

## *Designing With Natives*

### **Top Ten Good Stewardship Things You Can Do in Your Own Backyard.**

1. Grow two native trees for each person in your house to infiltrate more water than you use. Try to create 60% canopy tree cover. Always replace canopy trees when possible. The best habitat trees are oaks,
2. Grow several native shrubs like Winterberry, Chokeberry, Ninebark, Elderberry, Black Haw or Maple-leaf viburnum or Witch hazel to enhance bird habitat. Try to plant 60% native plants in your yard to enhance biological diversity.
3. Grow a pollinator garden in a sunny place in your yard (six hours of sun each day).
4. Reduce your lawn by 25% by creating larger border and island flower beds. Design for seasonal color and interest.
5. Reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides. Use organic substitutes when necessary.
6. Find the lowest portion of your yard and plant a rain garden or flower beds 6 feet wide to ensue zero runoff. If you have slopes in your yard, put small 3 inch earth berms across the slopes. Consider the use of river stone edges along your beds and under your walkways. Consider rain barrels and pervious pavements.
7. Remove invasive plants. Like Japanese honeysuckle, Euonymus shrubs.
8. Create a place to relax. Find a shady spot and place several chairs there. Plant ferns and blue colored plants to help you relax.
9. Practice water and energy conservation in your home. Plant a canopy tree on the south side of your house.
10. Create a Backyard Conservation Design and strategy to renew your home, save money and create a healthy lifestyle.