



Illustrations by Linda S. Ellis

The Whitmire Wildflower Garden

Shaw Nature Reserve strives to inspire responsible stewardship of our environment through education, restoration and protection of natural habitats, and public enjoyment of the natural world.

In addition to the Whitmire Wildflower Garden, the natural features of the 2,400 acre Reserve include glades, wooded uplands, riparian forests, tall grass prairie, and wetlands. The Reserve is also home to the Bascom House exhibit, "People on the Land".

Directions The Reserve is 35 miles west of St. Louis on I-44 (Gray Summit Exit #253).

Grounds are open 7:00 a.m. to one-half hour past sunset daily except Christmas Day. The visitor center is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekends.

Admission to the Reserve: Adults, \$3.00; children 12 and under, free; senior citizens (65 and over), \$2.00. Members of Missouri Botanical Garden and Shaw Nature Reserve passholders are free.

Visit our website at www.shawnature.org for upcoming events, classes, and information. Tel. 636-451-3512 (toll-free from St. Louis)



SHAW 
NATURE RESERVE

The Whitmire Wildflower Garden is a place for year-round walking and for appreciating and learning about nature and natural landscaping.

Garden paths take you through five plant community areas (woodland, wetland, glade, savanna, and prairie) and a home gardening area which includes a native perennial garden, rock garden, prairie garden, water garden, woodland garden, and an Osage Indian garden.

Home Gardening Area: The plants in these garden demonstrations are native to Missouri and are useful for home gardening and small outdoor landscapes. They are available from local nurseries and mail-order catalogs.

Native plants are excellent, low-maintenance choices for home gardening because they are adapted to local conditions. They also provide habitat and food for hundreds of species of native insects, birds, and mammals.

Osage Indian Garden: Before European settlement, the Osage lived between the Osage and Missouri Rivers in western Missouri. Their seasonal hunting and trading forays brought them into eastern Missouri and northern Arkansas where they gathered plants of the prairie, glade, wetland, woodland, and savanna. Many of these plants are growing in this area.

Sedge Meadows occur naturally in wet prairies, spring areas, and river flood plains. They support a rich array of plants like queen-of-the-prairie, turtlehead, blue-flag iris and about 140 species of sedges in Missouri, some of which are growing in this area.



Gray Treefrog



Butterfly Milkweed seedpod



Blue False Indigo

Limestone Glades are outcroppings of limestone on hot, sunny slopes and are common throughout the Ozarks. Many showy plants like Indian paintbrush, pale purple coneflower, and blue false indigo are tolerant of these harsh conditions and are growing here.

Tall Grass Prairie: A variety of grasses, including big bluestem, switch and Indian grass, and forbs (prairie wildflowers) like coneflowers and compass plant are typical of prairies and are in peak display in July and August. Tall grass prairie once covered millions of square miles and comprised about 40% of Missouri. The prairie area here is about 10 acres and is managed by fire during winter.

Woodland wildflowers bloom mostly in early spring before trees leaf out. At that time of year you will see masses of virginia bluebells, wood poppies, blood root, wild geranium, ferns and many other beautiful woodland plants.

Picking or digging wildflowers is strictly prohibited. Please, no smoking, picnicking or pets. Visitors, including photographers, must remain on paths.