

CONSERVATION@HOME

shaping private and community landscapes in a conservation-minded way

extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/conservationhome



WELCOME

Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle, Horticulture Educator
Tara Heath, Horticulture Program Coordinator
Christine Belless, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator
Karen Wiegelt, Special Projects Program Coordinator

Welcome to the Conservation@Home program. Conservation@Home recognizes and certifies properties that demonstrate environmentally sound landscape practices. Through the Conservation@Home certification program, residents of Central Illinois have the opportunity to shape their private and community landscapes in a conservation-minded way with guidance and criteria provided for them.

University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit in partnership with the Fulton County Farm Bureau and Conservation Foundation are so glad to have you as member of this program. Showing the importance of using environmentally beneficial practices by homeowners is an important step to bring ecological benefits to support local flora and fauna.

We are excited to be able to provide learning opportunities, networking with other members, events, and this newsletter to support you in your conservation goals.



NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

AT THE FULTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BUILDING

VOLUNTEERS HELP CREATE A PLACE FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Volunteers from the Fulton County Farm Bureau, Extension Master Gardeners, and Extension Master Naturalists planted close to 200 native plants around the Farm Bureau Building. On May 16, 2023, nearly 20 volunteers helped to prepare soil and plant more than twenty-five species of native plants. We encourage Conservation@Home members to visit the demonstration garden to observe the plants and how they grow.

“We are so excited to offer this native plant demonstration garden as an educational tool,” says Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle, Extension horticulture educator. “Visitors will be able to see native plants in a typical home landscape setting and hopefully be inspired to add some to their own yard. In addition, the Farm Bureau will be able to reap the benefits of reduced water runoff, low maintenance, and a beautiful landscape that attracts beautiful pollinators.”

PLANTING DAY

Fulton County Farm Bureau Manager, Elaine Stone said, “Thank you to all the volunteers who helped plant and care for the native plant demonstration garden. It looks great. I am so glad we did this.”



CELEBRATING C@H CERTIFIED YARDS CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to share that 17 Conservation@ Home members have their yards officially certified in 2023. Thank you for all of your hard work using conservation practices to add ecological benefits to your yard. Thank you to all of the Extension Master Volunteer Evaluators who made these yard certifications possible.





UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 16 at 6 pm (CT): The Gardener's Guide to Prairie Plants Webinar with Neil Diboll and Hilary Cox, hosted by the WildOnes. [Register here](#) on the WildOnes website.

December 12 at 5 pm at the Miller Center 551 S 14th St, Pekin End of the Year Gathering. Come meet fellow Conservation@Home members in addition to Extension Master Gardeners and Naturalists. It is a pot-luck so bring a dish to share. Suzanne Cook will provide a fun activity.

March 19 at 1:30 pm Duane Friend, Extension Master Naturalist State Specialist will tell us about the new Climate Steward Program coming to Illinois Extension and provide information about climate change. Watch your emails for location details.

Coming soon in 2024: Spring gathering, summer tour, and educational opportunities.



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