

ST. LOUIS URBAN GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2016



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

Neighbors Naturescaping Program Review - Find out how Brightside's Neighbors Naturescaping program enables groups to apply for up to \$1,500 in native plant material and tools to establish or enhance a community garden in St. Louis city public or nonprofit spaces. For more information about Neighbors Naturescaping, visit <http://www.brightsidestl.org/what-we-do/neighbors-naturescaping/>.

Designing a Garden - Whether you want a formal garden, a wild landscape or just need help figuring what flowers will keep your garden blooming from spring through fall, this workshop will cover tips and tricks to get the design you want. Also learn about common gardening design mistakes and how to avoid them.

Keys to a Successful Neighborhood Garden – Hear from past participants in Brightside's Neighbors Naturescaping program to learn the best strategies for building and maintaining your own neighborhood garden. From planning, to volunteer recruitment and gaining community support, find out about their lessons learned to help you make your garden a successful community project.

Native Annuals, Perennials & Grasses – Learn how and why native plants are more beneficial to your landscape than exotic species. Plus learn how to enrich diversity in your garden, select plants for four seasons of color and interest and offer food and shelter for wildlife.

Invasive Species – Plants that grow and reproduce quickly or spread aggressively with the potential to cause harm to the ecosystem are given the label of “invasive.” Learn the worst invasive offenders in our area, why they are a problem and the best native alternatives to replace them.

Rain Gardening - Installing a rain garden is a great way to manage storm water while also providing food and shelter beneficial to urban wildlife. See native plants best suited for rain gardens in our very own Demonstration Garden.

Get the Dirt on Soil – The first step in creating a healthy garden or lawn is making sure you have healthy soil. Different plants prefer different soil conditions and knowing the nutrient content, the physical properties, pH and contaminants present in your soil are important for the health of your plants.

Gardening for Birds - Birds are beautiful and fun to watch. Find out which trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses our winged friends prefer for food and shelter and see what these plants look like growing in our Demonstration Garden.

Gardening for Butterflies – Did you know most butterflies (caterpillars) co-evolved with one specific plant that they rely on for food? Find out which native trees, shrubs and perennials are hosts to which butterflies and how you can incorporate them into your garden.

Gardening for Pollinators – Beneficial insects help bring balance to a garden's ecosystem, leading to healthier and more productive plants. Learn about these amazing creatures and how you can create native habitats that will attract them to your garden.

Bring Conservation Home – The St. Louis Audubon Society's *Bring Conservation Home Program* can help you improve the native plant and animal habitat on your own private property. This program offers on-site assistance from trained habitat technicians to identify ways to improve your property's habitat value. Once you've incorporated their recommendations, a follow-up visit will be conducted to certify your yard as a silver, gold or platinum achiever.

Native Shrubs & Small Trees – This workshop will look at the best shrubs and small native trees for our local environment, both in terms of beauty and the positive impact they have on our ecosystem. Learn to choose the right tree or shrub for your planting location as well as their overall size, fall color, spring blooms and wildlife value.

Care & Maintenance for Woody Plants – Learn how to properly monitor and care for your established trees and shrubs. Some of the topics that will be discussed include mulching, watering and corrective actions for basic tree health issues.

Plant Healthcare Philosophy – Weeds, pests and disease can wreak havoc on a garden. Discover the best management practices for keeping your plants healthy. Learn to identify common problems and culprits to minimize damage to your plants.

Pruning Woody Plants – Discover pruning tools and techniques to help your trees and shrubs grow strong and healthy. Learn the best time to prune and how your plants benefit from regular pruning and can suffer from bad pruning practices.