



NEWSLETTER

Summer Solstice
2002

“To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds, and watch their renewal of life—this is the most commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do.”
~Charles Dudley Warren



“What a delight it is when, of a morning, I get up and go out to find in full bloom a flower that yesterday was not there.”
~Tachibana Akemi

Invite Wildlife to Your Yard

In the summertime gardening is a popular hobby for those of us who enjoy getting in touch with the outdoors. Unfortunately for those of us who live in locations with small yards it can be tough to plant an actual garden. Have no fear though, we have a few suggestions on how to make your yard more environmentally friendly.

You can add wildlife to any landscape as small as a flower pot. As long as your plants have the essential ingredients to survive, they can become a natural habitat for many animals. For instance, butterflies are a common attraction in the mid-west. You can make a butterfly garden in the smallest of areas.

Black-eyed susans are coarse, rough-stemmed plants with daisy-like flower heads made up of snowy golden-yellow ray flowers with disk flowers forming a brown central cone. These flowers bloom from June to October and attract butterflies all summer long! Other flowers that attract butterflies are Butterfly Weed which have small bright orange clustered flowers that crown the leafy, hairy stem. These flowers bloom from June to September. Swamp milkweed is yet another kind that has deep pink flowers clustered at a tall, branching stem, bearing numerous leaves. They bloom from June to August. The Butterfly Weed and the Swamp Milkweed are toxic to humans and birds, but not toxic to butterflies. By eating these plants, butterflies defend themselves against birds.

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Summer Gardening Tips!

This summer's #1 gardening idea~ Imagine this: It's an early summer evening and the scorching sun is just starting to set beyond the horizon. You are relaxing on wicker in a cozy corner of your porch surrounded by the succulent smells of flowers that hang from the vines that shade you from the harmful rays. Aah, sounds like paradise, don't you think? Well, it is more realistic than it sounds. By adding vines, you can make your front or back porch a safe haven from the sun morning, noon, and night. They are easy to take care of and provide you with an energy-saving shade for your house. Detailed information about how to grow vines can be found on www.betterhomesandgardens.com. Just click on the Garden section and then go to Editor's Choice to find the option of vines. This will provide you with essential information about different types of vines to pick from. Enjoy!



“...a field is a field, I suppose, until you've seen it yield in such abundance that you know the mysteries of the universe are working together for your increase. And then the field is quite a miracle.”
~ Patricia Leimbach

What's Happening at EAC...

Meet The Interns!

By Beth Harroun, ISU senior and EAC intern

Stephanie Clauson is a senior at ISU who is majoring in Parks and Recreation with sequences in Program Management and Commercial Recreation. Stephanie is helping create programs for the summer camp here at EAC. She was referred here by a friend who enjoyed interning here in the past. She also works part-time at State Farm and is a member of the ISU Parks and Recreation Society. She hopes to move to Florida and work in tourism after graduating.

Beth Harroun I am a senior at ISU majoring in English and will be graduating in August. I work at the Stevenson 250 Computer Lab at ISU as a lab monitor. This summer I will be designing newsletters, fliers, brochures, and working on the "Green Guide" here at the EAC. I was referred here by Dr. Gerald Savage from the ISU English Department who is also a member of EAC. I am currently looking for employment in the writing field and feel that the skills I have acquired at ISU and at EAC make me marketable for the job market.

Stephanie Giancatarino will be a senior at Normal Community High School this fall. She is interning at EAC this summer helping out with odd jobs and also working with children at the summer nature camps. She is the president of the Ecology Energy and Earth Club sponsored by Normal Community High School. Stephanie likes working with people and kids so she fits in here!

Jessica Becker is a senior at ISU and is majoring in Parks and Recreation with her sequence in Program Management. She is designing the programs for the children's nature camps and fall activities. She likes interning because it is close to her apartment and she enjoys the company of her co-workers. She plans to move to Arizona after graduating from ISU where she wants to work in Hotel/Resort Management designing programs for the resorts. She is taking two summer school classes at ISU and works at Tobin's Pizza.

Eco-Readers



Eco-Readers is departing from our regular format this summer. July 11 and August 8 will feature video selections by Judith Helfand. In July we will view and discuss "A Healthy Baby Girl" and in August, "Blue Vinyl". We will meet at the Ecology Action Center at 5:30 on each of those dates. The leader for these films is Alison Sainsbury.

In September, we are back to Barnes and Noble for The Healing Wisdom of Africa: Finding Life Purpose Through Nature, Ritual, & Community on September 12, led by Joe Grabill. This group is open to everyone interested in discussing environmental books, issues, or even just listening.

Donate to EAC with EcoISP

Are you looking for a new internet Service Provider? EcoISP is a company that is making environmental protection a priority and provides Internet service at \$15.95. EcoISP donates 50 percent of every subscriber's profits to the non-profit organization of their choice.

The EAC is an organization that participates in this program. If you have a local Bloomington number, it would be a convenience to you to choose EcoISP. To find out more about EcoISP, check out the website www.EcoISP.com or call us.

News from the Network...

Membership Contest Announcement

The winner of the weekend getaway to Starved Rock Lodge is Linda Fuller! She is the secretary of the board and chair of our membership committee. Linda did her part for the EAC by recruiting three new members! Congratulations Linda! We hope you have a great time on your trip!

Get Involved with the EAC

We are looking for members that want to help us out in planning our programs, running the center and planning our membership events.

Volunteers help us to make more of a difference in our community. You could meet new people and have fun by serve on any of our committees.

Which one best suits you?

Building Committee

Finance Committee

Fundraising Committee

Membership Committee

Program Committee

Stop by the EAC to lend a helping hand.

Fall Picnic in planning stages
Save room in your schedule for the annual fall picnic with the EAC. We are planning something pretty special for the last weekend in September. We will keep you posted.

Welcome New Members!

The EAC would like to thank each and every new member for your support and kindness!

Amanda Boitnott

Clint Fuller

Gregg Boitnott

Sandra Golden

Mary Edwards

Lauren Klingele

Phil Edwards

Caroline Wade

Jan Farkas

Robert Wade

Adrienne Fuller

Contribute to the Ecology Action Center

Name _____ My Tax-deductible Gift:

Address _____ \$10 Student \$50 Earth Steward

\$25 Individual \$100 Earth Friend

\$35 Family \$500 Eco Hero

Regardless of Category, Please give as you are able

Phone _____

New Membership Renewal Endowment Fund

Send your donation to: Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College Ave., Normal, IL 61761-2552

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Flowers can all be planted in pots to make it easier for use in smaller areas. Container gardening can be just as satisfying as gardening in the ground. There are a wide variety of containers that provide productive growth for the plants. Popular potting containers are clay plots, plastic pots, window boxes, half-barrels, wire baskets, and stone or cement planters. Remember the EAC's DURAPOT donation offer. These pots are made from recycled tires. The suggested donation is \$3-5 for members and \$5-7 for non-members. This offer should give you a head start for your container gardening experience. No matter what container you choose to use, make sure that it has drainage holes on the bottom. We don't want to drown our plants because they need oxygen too.

Making a habitat for butterflies and other wildlife is not as hard as it may seem. With the right plants, and the basic necessities for wildlife survival such as food, water, and protection from the elements, almost any place can be transformed into a natural habitat. Grab your gardening gloves and get to work! Get started or get certified with the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. See the websites below

To find out more about natural habitats check out these cool websites
www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat- The National Wildlife Federation's program that certifies your backyard as a wildlife sanctuary. There are extensive resources available through this program
www.enature.com/backyardwildlife- resources and expert advice to create your backyard habitat
www.wildlifegardening.com- directory site for articles including butterfly and hummingbird gardening
www.wildlifegardens.net- is a networking community dedicated to sharing ideas and receiving advice about wildlife gardening