



DESCRIPTION

Once a master plan joining separate (and somewhat ad hoc) landscape beds was implemented, the resulting garden served as a place to observe wildlife and the beauty of native plants. It has become a demonstration garden, a way for gardeners to share ideas on using native plants in a home landscape.

A brief introduction to Catchfly Commons:

- 1.3 acre property in Delaware, OH; variety of sun and soil moisture conditions
- 275 native plant species (perennials, grasses, trees, shrubs, vines)
- 26 species serving as groundcovers, from ground-hugging to 5'
- Front yard border (in process)
- 200' back border ranging in width from 10' to 30'
- 9 raised beds: vegetables, milkweeds, native plant nursery
- Prairie Garden
- Shade Gardens: Red Oak, Maple, Spruce, Pin Oak, White Pine (in early planning stage)
- Swale Garden – wet in spring, dry in summer
- Side Yard Garden – “West Wing,” replaced turf and invasive species

Documented wildlife in the garden includes:

- 41 species of adult butterflies and moths
- 22 species of caterpillars
- 19 species of bees
- 14 species of wasps/hornets
- 10 species of dragonflies and damselflies
- 25 species of birds have been observed on the property

The garden was featured in the March/April 2023 edition of *Ohio Magazine* (“[How to Plant a Native Ohio Garden](#)”). It received first place for Native Plant Garden in the 2018 *Columbus Dispatch* Backyard Garden Awards. The landscape is a certified wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation and is registered with Home Grown National Parks.

Visits to Catchfly Commons may be scheduled by emailing catchflycommons@gmail.com. The Litchfields typically host an Open Garden in July. Terri and Randy give presentations about native plant gardening to local groups and garden clubs.