

# EDGE of the Woods

## Native Plants

Bring life to your  
landscape with  
native plants



Mulch....every garden has it.

It can keep plant roots cool, retain moisture, and sometimes keep weeds down.

Pictured above is the very best mulch there is -- the leaves, twigs and debris that naturally fall from your healthy plants. This mulch not only retains moisture for your plants, it also supports important beneficial insects, fungi and bacteria. If you have mulch like this in your garden, you can bend down, swish the leaf litter away and see the life this is teeming at the lowest level of your landscape. Overtime, the creatures living here will improve your soil, too.

Shredded bark from soft-woods like pine or cedar are great. If you are worried about artillery fungus stay away from hardwood mulch. (Artillery fungus sometimes grows in hardwood mulches and shoots unsightly mold spores onto the siding of the house.)

Stay away from fresh wood chips and ground pallets as mulch -- they rob the soil of nutrients as they decompose.

When mulching trees, be sure to keep the mulch 2 inches away from the trunk of the tree. Piling mulch up against the trunk (a practice that has become known as 'mulch volcanoes') can kill the tree. You only need 3-4 inches of mulch, spread over as much of the root zone as you can. For more info see



*photo by Catherine Zimmerman*

## Meadows, an important habitat.

Meadows are the opposite of lawns.  
They need to be mowed once a year.  
They allow rain water to percolate.  
They help reduce erosion on slopes.  
They attract birds insects and animals.  
They're entertaining!

[Here's a utube video with a few more tidbits](#)

## Create a Meadow in your Landscape (No Room? How about Converting a Small Patch of Lawn to Meadow?)

Saturday September 8  
Urban and Suburban Meadows:  
Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces

Join author and film-maker Catherine Zimmerman for a day of learning about meadows. Reduce your lawn chores, increase habitat and create an ever-changing tapestry of bloom by installing a small meadow patch in your landscape. Meadows provide important habitat for birds, butterflies, and insects.

The morning session will include Catherine's stunning photography and her practical step-by-step instructions on creating a meadow. After a break for lunch, Catherine will demonstrate, and we'll all take a turn at preparing a sample site and planting. There's no better way to learn than by 'doing'!

### Workshop Schedule

11 - 12:30: Step by step instruction on how and why to create a meadow.

12:30 - 1:30: Lunch (box lunch available or bring your own)

1:30 - 3:30: Hands on experience with the plants and tools.

[Tickets available online](#), (\$20 per person, \$30 for couple) or by calling 610 395 2570.

We have limited space for this special workshop, so be sure to reserve your spot today.

**Participants will receive Catherine's DVD, a \$21 value.**

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**Garden Tours:  
"Tuesdays at Ten"**

On Tuesday mornings, 10 am, we'll tour the gardens, take a look at what's blooming and what could work in your landscape, and socialize with the butterflies we meet along the way. (So far our list of butterfly sightings is up to over 10 species and the season is just getting started.) Its a fun, informal time to walk around and ask questions about the nursery and your landscape.

**Evening Garden Tour 6:30 PM**

Evening is the loveliest time at Edge of the Woods. Stroll through the gardens, discover what's blooming, enjoy the sound of the birds and the cool evening air.

**Next Evening Tour: Thursday August 16**

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**Rare Plant Project at Lehigh Gap Nature Center**

We are pleased to be working with the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) in Slatington, which has native habitat gardens on site and encourages members and visitors to use native plants in their landscaping.

LGNC plans to create a "rare and forgotten flora trail" at their refuge. The trail will serve as a model and they will recruit homeowners, municipal and school officials, churches, corporate complex managers, and others to plant native plants, including rare ones, on their properties as part of a "Plant Refuge Network."

Rare plants will be provided free of charge to participating organizations and homeowners but must be matched with other native plantings.

For more information contact LGNC at 610-760-8889 or [lgnc@ptd.net](mailto:lgnc@ptd.net).

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### **July Hours**

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9 am to 5 pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9 am to 6 pm  
Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm  
Sundays: closed  
Mondays: by chance or by appointment

### **August Hours**

Wednesday: 9 am to 5 pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9 am to 6 pm  
Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm  
Sundays: closed  
Mondays/Tuesdays: by chance or by appointment

**Hours change monthly.**  
**In event of excessive heat or inclement weather,**  
**please call ahead to check our hours.**

*Located on Route 100, 1.7 miles North of Fogelsville/Tilghman Street.*

#### [Directions](#)

*Your source for native edibles: persimmon, paw paw, blueberry, serviceberry,  
gooseberry, raspberry, elderberry.*

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