



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**West Cook Wild Ones hosts 3rd  
'Birds, Bees and Butterflies: A Native Garden Tour'**  
*15 gardens showcase the many ways to bring nature home*

**OAK PARK**—Weaving through Oak Park and River Forest, 15 public and private native gardens showcase the biodiversity packed in those western suburbs. They all will be open to visitors at this year's "Birds, Bees and Butterflies: A Native Garden Tour," 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 5.

Each stop on the popular tour is unique, reflecting each gardener's interests. See downy wood mint, butterfly weed, phlox and showy sunflowers. Spy a flaming cardinal or colorful caterpillar. Follow a monarch in flight or busy bee in action. The variety of natural delights can inspire tour takers to fall in love with their own yards, fight climate change and create a healthier home for their families and wildlife.

"This tour is for anyone who is curious about native gardening and wants to be a better steward of their surrounding environment," says Pam Todd, co-founder of West Cook Wild Ones, which is hosting the tour for the third time since 2014. "Whether you are just getting started from scratch or want to expand an established garden, you will find answers and inspiration."

The master gardeners, passionate hobbyists, professional landscapers behind the gardens bring artistry and a creative imagination to the emerald-laced palettes they lovingly tend. They will be on hand to answer questions about native plants, how to grow them and incorporate them into a variety of landscapes. They will share their enjoyment of native and pollinator plants and explain how they to contribute to the health of local ecosystems.

This peak-of-the-season tour will show how vital and attractive native plants are to birds, bees and butterflies. Particular plants for shade, sun, rain gardens, clay soil and other applications will be highlighted. For participants new to native gardening, information and ideas will be exchanged among experienced native plant gardeners. Sneak a preview of tour gardens [here](#).

Tickets (\$7 for Wild Ones members or \$10 for non-members) can be purchased online or the day of event (\$10 and \$12) at Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Children 18 and younger attend for free. Those who purchase tickets in advance will receive a tour map via email.