Native Plants: The How and Why

Presentation by:
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The Museum’s Natural Areas Program

1. Kelleys Island Preserves
   a. Coleman Tract
   b. The Glade
   c. Long Point Preserve
   d. Scheele Preserve
   e. Sweet Valley Preserve
   f. Woodford Woods
2. Fern Lake Bog
3. Mentor Marsh
4. Medina Sanctuary
5. Grand River Terraces
6. Groves Woods
7. Koelliker Fen
8. North Kingsville Sand Barrens
9. Cottonwood Hollow
10. McCoy Preserve
11. Cathedral Woods
12. Chamberlin Forest
13. Blakeslee-Barrows Preserve
14. Soubusta Sugarbush
15. Singer Lake Bog
16. Taber Preserve
17. Hubbard Easement
18. Kickel Easement
19. Hadlock Preserve
20. Cash / Hertrick Preserve
21. Kingsville Swamp
22. Berger Preserve
23. Perkins Woods Garden
24. Dickenson Easement
25. Mathews Easement
26. Holden Easements
27. Wendtwood Easement
28. Grimm Easement
29. Geneva Swamp
30. Armstrong Swamp
31. Cox Preserve
32. Floyd Preserve
33. Burkholder Preserve
34. Sparks Preserve
What are Native Plants?

- NATIVE PLANTS (or INDIGENOUS PLANTS) are plants that persisted locally before European colonization.

Photo by Judy Semroc
Benefits of Native Plants

- They provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Are more tolerant of local soil conditions and weather
- Connects a fragmented landscape and creates wildlife corridors

Photo by Liz Russell
Landscaping Uses for Native Plants

- Naturalizing
- Shade Gardening – Many showy native alternatives to traditional invasive groundcovers, especially if you have an area that is protected from deer
- Wildlife gardening
- Attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects
EXOTIC PLANTS are plants that did not exist locally before human settlement (they are introduced species).

INVASIVE PLANTS are plants that are exotic and extremely aggressive and may pose a threat to native ecosystems. Invasive plants become problematic because they lack natural predators, which keep them in check in their home range.
Threats posed by Invasive Plants

- High cost of removal
- Negative impacts on native vegetation, because of competition and allelopathy
- Reduction in biodiversity
- Can quickly dominate home landscapes, choking out other plantings.
Invasive Plants to Avoid

English Ivy

Vinca minor (Myrtle)

Pachysandra

European Wintercreep
Invasive Plants to Avoid

Japanese Barberry

Japanese Honeysuckle

Common Privet

Porcelain Berry Vine
Invasive Plants to Avoid

- Burning Bush
- Garlic Mustard
- Autumn Olive
Invasive Plants to Avoid

Day Lily

Crown Vetch

Purple Loosestrife

Goutweed
Plants for Dry Sunny Areas

Photo by Judy Semroc
Lupine

(Lupinus perennis)

Photo by Judy Semroc
Blazing Star

(*Liatris spicata*)

Photo from the Richard A. Howard Image Collection, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.
Purple Coneflower
(Echinacea purpurea)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston
Black Eyed Susan

(Rudbeckia fulgida)
Native Plants for Wet Sunny Areas

Photo by Garrett Ormiston
Cardinal Flower
(Lobelia cardinalis)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston
Wild Bergamot
*(Monarda fistulosa)*

Bee Balm
*(Monarda didyma)*

Photo by Judy Semroc
Helen’s Flower
*(Helenium autumnale)*

Ironweed
*(Vernonia gigantea)*
Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Native Shrubs

Photo by Garrett Ormiston
Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston
Dogwood (Cornus sericea)
Native Hydrangea

(*Hydrangea arborescens var. ‘Annabelle’*)
Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia)
ROSE-SHELL AZALEA (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*)

PINXTER AZALEA (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)

FLAME AZALEA (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*)

SWAMP AZALEA (*Rhododendron viscosum*)
Shrubby Cinquefoil

(*Potentilla fruticosa*)
Eastern Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius)

var. ‘Dart’s gold’

var. ‘Summer Wine’
Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis)

Purple-flowering Raspberry (Rubus odoratus)
Native Trees

Photo by Judy Semroc
Redbud
(Cercis canadensis)

Photo by Judy Semroc
Witch Hazel

(Hamamelis virginiana)
Flowering Dogwood

(*Cornus florida*)

Flowering Dogwood

(*Cornus florida*)
Canadian Hemlock
(*Tsuga canadensis*)

Eastern White Pine
(*Pinus strobus*)
Native Vines and Groundcovers
NATIVE HONEY-SUCKLES

Trumpet Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Limber Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera dioica*)
SHADE PERENNIALS
Allegheny Foamflower

Tiarella cordifolia
CINNAMON FERN (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

CHRISTMAS FERN (*Polystichum acrosticoides*)

ROYAL FERN (*Osmunda regalis*)

MAIDENHAIR FERN (*Adiantum pedatum*)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston
Trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)

Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum)

Photo by Steve Cagan
Halberd-Leaved Violet
(*Viola hastata*)

Common Blue Violet
(*Viola sororia*)
Bugbane

(\textit{Cimicifuga racemosa})
Promoting Native Plants

- Many Native Plants are highly ornamental but have not caught on as landscaping plants as of yet.

- Many native plants are still very difficult to find in the nursery trade.
Buffaloberry (Shepherdia canadensis)
Flowering Spurge
(*Euphorbia corollata*)
Running Strawberry (*Euonymus obovatus*)
Blazing Star
(*Liatris spicata*)

Blazing star’s upright purple flower spikes provide a bright long-blooming accent in the garden in July and August. An excellent cut flower, *Liatris* attracts butterflies and is a good native plant alternative to purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Allegheny Serviceberry
(*Amelanchier laevis*)

This small to medium-sized tree is one of the first to flower each spring and also provides stunning fall color. The sweet red-purple berries in June attract many species of birds. Serviceberry is a great tree for landscapes and can be utilized as a native alternative to the invasive callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*).

Common Winterberry
(*Ilex verticillata*)

Common winterberry produces brilliant red berries that attract birds late into the winter. Cut branches offer a colorful accent to holiday wreaths and decorations. Native to swampy areas, winterberry is a low maintenance plant that will thrive in wet or well-drained sites. Both male and female plants are required for fruit set; one male is sufficient to pollinate ten female plants.
2011 Native Plant Sale!!
