**Native Plant Sale Workshops – Saturday, May 14th**

**Strand A: Native Plant Identification**

Session 1: 9 - 10:10am **GRASS ANATOMY:  FIRST STEPS TO GRASS IDENTIFICATION**

Learn basic vocabulary of grass morphology, the important features to examine to identify grasses, and an understanding of the growth stages of different grass species. In this workshop observation skills will be emphasized rather than identification, so this is your chance to start the journey of grass identification. (Expect some bending to look at features).

Presenter: Charlie Davis

Bio: Charlie Davis is a professional field ecologist who specializes in plants. He curates the plant collection for the Natural History Society of Maryland and runs their plant identification workshops. Mr. Davis carried out the original plant survey of Irvine’s property and is researching the land use history of the Caves Valley.

Session 2: 10:25- 11:35 **Ferns, Fronds and Fiddleheads**

Description: Long before the rise of dinosaurs and seed plants, ferns dominated the landscape. These non-flowering plants grew to the size of trees, and they were a major part of our ancient forests. Their present-day descendants are small and often overlooked, but ferns provide the naturalist with many exciting discoveries, and make excellent plants for your garden. Join Rob Mardiney to learn how to identify these ‘primitive’ plants, their ecology, and ideas on adding a bit of Jurassic Park to your garden.

Presenter: Rob Mardiney

Bio: Robert Mardiney served as Irvine’s Director of Education for 35 years, until he retired in 2020, and also taught continuing education courses at Hopkins and Towson Universities. He is a Past-President of the Maryland Association of Environmental Education and was a winner of the Garden Club of America’s award for Excellence in Environmental Education.

Session 3: 11:50 – 1:00 **Botany for Beginners: Woody Plant Identification**

Description: After a review of some basic botany vocabulary for leaf and flower characteristics, this workshop will focus on field identification while exploring outdoors. Irvine has a large diversity if native shrubs and trees (as well as several invasive species) and May is a great time to be able to examine their flowers and emerging leaves.

Presenter: Vanessa Beauchamp

Bio: Vanessa Beauchamp received her doctorate in Plant Biology from Arizona State University and is a professor at Towson University. Her research has focused on plant communities in wetland and mesic forest systems including the impacts of invasive wavyleaf basketgrass and the ecosystem responses to over browsing by white-tailed deer.

**Strand B: Native Plants, Birds & Pollinators**

Session 1: 9 - 10:10am **Gardening for Birds with Audubon**

Spring means longer days, blooming flowers, and migratory birds arriving in Maryland! Learn how your garden can provide the food, water, and shelter they need. We’ll share some of the science supporting gardening for birds with native plants before touring bird-friendly gardens on Irvine. Then, participants will draft their own bird-friendly garden design for their home, school, work, or community space. You will leave with the resources you need to beautify your outdoor space and attract birds, butterflies, and other beneficial wildlife.

Presenter: Erin Reed Miller

Bio: Erin Reed Miller earned her BS in Wildlife Conservation and MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Delaware. There she researched the connection between native plant species and insect communities in the lab of Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home, The Living Landscape,* and *Nature’s Best Hope*. Erin served as an Educator and then the Education Manager at Patterson Park Audubon Center in Baltimore since 2011. Last year, she took on a new role as Bird-Friendly Communities Coordinator, where she works with communities to increase bird-friendly habitat across the state. In 2016, Erin was named the Tamar Chotzen Audubon Educator of the Year.

Session 2: 10:25- 11:35am **Bluebirds:** **Think *in* the box if you want to get the *blues***

Spring migration is in full swing, and returning songbirds are beginning to set up breeding territories, select nest sites, and gather nesting materials. Observe the nesting process up close, as we explore a portion of Irvine’s extensive network of 90+ nest boxes. Learn some crucial considerations about nest box design and placement, how and when to monitor them, and ways to keep pesky competitors—and predators—away. **Walking shoes recommended.**

Presenter: Brian Rollfinke

Bio: Brian Rollfinke became hooked on birding as a young teen, thanks to a local professor who invited him to observe, then eventually help, for several migration seasons at a small bird-banding operation, near Waggoner’s Gap Hawk Watch. Brian earned a B.S. in Biology from Wake Forest University, then an M.S. in Ecology, with a focus on forest songbirds, from Penn State. A career educator, Brian joined Irvine in 2020 as Director of Education.

Session 3: 11:50 – 1:00pm **Supporting Spring Pollinators**

Many spring bees are specialists, meaning they collect pollen from just one or two local native plants. After a brief introduction to our local mining and mason bees, this workshop will examine spring flowering plants that can support both these specialist bees and more generalist bees, from queen bumbles to the green sweat bees. Many of the plants work well in gardens, thriving in shady spots as well as sun, or providing great groundcover and we can see them at their best while exploring the woodland garden.

Presenter: Dr. Clare Walker

Bio: Clare Walker is the program manager at Irvine and studied for her doctorate on peatlands in England and Ireland. Arriving in the US, Clare became fascinated by native plants of Maryland and their ecological connections, particularly with pollinators. She is currently working with an intern to survey the bees of Irvine with help from the USGS Native Bee lab at Patuxent Research Refuge where she volunteers.

**Strand C: Native Plants & People**

Session 2: 10:25- 11:35am

**Using Native Plants to solve Common Landscaping Problems**

Description:In this workshop, participants will learn possible solutions to common landscaping problems.  We’ll discuss compacted soil, perpetually wet soil, erosion, stormwater runoff, landscaping a hell strip, invasive replacements, creating privacy and yes, we’ll also consider the ever-present deer that can wreak havoc on a landscape. Participants will see, touch and even smell, many of the native plants that can be used and being offered for sale – plants that will suit the most discriminating customer while also providing valuable and much-needed habitat for our native birds.

Presenter: Alison Milligan

Bio: Alison Milligan is a Master Watershed Steward, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and a graduate of both the Howard County Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment (HoLLIE) and Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) programs.  She writes a monthly column ‘Latin for Gardeners’ for the Master Gardeners and Watershed Stewards of Maryland (<http://aawsa.org/blog> ) and has been a naturalist correspondent for the Annapolis Capitol Gazette. Alison creates educational material for schools and organizations, teaches, designs landscapes and has procured native plants for people in the mid-Atlantic states and Washington DC. She is an avid gardener, a global birder, a USAF veteran, and retired engineer who has spent the last 8 years solving landscaping problems in her home landscape and in those of residents across Maryland – always using native plants.

Session 3: 11:50 – 1:00pm

Title:***Seed to Cup: Grow Your Own Herbal Tea Blend***

Description: Learn about 3 native medicinal plants you can use as part of a delicious herbal tea blend while supporting local pollinators that rely on these plants.  We’ll review the full cycle of growing, harvesting, and preservation of these plants, along with medicinal properties and traditional uses.  The class will touch upon flavor profiles, steeping methods, and what the taste of plants can tell you.  Come enjoy teatime with Kate.

Presenter: Kate Galarza, Irvine Nature Center

**Strand D GGC Native Container Planting**

Sessions 1, 2 & 3

**Go Native with Planters – Build your own Container Garden**

Description: Choose your container, fill it with a custom soil mix, and purchase\* your native plants at our sale to create a beautiful outdoor planter for that special spot on your balcony, patio, or stoop. Guilford Garden Club members will help you design and plant your portable perennial native garden that will help support pollinators! Bring on the butterflies. Workshop takes 30 mins so you will have plenty of time to browse for your perfect plants.

\* Workshop fee includes a planter and soil and does not include cost of plants.