

Master Gardener Advance Training Opportunity
“Plant Identification with a View to Bio-Remediation”

What: 5 hours MG Advance Training Hands on Workshop in Henry County, Ohio

When: **Saturday June 1, 2013 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Rain or Shine**

Where: The Henry County Outdoor Environmental Education Center on County Road 10, Napoleon, Ohio 43545. Contact OSU Extension Office Ph. (419) 592-0806 email: Tammy Spillis spillis.1@osu.edu

Fee \$25

Max enrollment 30

Brown Bag Lunch Provided

Participants will receive Booklets on native species/invasive species

Speakers and Guides for Workshop

Mike Imbrock Landfill Supervisor

Purpose of the Outdoor Center

Tim Schumm County Engineer

Working with EPA for remediation of natural areas, How to connect with local agencies

Gary Westhoven B.S in Art Ed Artist and Landscaper, former nursery owner

The value of incorporating native species into private or urban landscape

Tamara Spillis A.S, Naturalist Photographer, amateur mycologist

Historic use of native plants; edibles and handcrafts

Note about workshop: The program will be totally outdoor hands on, rain or shine. Dress appropriately for the weather. There is an open sided shelter house that has electric. There is port-a-john on site. Hand sanitizer will be provided. No running water, but bottled water for drinking will be available. A brown bag lunch will be provided consisting of fruits, a sandwich choice, hard boiled eggs and homemade cookies (with or without nuts). Participants are encouraged to bring cameras, hand lens, note books and other hiking paraphernalia. Identification books will be on hand, but bring your favorites along if you wish.

REGISTRATION FORM

Contact OSU Extension Office Ph. (419) 592-0806 or email: spillis.1@osu.edu

MAIL COMPLETED FORM BELOW WITH
PAYMENT (CHECKS PAYABLE TO OSU EXTENSION)

TO: OSU Extension 104 E. Washington, Suite 302, Napoleon OH 43545

Name

Address

City/Zip Code

Phone

Email

Yes, please confirm receipt via email above

Master Gardener

Advance Registration

\$25.00

At Door Cost \$30

Details of Training

This is an Advance Education Training session open to Master Gardeners from other Ohio counties. We are scheduling for **Saturday June 1, 2013**. The location is the **Henry County Outdoor Environmental Education Center** on County Road 10 Napoleon, Ohio 43545. The **site contains 11 acres of woods, 11 acres of prairie, and a half-acre wetland** which harbors its own ecosystem. Rough-cut trails for walking or hiking will be mowed early June while the rest of **the prairie will remained unscathed**. The ground nesting birds will have fledged by that time and plants will be fully emerged for identification.

The Purpose

The purpose of this advance training is to educate Master Gardeners about land use issues within an established ecosystem and to identify desirable species and mark for eradication undesirable species. The aforementioned site adjoins the Henry County Landfill. It is a plot of land that belongs to and is micro-managed by the county. The Henry County **Landfill is due to close in mid- 2013**. The landfill will continue in use as an exempt transfer station for waste. However, the county is obligated to keep this adjoining acreage known as the “Henry County Outdoor Environmental Education Center” open for public use. The program will be structured with emphasis to plant identification, historical use (edibles and handcraft), and native vs. non native species. Pollinator host plant species and food chain value of pollinator dependency will be addressed. Non native species will be marked with red or yellow plastic tape for eradication.

After introductory discourses by Mike Imbrock supervisor of Henry County Landfill and Tim Schumm Henry County Engineer, the participants will divide into two groups and head out into the acreage. Gary Westhoven will head up one training group and Tamara Spillis the other. We will gather information and specimens and meet back at the shelter at 12:15 for a bag lunch and hands on identification of the specimens. Around 1pm Gary and Tamara will switch groups and go out in the field again. We'll reconvene at the shelter at 2:30 for another identification session and final collection of notes and data from field trip participants.

After the advance training a list of non-native and undesirable plant species will be compiled by Henry County Master Gardeners and given to the County Landfill Supervisor Mike Imbrock. Also a list of what desirable species will enhance the habitat of the center will be suggested. This is with a view to improving the ecosystem as a sustainable land area for education/recreational use. Suggestions for native species plantings will also be supplied. This will be in view of improving the habitat for native wildlife and pollinators. If the county allocates funds for the purchase of such plants, we, as Henry County Master Gardeners will gladly volunteer to plant them in the area.

If this training is successful we may apply next year for another small \$250 grant in connection with this site for fall training. We hope to apply for consideration for ongoing funding through other grant sources. All such grants would be used as we develop restful seating area for observation, wildflower seeding, and identification tags for trees, shrubs and an overview-sign of plants on site. With such funding resource, we would like to contribute to **make this site an attraction for school groups, 4-H Groups, Scouting Groups, and local residents** to visit as a lesson in bio-remediation and preservation of natural habitat.