

## Planting Native Plants for Birds – A New Primer Kirtland Bird Club – September 2, 2020

Handout from presenter John Barber (jcbarber27@gmail.com)

### Simple actions to take now in your yard and into your watershed:

- Provide a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, ferns, perennials
- Provide clean and safe water year-round
- Never use insecticides or rodenticides
- Never permit cats outdoors – and remove strays

Plant natives now. Then plant more native plants.

### Construct a five-layer habitat:

- Trees for canopy
- Understory trees (dogwood, pawpaw, sassafras, hawthorn...)
- Shrubs (remove invasives such as privet, barberry, forsythia, burning bush)
- Perennials (mass species in clumps)
- Leaf litter, logs, partially-buried stones, patches of bare earth, small sand piles
- Use straight species or as close to straight species as possible

### Some Native Shrubs recommended for Northeast Ohio

Bayberry Myrica pensylvanica

Bladdernut Staphylea trifolia

Buttonbush Cephalanthus occidentalis

Chokeberry Aronia spp.

Dogwood, rough leaf Cornus drummondii

Dogwood, grey Cornus racemosa

Dogwood, red osier Cornus sericea

Dogwood, silky Cornus amomum

Eastern wahoo Euonymus atropurpureus

Elderberry Sambucus spp.

Fragrant sumac Rhus aromatica

Inkberry Ilex glabra

Ninebark Physocarpus opulifolius

Shrubby St. John's wort Hypericum  
prolificum

Winterberry Ilex verticillata

**“The aim here...is to provide for birds in all four seasons –**

bugs, buds, and shelter in spring,  
bugs, nest sites, and nest materials in summer,  
bugs, fruit, nutritious berries, and shelter in autumn, and  
seeds, berries, and shelter in winter.”

(Modified from Sorenson, Planting Native to Attract Birds to Your Yard)

**Buy plants** (neonicotinoid-free certification, not a cultivar, as local as possible – ask, ask, ask)

Do not dig up plants in the wild!

**Propagate and trade plants** – collect seeds or purchase from Ohio Prairie Nursery

**Sellers:**

- Avalon Gardens, Chardon, Ohio
- Natives in Harmony, Marengo, Ohio
- Scioto Gardens, Powell, Ohio
- Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (spring sale)
- North Chagrin Nature Center (spring sale)
- Holden Arboretum (spring sale)
- Watershed Stewardship Center

Sample gardens: Native Plants for the Small Yard --- free PDF

[http://lgnc.org/pdfdocs/brandes\\_book.pdf](http://lgnc.org/pdfdocs/brandes_book.pdf)

**Read:**

Bringing Nature Home, and Nature’s Best Hope, Doug Tallamy

The Birds at my Table, Darryl Jones

Planting Native to Attract Birds to your Yard, Sharon Sorenson

Noah’s Garden, Sara Stein

William Cullina books:

Growing and Propagating Wildflowers

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines

Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses

The Brother Gardeners and other books by Andrea Wulf (History)

Native Plants for New England Gardens, Richardson and Jaffe

**WEBSITES** (maps will show you if a plant is native to your ecoregion)

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Native Plant Finder (Tallamy)       | <a href="http://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/">www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/</a>                   |
| Missouri Botanical Garden           | <a href="http://missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder">missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder</a> |
| Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center | <a href="http://wildflower.org/plants">wildflower.org/plants</a>                                     |
| Native Plant Trust                  | <a href="http://nativeplanttrust.org">nativeplanttrust.org</a>                                       |
| U.S. Dept. of Agriculture           | <a href="http://plants.usda.gov">plants.usda.gov</a>   |

**FACEBOOK GROUPS** (just a small sample)

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| Heights Pollinator Pathway                               | Native Plant Society of Northeast Ohio |
| Native Plant Gardens in the Upper Midwest                | Native Plant Trust                     |
| Virginia Native Plant Society                            | North American Plant Society           |
| Indiana Invasive Plant Advisory Committee                | Native Plants of New England           |
| Ohio’s Wildflowers and Flora- Native, Alien, and Escaped |  |