

*School Garden Workshop Series*

## **Creating Wildlife Habitat: Make Your Schoolyard Come Alive!**

Compiled by Steve English, SW Ohio Habitat Ambassador, National Wildlife Federation

### **Websites:**

- [National Wildlife Federation \(NWF\) Schoolyard Habitat Certification Program](#)
- [NWF Schoolyard Sign](#)

### **Funding Sources:**

- [Free Trees from NWF](#) (Need to go through a Habitat Ambassador/Steve English to initiate this request)
- [Ohio Department of Natural Resource's \(ODNR\) Wild School Site Program](#) (40 grants of \$500 each, consultant, and free activity booklet and sign)
- [Wild Ones Seeds for Education](#) (\$150 to \$500 for native plants and/or seeds)
- [Civic Garden Center Grant Writing Workshop Outline](#)

### **General Tips:**

The benefits of planting with natives include minimal maintenance required once they are established, a process which takes 2-3 years. Native plants mimic mother nature and attract native animals. Be sure to include these four elements in your native planting area: food for wildlife, water, cover (ex: leaf litter), and a place for wildlife to rear their young. As you begin to increase the biodiversity in your school yard be sure to include your facility crew. Native plantings can often be confused with weeds and a well-meaning landscaper may remove the plants if they aren't aware of the project. As you develop ideal habitats for local species be sure to employ sustainable practices!