**Planting Native Plants for Birds – A New Primer**

**2020 Bringing Nature Home Series – March 14, 2020**

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

**Simple actions to take now:**

* **Provide a wide variety of native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, ferns, perennials, and leaf litter**
* **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 yard**:

* 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

**Seasonal Choices for Shrubs and Tall Understory Plants**

  **SUMMER FOOD**

**SPRING FOOD NEST SITES & MATERIALS AUTUMN FOOD WINTER FOOD & SHELTER**



Chart above from Sorenson, Planting Native to Attract Birds to Your Yard:

“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.”

**Buy plants** (neonicitinoid-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:**

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes – May 9, 2020 (pre-orders due by 4/17)

North Chagrin Nature Center – May 9, 2020

Holden Arboretum – May 15 and 16, 2020

Avalon Gardens, Chardon, Ohio

Scioto Gardens, Powell, Ohio

Natives in Harmony, Marengo, Ohio

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

Gardening for the Birds, George Adams

The Garden Revolution, Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher

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

Native Plants for New England Gardens, Richardson and Jaffe

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

Missouri Botanical Garden missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center wildflower.org/plants

Native Plant Trust nativeplanttrust.org

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture plants.usda.gov

The Biota of North America Program bonap.org

Ohio Wildflowers naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/wildflowers

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

Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society 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