding gardens and prairies. Both leaders have years of experience designing and planting native plant landscapes and they will be able to answer any questions you may have about what plants work best for attracting pollinator species.

- **Native Landscaping at Bergamo Center, Michele Banker and River Johnson.** Michele Banker will take a tour of the native plant landscaping that now surrounds the immediate vicinity of the Bergamo center, including inside the courtyard. Most of these plants were grown in the MEEC nursery right on the Bergamo grounds. Michele will discuss why those plants were chosen and how they created these stunning new native landscapes.
**Conference Keynotes & Plenary Speakers**

**Unlocking the Mysteries of Native Plant Selection, Kim Eierman**

When choosing native plants, you need to ask the right questions to get the best results. Let’s sort out the mysteries and complexities of native plant selection including: Am I buying a genetic clone? How much does it matter? What are local ecotypes and where can I buy them? Are native cultivars ever ok? Which native plants require pollination partners and how do I source them? What are the pros and cons of planting native seeds vs. live plants? How much plant diversity does my landscape really need? Make your native landscape both beautiful and eco-beneficial with better informed plant selection.

**The Pollinator Victory Garden: Winning the War on Pollinator Decline, Kim Eierman**

Countless pollinator species have suffered dramatic declines in recent years. It’s a serious problem for all of us since pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of 80% of all flowering plants, and at least 30% of the food that we eat. Unfortunately, most of our landscapes offer little in the way of appropriate habitat and forage for these essential animals. With simple strategies, you can attract and support not just bees, but an array of pollinators that have different requirements. Learn how to create a Pollinator Victory Garden to help win the war on pollinator decline.

Kim Eierman is the Founder of EcoBeneficial LLC. She is an environmental horticulturist and ecological landscape designer specializing in native plants. Based in New York, Kim teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Native Plant Center, Rutgers Home Gardeners School and several other institutions. Kim is an active speaker nationwide on many ecological landscape topics. Kim is a Certified Horticulturist through the American Society for Horticultural Science, an Accredited Organic Landcare Professional, a Steering Committee member of The Native Plant Center, and a member of The Ecological Landscape Alliance and Garden Communicators International. Kim is the author of the new book, The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening

**Wetlands are Worth It! The Value of Restoration at Multiple Scales, Mark Dilley**

Ohio is in an interesting time period in its history, as the State of Ohio is investing considerably in wetland restoration after a historic loss of over 90% of its original wetland resources. This, combined with a general trend toward nature-based solutions and green infrastructure, are promoting wetland restoration and native plantings in a variety of contexts and at a broad range of scales, from rain gardens and pocket wetlands in urban areas to large-scale restoration affecting hundreds of acres of land. I will share examples of some of these projects and the impacts that they are having, not just on the environment, but on quality of life for the surrounding human population, weaving in a healthy amount of native wetland plant information as I share my stories.

Mark Dilley earned a B.S. in Natural Resources (Fisheries Management) in 1991 and a M.S. in Environmental Science (specializing in wetlands) in 2003, both from The Ohio State University. He and his wife Christine are co-owners of a certified environmental consulting firm, MAD Scientist Associates, specializing in ecological and wetland consulting. He is also a lecturer at The Ohio State University, where he teaches Wetland Ecology & Restoration.

Mark has over 30 years of experience as a field biologist, ecologist, and wetland scientist. Mark and the MAD Scientist Team have become increasingly involved in wetland restoration efforts throughout Ohio. He and his wife Chris are also part owners of Scioto Gardens Nursery and they enjoy enhancing their property (now a Certified Wildlife Habitat!) through the addition of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.
The Humane Gardener, Nancy Lawson

Why do we call some insects “beneficial” while others are “pests”? Why do we welcome some larger animals to our garden while calling others “nuisances”? Why are some plants considered “desirable” while others are “weeds”? In this myth-busting talk, learn how common growing methods divide the natural world into false dichotomies and perpetuate misperceptions about the wild species living among us. Discover practical ways to put humane gardening philosophies into action by protecting nesting and overwintering sites; eliminating unintended hazards; identifying and nurturing plants that provide food and shelter; restoring habitat with minimal disturbance to animals; and humanely resolving conflicts with mammals and other commonly misunderstood creatures.

Nancy Lawson is the author of The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife, habitat consultant, columnist for All Animals magazine, and frequent speaker on garden ecology. She founded Humane Gardener to pioneer creative planting strategies and animal-friendly landscaping methods. Lawson’s presentations at diverse venues—from national wildlife refuges and wildflower preserves to universities and state natural resource agencies—have inspired even seasoned horticulturists and wildlife experts to look at their landscapes in a new way. Certified as a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional and master naturalist, she partners with nonprofits in the national capital region, including Howard County Bee City, Audubon Society of Central Maryland, and Patapsco Heritage Greenway. Her book and garden have been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Oprah magazine and other media outlets.

Butterfly Defenses, Glenn Chrisler

Admired the world over, butterflies are treasured for their beauty and grace. Many animals including lizards, birds, spiders, and other insects view butterflies as a potential meal. As a result, butterflies have developed a wide range of physical and behavioral adaptations to increase their odds of survival. This talk will discuss many of these defense mechanisms including camouflage, confusion, startle, fright, poison, mimicry, and speed. This presentation will exclusively feature butterflies found in the Eastern United States—many of which are well documented in Ohio.

Dr. Glenn Crisler II is a professor of analytical chemistry at Mount Saint Joseph University and in addition to publishing research in analytical chemistry journals, he is published in the journal Lepidoptera (which is the order for butterflies and moths).

Enhancing Your Landscape for Birds and Other Wildlife, Marne Tichenell

Songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife bring a dynamic joy to the landscape. This talk will discuss creating habitat for birds and other creatures, including use of bird feeders, bird baths, and nest boxes (bluebirds, wrens, chickadees). She will highlight favorite bird- and pollinator-friendly plants, the importance of adding dead wood to the landscape, plus a few more tips on how to configure resources for garden visitors all year long.

Marne is an Extension Wildlife Program Specialist, with the Ohio State University. She works within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. She provides a variety of educational programs, workshops, conferences, and publications centered on wildlife ecology and biology, habitat management for wildlife, and managing nuisance wildlife species. One of her favorite topics to speak on is incorporating wildlife-friendly plants in our living spaces.
Saturday Outdoor breakout sessions

Introduction to Growing Native Plants & MEEC Nursery Tour, Michele Banker
A walking tour with a behind-the-scenes look at the Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC) native plant nursery. The outdoor workshop will introduce the steps taken in native seed propagation from the basic tools needed, proper seed collection and handling, various cleaning techniques and methods to overcome seed dormancy. With a little planning, timely action, and determination; you can grow your own native plants!

Michele serves as the Land Resource Coordinator for MEEC. She stewards the 100 acres of natural areas at Mount Saint John (MSJ) leading the establishment and management of tallgrass prairie, non-native invasive plant monitoring and management and storm water control through bioretention ponds. In collaboration with MSJ Facilities, she helped to implement more sustainable landscape practices, expand wildlife habitat and install native plant landscapes within the central campus. She has led service learning, educational programs, ecological research, long-term monitoring and worked with volunteers on land restoration projects in woodland, prairie, wetlands and native plant nurseries.

Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines, Jim McCormac
As previous attendees of the Midwest Native Plant Conference know, the 150-acre property that is the hub of the conference, the Mount St. John Preserve, teems with native plants. Much of the botanical diversity stems from decades of work and vision by the late Dr. Don Geiger, who launched an initiative to create lush native habitats. Today, we can enjoy the fruits of this labor, and that’s what this foray is all about. Jim will concentrate on seeking and identifying the diverse native trees, shrubs and vines found on the preserve.

Jim worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specializing in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books and writes a column, Nature, for the Columbus Dispatch, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He has written numerous articles and has delivered hundreds of presentations. Jim is an avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects. He has had hundreds of photos published in various forums.

Birds, Bugs & Botany: Take a Walk on the Wild Side, Judy Semroc
This outdoor nature foray will focus on the birds, bugs and botany we encounter during a leisurely stroll through the wonderful habitats in and around the campus. We will seek out and observe as much nature as we can find during our time outdoors. Consider bringing binoculars, camera, and your keen eyesight to fully enjoy our nature trek!

Judy is the founder of Chrysalis in Time, the first Ohio chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Judy also serves on the board of the Ohio Bluebird Society & Ohio Ornithological Society (Conservation Committee). She co-authored two natural history guides, "Dragonflies & Damselflies of Northeast Ohio” and "Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio: A Field Guide to Identification & Natural History.”

Digital Natural History: Using Online Resources, Tara Poling
While we’ll briefly cover several online resources, we’ll primarily focus on using iNaturalist, a community of nature enthusiasts who connect through a powerful online application capable of logging natural history observations, identifying species, and reporting through time and space. We’ll cover the basics, including making observations on your IOs or Android device that will include accessing phenological data and contributing to projects and scientific research. This is a hybrid program, with 1/2 indoor learning and the rest spent outdoors learning your new skills. The first part of this program will take place indoors at MEEC.

Tara serves as program coordinator for the Marianist Environmental Education Center, offering learning opportunities in natural history, ecological restoration, citizen science and environmental justice for greater Dayton audiences as well as members of Marianist communities and institutions throughout North America. She spends her free time exploring nature with her pack of rescue huskies.
On Wings of Gossamer – The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ohio, Dr. Dave McShaffrey

Bright, colorful and sometimes rather large, dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata) have long attracted attention. Today close-focusing binoculars and digital cameras have made them easier to observe, and some life-long birders are even turning to “odewatching” which eschews pre-dawn wake-ups and anything but sunny weather. We’ll focus on the ecology of these fascinating creatures while looking at images which reveal their complicated bodies and amazing colors up-close, hopefully learning to ID some of the more common or interesting Ohio species and picking up some photography hints along the way.

Dave McShaffrey is Professor of Biology, Environmental Science and Leadership at Marietta College. He completed his BS and MS at the University of Akron and his PhD in Entomology at Purdue. Since joining Marietta College in 1989 he has worked with the Ohio Odonata Survey (later to become the Ohio Odonata Society); he did field work and museum research as well as writing 5 chapters and co-editing the 2002 book “Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ohio” published by the Ohio Biological Survey, and wrote portions of the ODNR pamphlet on Odonata. He has been on both the advisory board and the board of trustees of the OBS. His photographs have appeared in a number of journal articles, magazines, textbooks and field guides. He is currently working on a field guide to Ohio Odonata.

Gardening for Biodiversity: Why our Garden is for the Birds, Bees and Butterflies, Mark and Nan Plunkett

According to recent studies, residential yards are one of the most undervalued and overlooked ecosystems. This is ironic as privately-owned residential landscapes account for as much as half of the green space in urban areas. With the right knowledge, homeowners can make a real difference in response to the challenges of habitat destruction and biodiversity loss. Urban and suburban gardens greatly impact both the richness and abundance of pollinators and birds in our neighborhoods. Much of that impact is related to the specific plant species provided in our gardens. The question addressed in this workshop will be how can a homeowner manage their residential landscape in a way that best supports the birds and other wildlife we enjoy? The Plunkett’s will share their own experience of managing their residential landscape in a way that best supports all the winged creatures that are drawn to it.

After working in a clinical laboratory for many years, raising three children and then watching them each pursue their dreams, Nan decided to pursue some of her own. She invited husband Mark to join her to train to become a Master Gardener Volunteer through the OSU Extension program. Both became enthusiastic gardeners and soon realized that they not only enjoyed the plants and gardens they were creating but loved how these stationary, rooted plants actually moved through the wings of the insects and birds they attracted. Over the past ten years, Nan & Mark have transformed their half-acre suburban lawn into a (mostly) native garden that is both an NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Waystation. In addition, they are horticulture volunteers at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden as well as members of local Audubon and Wild Ones Chapters. Most recently the Plunkett’s have both completed master’s degrees in Biology from Miami University.

Evening activities

Chimney Swift Walk, Judy Semroc & Larry Roche

Join Judy and Larry for a walk to the Bergamo Chimney Swift tower. You will learn about these fascinating aerial acrobats that eat on the wing, taking care of thousands of mosquitos for us – without the use of chemicals!

Moonlight Nature Walks, Mothing and Astronomy- Weather dependent, to be announced at the conference