

Pollinator Garden Updates

Planting Woodland Spring Ephemerals late March



Eager to chase away the winter doldrums, our crew of volunteers showed up on a beautiful spring morning to begin restoring native spring ephemeral wildflowers to the wooded area east of the parking lot at Pigeon Creek Recreation Area. All in all, about 300 plants were planted at the site. Species added were Jacob's Ladder, Celandine Poppy, Virginia Bluebells, Larkspur, Slender Mountain Mint, Columbine, Wood Phlox, Garden Phlox, Wild Geranium, Bloodroot, Cardinal Flower, Shooting Star, Dwarf Crested Iris, Indian Pink, and Bradbury's Beebalm. Volunteers included Cathy Jennings, Rick and Ruie Whitecotton, Janet Althoff, Pat Dunbar, Sam Spiller, Kathy Belletire, Terry Foster, Judy Groskind, Aimee Hemphill, Florian Trebouet, Moss and Keaton Sowinski, Lyle White and Kent Newton. John Hartleb and Dan Wood from the Refuge were also present lending a timely hand. A great big thanks to all who participated all spring and continue to do so!

Potting Native Woody Shrub Seedlings

Also in early spring, we had a "potting party" for 150 seedlings ordered from the Missouri Department of Conservation nursery in Licking, Missouri. Volunteers potted Buttonbush, Rose Mallow, Smooth Sumac, Deciduous Holly, Aromatic or Fragrant Sumac, and Ninebark seedlings. The one year-old seedlings were farmed out to a number of willing volunteers from our Friends group and Master Naturalist and Gardener groups to nurture over the summer. The plan is to plant them in late fall at the Pigeon Creek Recreation Area.