

Recreating Your Yard as a Garden

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- Introduction
 - Olbrich Botanical Gardens – creating eco-friendly gardens the last 28 years
 - Epic Systems – not your usual corporate campus
 - changing climate – Our Gardens Matter!
 - Doug Tallamy, caterpillars, birds, monarchs, fireflies, all insects, not just pollinators
 - eliminate or reduce pesticide usage
 - Heather Holm, native bees, native plants, *leave the leaves*, and stems

- Doug Tallamy and Native Plants
 - native plants support insects – base of the food web
 - our gardens should be composed of at least 70% native plants
 - keystone species – plant a native oak, willow or cherry
 - an international movement
 - Europe – Nigel Dunnett, James Hitchmough, Peter Janke, Piet Oudolf, Cassian Schmidt
 - U.S. – Roy Diblik, John Greenlee, Kelly Norris, Thomas Rainer & Claudia West, Larry Weaner

 - selecting native plants
 - www.wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu
 - www.illinoiswildflowers.info
 - www.wildflower.org

- Lawn – Yawn
 - lots of lawn = lots of opportunities
 - the perfect lawn?
 - pesticides, water, energy, pollution, mosquito control companies
 - *No Mow May*

- WHERE DO WE START? Lawns – smaller & more environmentally friendly grasses
 - Fine Fescue Blends – *Earth Carpet Care-Free* Lawn Seed Blend – www.lacrosseseed.com or Prairie Nursery's *No Mow* Lawn Seed Mix – www.prairienursery.com
 - blends of creeping red, chewings, hard, blue & sheep's fescues
 - mix of turf type tall fescue blend (*Green Resistor*) and fine fescue blend (*Care-free*)
 - Tall Fescue Blend – *Green Resistor* Lawn Seed Blend + *Care-Free* blend
 - mix together in equal amount by weight and sow at 8#/1000 sq. ft.
 - prep, seeding and after-care, long-term maintenance, change mind-set – “weeds” are OK

- From Lawn to Meadow
 - Inspiration from Great Dixter - Fergus Garrett
 - Olbrich's first Meadow Garden – fescue lawn with minor bulbs
 - Olbrich's Moonlight Meadow – mix of short grasses, sedges and perennials - established with plugs. Great insect habitat.

- Journey of converting my mostly lawn dominated Yard to a Garden
 - *Betula populifolia* 'Whitespire Senior' - grey birch
 - *Tsuga canadensis* – Canadian hemlock
 - *Cornus sericea* 'Arctic Fire' – redosier dogwood
 - shrubs – less maintenance than perennials, require space, provide habitat and food (leaves and fruit)
 - *Hakonechloa macra* – Japanese hakone grass
 - *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Gold Mop' – sawara falsecypress
 - *Populus tremuloides* – trembling aspen
 - *Acer* x 'White Tigress' – striped maple
 - *Cornus alternifolia* - pagoda dogwood
 - *Cornus alternifolia* 'Bachone' – Gold Bullion pagoda dogwood
 - *Cornus* x 'Rutcan', Constellation ® - flowering dogwood (marginally hardy)
 - *Buxus* x 'Green Gem' - boxwood
 - *Taxus x media* 'Hicksii' – hicks yew
 - *Taxus x media* 'Tauntonii' – taunton yew
 - *Malus* 'Honey Crisp', 'Sweet 16', 'Zestar! ® - apple
 - *Pyrus communis* 'Bartlett', 'D' Anjou' - pear
 - oyster mushrooms

- Sedge Meadow – the sedges
 - *Carex pensylvanica*, Common Oak Sedge
 - *Carex radiata*, Straight-styled Wood Sedge
 - *Carex rosea*, Curly-styled Wood Sedge
 - *Carex albicans*, White-tinged Sedge
 - *Carex flacca*, Blue-green Sedge
 - *Carex grisea*, Wood Gray Sedge
 - *Carex montana*, Mountain Sedge

- Nigel Dunnett-inspired log wall, Longshadow bird bowl, homemade bee houses

- Sedge Meadow - the perennials
 - *Anemone nemorosa*, wood anemone
 - *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Lady in Red', lady fern
 - *Dicentra cucullaria*, Dutchman's breeches
 - *Dodecatheon meadia*, shooting star
 - *Epimedium* 'Pink Champagne', Bishop's cap
 - *Eurybia (Aster) divaricata*, white wood aster
 - *Helleborus hybrid*, Hellebore
 - *Hosta* 'Krossa Regal', Hosta
 - *Mertensia virginica*, Virginia bluebells
 - *Tiarella cordifolia*, foam flower
 - *Uvularia grandiflora*, large-flowered bellwort

- Be an eco-friendly gardener – be a little MESSY!
 - Leave the Leaves!
 - Leave the Stems and leave some wood logs & sticks too
 - Jumping Worms (*Amyntas* sp.)
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm.html>

- My Gravel Garden
 - *American Roots* – Nick & Allison McCullough
 - Design & Layout
 - 6"+ tall border/edge
 - 4-5" gravel depth – 3/16" washed quartzite chip or standard pea gravel
 - pot grown plants in 2 ½", 3 ½" or 4" (quart) pots
 - layout - random/naturalistic, stylized naturalistic, English border, etc.
 - tight spacing – 10-12" on average
 - Inspiration from gardens at Olbrich and Epic
 - Road Construction – fine fescue lawn to gravel garden

Gravel Garden Plant Sampler

GRASSES

- ✧ Andropogon gerardii 'Blackhawks',
'Dancing Wind'
- ✧ Bouteloua cutripendula, B. gracilis
'Blonde Ambition'
- ✧ Eragrostis spectabilis
- ✧ Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah',
'Northwind'
- ✧ Schizachyrium scoparium 'Jazz',
'Standing Ovation'
- ✧ Sesleria autumnalis
- ✧ Sporobolus heterolepis, cvs 'Tara'

FORBS

- ✧ Achillea x 'Feuerland', Walther
Funcke'
- ✧ Allium x 'August Asteroids', 'Summer
Beauty'
- ✧ Amorpha canescens
- ✧ Asclepias tuberosa, A. verticillata
- ✧ Baptisia australis, B. leucantha
- ✧ Baptisia x 'Purple Smoke'
- ✧ Calamintha nepeta ssp. nepeta
- ✧ Coreopsis lanceolata, C. palmata,
C. tripteris
- ✧ Coreopsis verticillata 'Golden
Showers'
- ✧ Dalea candida, D. purpurea
- ✧ Desmodium canadense, D. illinoense
- ✧ Dianthus carthusianorum
- ✧ Echinacea pallida, E. paradoxa,
E. purpurea
- ✧ Echinacea simulata, E. tennesseensis
- ✧ Eryngium yuccifolium
- ✧ Euphorbia corollata, E. polychroma
'Bonfire'
- ✧ Heuchera richardsonii
- ✧ Kuhnia eupatorioides
- ✧ Liatris aspera, L. cylindracea,
L. ligulistylis
- ✧ Limonium latifolium
- ✧ Monarda bradburiana
- ✧ Origanum laevigatum
'Herrenhausen'
- ✧ Parthenium integrifolium
- ✧ Penstemon 'Pocohontas'
- ✧ Perovskia atriplicifolia
- ✧ Ruellia humilis
- ✧ Silphium integrifolium, S. laciniatum
- ✧ Silphium terebinthinaceum
- ✧ Symphyotrichum leave, S.
oblongifolium, S. oolentangiense,
S. sericeum
- ✧ Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly'

- Some more plants in my garden adding to the percentage of native plants:

TREES

- White Oak, *Quercus alba*
- Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*
- Pin Cherry, *Prunus pensylvanica*
- Moosewood or Striped Maple, *Acer pensylvanicum*
- Pagoda Dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*
- Apple Serviceberry, *Amelanchier x grandiflora*
- Muscledwood, *Carpinus caroliniana*

SHRUBS

- Lead Plant, *Amorpha canescens*
- Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
- Redosier Dogwood, *Cornus sericea (stolonifera)*
- Common Witchhazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*
- Nannyberry Viburnum, *Viburnum lentago*
- Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (vine)

SEDGES & GRASSES

- Oval Plains Sedge, *Carex brevior*
- Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- Prairie Dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*

PERENNIALS

- Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, *Solidago caesia*
- Smooth Aster, *Symphyotrichum laeve*
- Woodland Aster, *Eurybia divaricata*
- Sweet Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*
- Prairie Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*
- Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*
- Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*
- Butterfly Flower, *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Wild Quinine, *Parthenium integrifolium*
- Common Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
- Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon media*
- Dutchman's Breeches, *Dicentra cucularia*
- Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*
- Bellwort, *Uvularia grandiflora*
- Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*
- Wild Blue Phlox, *Phlox divaricata ssp. laphamii*