Edible Native Plants for Your Landscape

Russ Cohen, one of the foremost wild edibles experts in New England, has just completed his 40th year of teaching courses about wild edibles. As a professional environmentalist and wild foods enthusiast he spends much of his free time in the woods cultivating a strong spiritual connection to nature. Among many awards Russ has received many awards, the most recent the 2013 Education Award from the New England Wild Flower Society in recognition of both his rivers work and foraging programs. He leads foraging programs, and walks and talks throughout New England. He works for MA Department of Fish and Game, Riverways Program Division of Ecological Restoration, and serves as its Rivers Advocate. Russ’ foraging book, Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten was published June 2004, and is now in its fifth printing.

During his presentation, Russ will extoll the edibility of many plant species native to the Northeast in the belief that enabling people to connect to nature via their taste buds helps strengthen their support for land conservation. As owners/managers of parks, open spaces, gardens and other conserved lands he would like you to consider edible native species as an opportunity to “spice up”, literally as well as figuratively, your properties and make them more attractive to people as well as wildlife. Many native species edible by people are directly or indirectly edible and useable by wildlife. Planting them enhances wildlife habitat and biodiversity as well as people’s enjoyment of open spaces. In other words, we can have our acorn cake and eat it too!

Gardening is Murder

Nine years ago, Neal helped sell the company that had been his long-time employer. When the sale was done, he rejected two ‘sensible’ offers that would have kept him in the corporate world, and followed his decades-old dream of writing fiction. Not the Great American Novel. Not poetry. Not some thinly disguised autobiographical cathartic work. He wanted to see if he could tell a rousing good story using believable characters people would root for. He wanted to write stories with satisfying conclusions that sprinkled enough clues about the outcome throughout the story to make a reader say, ‘why didn’t I see that coming?’ And, he wanted to write stuff that people would actually go out and buy. In short, he wanted to write mysteries, suspense, and thrillers. Since then, he has published nine books.

Laugh with Neal as he gives us a husband’s point of view of gardening filled with humor and insight from someone who gardens less from an abiding love of horticulture than for the love of a spouse. Good horticultural advice is dispensed, bad advice is debunked. You will leave with a better appreciation of what is going on in the mind of your helpmates and why it is impossible to do just one thing in the garden, why so much gardening information on the internet is awful, why you should never compute the value of your labor in gardening, why it requires digging three holes to plant something and what evidence shows the wildlife in your garden have never seen a Disney film, and much more…
The Right Size Garden

Kerry Ann Mendez, a self-taught gardener with over 25 years of experience and a ‘passionate perennialist’ enjoys mixing humor with practical information. As a garden consultant, designer, author and lecturer, she focuses on time-saving gardening techniques, workhorse plants and sustainable practices. She has been in numerous magazines including Horticulture, Fine Gardening, Garden Gate and Better Homes and Gardens’ Garden Ideas & Outdoor Living and was awarded the 2014 Gold Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. She works at Estabrook’s Nursery in Kennebunk, Maine. For more about Kerry Ann and her business Perennially Yours, visit www.pyours.com.

Based on her latest book, The Right-Size Flower Garden, Kerry will discuss exceptional plants and helpful design tips for achieving balance between your love of gardening and time and ability to do so. Some of the treasured nuggets she will cover are drought tolerant plants, perennials and annuals that don’t need deadheading, low or no prune shrubs, striking foliage choices and the illusion that you have more plants than you actually do, due to their astonishing display. Learn easy-to-follow, targeted solutions from The Right-Size Flower Garden to provide joyful liberation for all aging and time-pressed gardeners.

Out on a Limb – What Black Bears Have Taught Me About Intelligence and Intuition

For decades, Ben Kilham, Independent Wildlife Biologist, has studied wild black bears in a vast tract of Northern New Hampshire woodlands. He has taken in orphaned infants feeding them, walking them through the forest helping them decipher their natural world, and eventually reintroducing them back into the wild. Once free, the orphaned bears still regard him as their mother. Witnessing this world has led to some remarkable discoveries. Out on a Limb delivers Kilham’s fascinating glimpse at the inner world of bears.

Ben Kilham invites us into the world of black bears as he describes how a 17-year-old female bear he raised as an orphan has given him extraordinary access to her daily life opening a rare window into how she and the wild bears she lives among carry out their daily lives, raise their young, and communicate. Ben offers a fascinating glimpse at the inner world of bears, and makes a passionate case for science, and education in general, to open its doors to wild bears she lives among. The wild bears she lives among decipher their natural world, through the forest helping them, raising their young, and communicating.

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