Midwest Native Plant Society partnering with Dayton Area Wild Ones and Cincinnati Wild Ones presents

Homegrown Habitats Yard Tour
August 13, 2022, 9 am - 4 pm

See and experience firsthand how homeowners have converted their landscapes into “living” gardens of biodiversity by using native plants. In a relaxed atmosphere, gardeners will connect and share stories of what has worked, what hasn’t, the challenges, and the sweet rewards that native plants offer, such as, increased biodiversity, ecosystem services, plant-animal relationships, and natural beauty.

This tour includes 16 locations from Cincinnati, Lebanon, Dayton and Yellow Springs. You may choose to do a marathon tour and see them all, or a more leisurely tour by visiting just several locations. Everything is on your own – lunch, routes, etc. We are providing you the opportunity to meet native plant enthusiasts and find inspiration in their gardens. It’s like a workshop with only field trips being offered!

Some locations will have vendors on site selling native plants, artwork and our new “Growing Natives Plants for Biodiversity” Program & Yard Sign. (Signs can also be purchased online by clicking the link.)
Thanks to our Event Sponsors:

**Spicebush Sponsor:**

Wild Birds Unlimited  
West Cincinnati  
[www.westcincinnati.wbu.com](http://www.westcincinnati.wbu.com)

![White Oak Gardens Logo](image)

Greenfield Plant Farm  
[www.greenfieldplantfarm.com](http://www.greenfieldplantfarm.com)

www.whiteoakgardens.com

**Coneflower Sponsor:**

Keystone Flora  
Native Plant Nursery of Southwest Ohio  
[www.keystoneflora.com](http://www.keystoneflora.com)

![OPN Seed Logo](image)

Natives in Harmony  
[www.nativesinharmony.com](http://www.nativesinharmony.com)

OPN Seed  
[www.opnseed.com](http://www.opnseed.com)

**Cardinal Flower Vendor:**

The Milkweed Patch  
[www.facebook.com/TheMilkweedPatchinOhio](http://www.facebook.com/TheMilkweedPatchinOhio)

Deeply Rooted Landscapes  
[www.deeplyrootedlandscapes.com](http://www.deeplyrootedlandscapes.com)

Wildscapes  
513-467-0836

**Event Partners:**

Dayton Area Wild Ones  
[www.westcincinnati.wbu.com](http://www.westcincinnati.wbu.com)

Cincinnati Wild Ones  
[www.midwestnativeplants.org](http://www.midwestnativeplants.org)

Midwest Native Plant Society
Be sure to review site descriptions for any special parking or accessibility instructions.

1. KATHY MCDONALD & NED KELLER – 1912 Devils Backbone Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233
2. MARY BRYAN & KEN LAY – 3149 Geyer Woods Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45211
3. NAN & MARK PLUNKETT – 6009 Eastridge Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45247
4. TOM & PENNY BORGMAN – 4711 Hanley Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247
5. JIM & CAROL MUNDY – 685 Cascade Road, Cincinnati 45240
6. CHRIS DERHODES – 3298 Brinton Trail, Cincinnati, OH 45241
7. DEBI WOLTERMAN – 2781 Golden Fox Trail Lane, Lebanon, OH 45036
8. BILL LINDAUER – 4489 O’Neall Road, Waynesville, OH 45068
9. MAURA BOESCH – 767 Greenhouse Drive, Kettering, OH 45419
10. SUE HOWORTH – 3055 Big Hill Rd, Kettering, OH 45419
11. KAREN VEVE – 136 Jones Street, Dayton, OH 45410
12. RENEE BUCK – 45 Greencliff Drive, Union, OH 45322
13. KARA MAYNARD – 1230 N Montgomery County Line Road, Tipp City, OH 45371
14. COURTNEY DENNING – 3225 Bittersweet Drive, Troy, Ohio 45373
15. KIM CARLSON – 215 W Whiteman St, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
16. MACY REYNOLDS – 313 Orton Road, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
### Homegrown Habitats Yard Tour Descriptions

**S** = “Growing Native Plants for Biodiversity” yard signs for purchase.  

**V** = vendors on site

---

1. Kathy McDonald & Ned Keller – 1912 Devils Backbone Rd, Cincinnati 45233

Kathy and Ned have tended to their little over ½ acre of habitat over the last 9 years. Their mission is to restore the yard to a little bit of woods by planting native trees and shrubs that provide year-round food, water and shelter for birds and pollinators (and desirable shade in the summer) in the front and back yard. Their goal is to provide a sanctuary for wildlife in all seasons. Their favorite native species include the oak trees because they serve as host plants to a good variety of Lepidoptera as well as providing food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. This year, they added a pollinator bed in the front yard to provide nectar sources for a variety of pollinators and added a Bluebird trail, with two successful Bluebird nests.

**Homegrown Habitat:** Suburb  
**Accessibility:** Mostly flat and easily accessible  
**Parking:** Up to 6 vehicles in the driveway and street parking available along Red Bird Forest, a private drive.  
**Nearby amenities:** Chandlers Restaurant is about ½ mile away  

---

2. Mary Bryan & Ken Lay – 3149 Geyer Woods Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45211

Created on a 60 ft x 210 ft city lot in the neighborhood of Westwood, this garden consists of a shady wooded “forest edge” area, transitioning to a sunny midwestern meadow. Soil is mostly clay, with the sloped sun/ part-sun half facing east and the shady, woodland half facing west, sloped in the opposite direction. There are several invasive species the homeowners are trying to come to terms with--some they have learned to live with, some they are hoping to remove. Their landscaping goals are to continue improving and maintaining the front native meadow area installed in 2018 by Indigenous Landscapes, and to eventually eradicate (or control) the invasive winter creeper and English ivy in the rear wooded area while establishing a healthy understory thicket. Their long term habitat goal is to create an appealing indigenous landscape that will provide food and shelter for wild creatures great and small (but mostly small.)

**Homegrown Habitat:** Urban  
**Accessibility:** Much of front yard is handicap-accessible but some paths are steep.  
**Parking:** No driveway parking. Parking available for 5-7 cars along the east side of the street with more parking available on Epworth Avenue.  
**Nearby amenities:** Winery & restaurants nearby on Harrison Avenue
3. Nan & Mark Plunkett – 6009 Eastridge Lane, Cincinnati 45247
With an emphasis on native plants, their habitat is scattered with beds of perennials, shrubs and trees that create a rich habitat for bees, birds, and butterflies. Their ~1/2-acre yard is both a Certified Wildlife Habitat® and a Monarch Waystation with seven varieties of milkweed, lots of echinacea, Liatris, ironweed, along with many varieties of goldenrod and asters. They also have several wonderful native trees like pawpaw, black gum, serviceberry, and redbud. The Plunkett’s believe that gardens aren’t just a collection of pretty plants, but an ecological system and should provide a habitat for all kinds of wildlife. Mark is also the president of the Midwest Native Plant Society.

Homegrown Habitat: Suburb
Accessibility: Flat ground, front garden is handicap accessible on grass pathways
Parking: Please do not park in the driveway, but there is plenty of street parking available
Nearby amenities: Jessup and Cheviot Road intersection

4. Tom & Penny Borgman – 4711 Hanley Road, Cincinnati 45247
What was once a one-acre lot with lawn and a house about 30 years ago is now a mix of sun, shade, dry, and wet gardens. Tom and Penny tend over 50 species of native trees, shrubs, and vines as well as some formal, informal, and wild landscapes - all in about 900 square feet. Their habitat goals are to provide for birds, butterflies, and especially hummingbirds and fireflies. Some of their favorite garden habitat components include bur oak, buttonbush, trumpet honeysuckle, prickly pear, prairie dock and prairie trillium are some of my favorites.

Homegrown Habitat: Suburb
Accessibility: Half is flat lawn that is easily accessible. The rest is on a gentle slope.
Parking: Up to 6 vehicles in the driveway and street parking available on Philnoll Drive.
Nearby amenities: Restrooms available at White Oak Garden Center and eateries abound on Colerain Ave.

5. Jim & Carol Mundy – 685 Cascade Road, Cincinnati 45240
Jim & Carol live in an established neighborhood and have a variety of tiny habitats on their property. There is a man-made pond, some wetland-like areas, some prairie plants and some woodland. Their goal is to have as many natives as possible! They have seen that even a micro-habitat is a great place for wildlife. Both experienced naturalists, Jim & Carol use their yard as a barometer for what they can expect to find blooming in the wild, and as education for themselves and others.

Homegrown Habitat: Suburburan neighborhood adjacent to wooded parkland
Accessibility: Primarily flat and easily accessible
Parking: 1 or 2 vehicles in the driveway for those who cannot easily walk. Others will need to find nearby street parking.
Nearby amenities: Multiple eateries nearby along Northland Blvd and in the TriCounty area.
6. Chris DeRhodes – 3298 Brinton Trail, Cincinnati, OH 45241
This homeowner has 2+ acres of extremely varied habitat that includes virtually all light and moisture situations. Having developed this landscape over the past 5 years, there are with native plants in front, and a prairie planting in back with a rain garden, open woodland, and a low wet area with a natural spring bordering an old growth forest fragment. Long term goal is naturalization and small scale re-wilding, creating or restoring natural areas that take care of themselves with minimal maintenance rather than conventional gardening. This allows the homeowner to create/restore large amounts of area with relatively little work.

Homegrown Habitat: Suburb (no HOA)
Accessibility: Some steps to see backyard prairie.
Parking: There is ample street parking.
Nearby amenities: Many nearby along Winton Road.

7. Debi Wolterman – 2781 Golden Fox Trail, Lebanon 45036
Debi’s gardens consist of a wide variety of habitats that span the spectrum of shade, full sun, dry and wet conditions; all in 2 acre. Her first garden was installed 14 years ago and ever since her goal has been to demonstrate that a yard in a subdivision can sustain our native pollinators, birds, and reptiles. This habitat is worth the drive to experience an impressive diversity of native trees, shrubs, vines, and unique native plants.

Homegrown Habitat: Suburb
Accessibility: Easily accessible. Accommodations to park in driveway for those with mobility needs
Parking: Street parking preferred
Nearby amenities: Lebanon Ohio is 3 miles from Debi’s house and offers a wide variety of food options.

(V (Natives in Harmony selling native herbaceous plants)

8. Bill Lindauer – 4489 O’Neall Road, Waynesville 45068
Bill has been tending 6-acres of diverse habitat since 1987. What used to be ag fields is now forested wetland, prairie, and a grassy meadow. The front garden is more traditional while the back 4 acres boasts over 60 species of native trees. His goal is to have as many Ohio native plants as possible so he can continue educating others on the importance and demonstrating the beauty of creating a homegrown habitat. Some of his favorite plants include giant goldenrod, turtlehead, royal catchfly, cardinal flower, and everything growing in the prairie.

Homegrown Habitat: Rural
Accessibility: Relatively flat with 6’ wide mowed grassy trails
Parking: Up to 12 vehicles
Nearby amenities: Restrooms available at Caesar Creek Visitor Center.
9. Maura Boesch – 767 Greenhouse Drive, Kettering, OH 45419
This 1 acre garden includes border gardens and multiple garden beds running the gamut of full sun, partial sun and full shade. The landscape tends toward dry, and the homeowner does irrigate when needed. The largest garden bed is in the front yard right next to the street. It contains primarily native plants on display for the neighborhood so the homeowner tries to keep it well maintained to show off the beauty of these plants. The front garden is a certified National Wildlife Habitat and a Monarch Waystation. The homeowner continues to search for the right mix to support wildlife and pollinators. Native plantings are being extended into the backyard along with native trees.
Homegrown Habitat: Suburb
Accessibility: The front yard is handicap accessible.
Parking: There is ample street parking.
Nearby amenities: Several nearby along Rt 48 (Far Hills Avenue)

10. Sue Howorth – 3055 Big Hill Rd, Kettering, OH 45419
This garden is on top of a hill so it is dry but has both sun and shade. It is in process of moving from a typical fifties landscape of ivy, myrtle, etc to a more native friendly habitat. The side and back have a number of trees while part of the back yard has a pollinator garden. Native trees and shrubs are being added to the front yard. The homeowners long term goal is to remove as much of the non native ground cover as possible and add to the native understory. Garden beds have been added in the front yard to decrease the amount of grass and to support pollinators and birds.
Homegrown Habitat: Suburb
Accessibility: The front yard is handicap accessible.
Parking: There is ample street parking.
Nearby amenities: Several nearby along Rt 48 (Far Hills Avenue)

11. Karen Veve – 136 Jones Street, Dayton 45410
Set within the Oregon Historical District in downtown Dayton, Karen lives on a small city lot with a lot of shade and patches of full sun. Most of this habitat has been established in the last 3-4 years. Having no lawn, Karen gardens for wildlife and to demonstrate to others that native plants can thrive in an urban landscape. She has been slowly eliminating plants that don’t feed or shelter wildlife, especially pollinators. While spicebush was her gateway native plant, other favorites include purple coneflower, zigzag goldenrod, royal catchfly and penstemon. She has also been working on establishing a spring wildflower garden.
Homegrown Habitat: Urban
Accessibility: Flat even ground, minimal steps into back yard
Parking: Street parking along Jones St.
Nearby amenities: Dublin Pub, Trolley Stop, Wheat Penny, and many other fun restaurants in the Oregon District
12. Renee Buck – 45 Greencliff Drive, Union 45322
Renee carved out her gardens 6 years ago and currently tends nearly 200 different species of native plants. She lives in a 1960’s ranch home on a 1/5-acre suburban lot. She has landscaping around most of her hardscapes with two 10’x100’ tallgrass prairies running along her fence. With the goal of reducing lawn and increasing diversity, Renee is incorporating native plants nearly everywhere and is slowly converting turf into habitat. Some of her favorite natives include Jacob’s ladder, coral berry, Diervilla lonicera, purple passionflower, partridge pea, little bluestem, spicebush, blazing star, nodding wild onion, and shooting star. She is also working to install rain gardens in the downspout drainage areas.

**Homegrown Habitat:** Suburb

**Accessibility:** Flat even ground, no steps

**Parking:** Up to 5 vehicles in front of the house with ample street parking

**Nearby amenities:** Englewood has many fast-food restaurants, gas stations, etc. or Ray’s Wine Spirits & Grill (8268 N. Main Street) for a sit-down meal.

13. Kara Maynard – 1230 North Montgomery County Line Road, Tipp City 45371
Four years ago, Kara and her family converted 2.5 acres of their habitat into a diverse mix of 600 native trees and shrub and installed a prairie to provide forage for pollinators. They also maintain native gardens around the home to create a functional landscape that includes host plants to provide discovery opportunities for their children. Some of their favorite plants include blue false indigo, milkweeds, wafer ash, purple coneflowers, and all the saplings that will mature into a forested habitat.

**Homegrown Habitat:** Rural

**Accessibility:** Gardens around the home have concrete walkways and the restoration areas have uneven terrain

**Parking:** Up to 10 vehicles along the driveway

**Nearby amenities:** The I70/Main Street area in Englewood has numerous restaurants and gas stations. (Kara owns Deeply Rooted Landscapes selling native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, sedges, and grasses.)

14. Courtney Denning – 3225 Bittersweet Drive, Troy, Ohio 45373
Moving in 2016 to a small suburban property with a chemically manicured landscape featuring lots of grass and invasive ornamentals, Courtney began creating beds of native plants in the poor soil left behind by the construction of the neighborhood. Today, there are flourishing native garden beds along with raised edible garden beds (also native). While it is currently a primarily sunny landscape, many trees and shrubs have been added to allow for more shady areas in the future. Courtney’s goal is to eliminate the Kentucky Blue Grass lawn and create a habitat that is enticing both to wildlife and neighbors. She views her garden as an extension of her home and a place to relax and enjoy nature. This corner lot features a pocket prairie, a rain garden, and pollinator beds in addition to the edible garden.

**Homegrown Habitat:** Suburb (no HOA)

**Accessibility:** Some unlevel areas may be difficult to navigate in a wheelchair without assistance though much of the yard is visible from the street.

**Parking:** 10 to 12 vehicles in the driveway and neighborhood streets.

**Nearby amenities:** Favorite restaurants in Tipp City include Grounds for Pleasure Coffee, Frida’s Mexican Kitchen, and Bodega. My favorites in Troy are Purebred Coffee, Bakehouse Bread & Cookie Company, Basil’s on Market, and La Fiesta Express.

(The Milkweed Patch will be selling plants)
15. Kim Carlson – 2 15 West Whiteman Street, Yellow Springs 45387
Ki’s 120’ x 60’ habitat has been created from a traditional suburban garden. It gets a good amount of sun in much of it, but also has a shady area with spring ephemerals. Kim has eliminated lawn completely in the front yard and have minimized it in the back, which has also resulted in decreased stormwater issues in her yard. While her goal is to provide as much habitat as possible for as many species as possible, she is also fascinated by seeing all that goes on out there. Some of her favorite plants include white oak, wafer ash, hairy mountain mint, and the pollinator and bird magnet – anise hyssop.

**Homegrown Habitat:** Suburban  
**Accessibility:** Easy, flat terrain  
**Parking:** Street parking available  
**Nearby amenities:** Public restrooms only available at the train station near Peach’s Grill. Current Cuisine Deli, Yellow Springs Brewery, Young’s Jersey Dairy, and many other wonderful eateries in Yellow Springs.

16. Macy Reynolds – 313 Orton Road, Yellow Springs 45387
In 2006, Macy’s yard was mostly grass and a few trees until she decided to make it a pleasing landscape to show how beautiful native plants can be while also hosting a wide variety of birds and native insects. This habitat now includes a wildflower meadow, a vegetable garden, several flower beds, and about 50 species of native trees and shrubs on an acre and a half. Trees and shrubs will be labeled. Macy is especially interested in providing habitat for native bees on her property.

**Homegrown Habitat:** Suburb  
**Accessibility:** Most areas easily accessible  
**Parking:** On-street parking available and up to 4 cars in the driveway  
**Nearby amenities:** Public restrooms only available at the train station near Peach’s Grill. Current Cuisine Deli, Yellow Springs Brewery, Young’s Jersey Dairy, and many other wonderful eateries in Yellow Springs.

---

**Midwest Native Plant Society**
*Connecting People and Nature*
[www.midwestnativeplants.org](http://www.midwestnativeplants.org)