

**News: News: 2024 Native Plant Sale, Birds in Art Exhibit, and Spark Birds**  
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## **Native Plants: Beautiful and Easy Care**



Plants native to Illinois are beautiful perennials that support pollinators, beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife. Local pollinators may be attracted to some non-native flowers, but these non-native plants seldom support the insects. Insects need plants that have evolved with them to feed their “young bugs.”

An example is the monarch butterfly. The monarch caterpillars need milkweed plants to survive; milkweed is the only food monarch caterpillars can eat. There are milkweeds that have evolved for most garden conditions. Even replacing a small part of your turf grass or non-natives helps the planet.

Aside from their beauty and wildlife support, native plants have evolved in this area. And so, if planted in an area appropriate to each plant's needs (regarding sunlight and soil properties), the plants will require very little care. Some of them love very wet areas; their roots are very deep and absorb a great deal of water. Deep roots allow others to survive in dry soil and droughts.

Check out the plants available from the 2024 Native Plant Sale that offer great ways to add beautiful and easy-care plants to your yard.

## **2024 Native Plant Sale** ***Perennials, Shrubs/Trees, and Grasses Available***

Each year, Thorn Creek Audubon and Homewood Izaak Walton Preserve partner in a native plant sale. Pre-orders are being taken from now until March 1, 2024. The in-person sale will be on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00 am until noon. Plants will also be sold Sunday, May 19, from 9:00 am until we're done with clean-up.

**You can order by mail or order online.** Go to our website for more information, to download the order form, and shop online > [2024 Native Plant Sale](#)

If you want an order form mailed to you, e-mail [TCASPlants@gmail.com](mailto:TCASPlants@gmail.com) or text Judy Johnson at 312-307-1808.

## **Plant Photos and Details**

The Native Plant Sale page includes a link for each plant. Use the links to learn about the plants and view photos.

Go to > [Native Plant Sale](#)



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## Special "Birds in Art" Exhibit at Plum Creek Nature Center Through February 25

Since 1976, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum has organized an internationally acclaimed *Birds in Art* exhibition, seeking the very best artistic interpretations of birds and related subject matter. Approximately 100 works are selected each year. To continue the celebration of these wonderful collections, chosen works are selected for a national tour. The Forest Preserve District of Will County was chosen as the first stop for the *2024 Birds in Art* touring collection. This year's traveling pieces include works from artists representing eight countries in 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional media. The collection includes one local Chicago artist - Doug Stapleton's, Ordinary Time.

This free exhibit runs from Jan. 2 to Feb. 25. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 4 pm Sundays. For more information and the Plum Creek Nature/Goodnow Grove location, go to > [Birds in Art Exhibition](#)



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# Birds in Art Exhibit

January 2 – February 25  
10 a.m-4 p.m., Tuesdays – Saturdays; Noon-4 p.m., Sundays

The feather forecast is always fly when Birds in Art is on view. The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum has selected 50 pieces from its annual show to embark on a national tour. An international cast of artists interprets avian themes and habitats employing diverse styles and mediums. Art and bird lovers alike will find something to crow about as they take in this exhibit.

Plum Creek Nature Center,  
Crete Township




**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT**  
WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

ReconnectWithNature.org  
708-946-2216



### Our Spark Birds

Many birders fondly recall the memorable sighting that inspired their interest in birding or transformed their casual birding into avid birding. Several members of the Thorn Creek Audubon community recently shared the bird that sparked their bird passion

### **Rose Harring, Romeoville**

I grew up in a home with three brothers and working parents. Often times, I found myself alone sitting on the front porch, just daydreaming and watching the day pass. In our front yard was a big, beautiful maple tree, and nesting in that tree was that ubiquitous bird—the robin. Robin was my first spark bird.



In my back yard my father planted several evergreen trees—pine trees, I believe. Many spring and summer days, I would sit outside on the back patio and color, draw, or play. I can still hear that familiar screech, “Jay, jay, jay!” Looking up I’d see that big, bold, and beautiful Blue Jay fly across. Blue Jays are also my spark bird. Both bring back fond childhood memories!

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### **Judy Johnson, Flossmoor**

My brother (Glenn Johnson, Will County Audubon and Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Bird Monitor) has been birding since the early 1980s and was always bugging me to try it. I was not interested - it sounded so boring. But one Sunday morning in spring 2000, he convinced me to go with him to Montrose Harbor to the Magic Hedge.



He gave me a pair of binoculars and told me to look at the "red bird in the tree." It was a Scarlet Tanager - and I could not believe what I had been missing. I was hooked from that minute on. The difference is looking through binoculars. We spent about 3 hours there - where I saw tons of birds. My first warbler (chestnut-sided) was a thrill.

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**Pat Andersen, Homewood**

When I was about 6-years-old, I found a small yellow & black bird in my yard. It let me pick it up. I ran to get the jar I used to catch fireflies, put the bird in it, and went inside to show my mom. I was so excited to have a new pet. Mom was not thrilled (an understatement). She told me wild birds should always be free to fly outside and she'd release it.



Years later I realized the bird almost certainly was sick or injured. But the thrill of cradling this American Goldfinch in my hands had sparked my awareness and love of wild birds.



**Visit our website:**

[thorncreekaudubonsociety.org](http://thorncreekaudubonsociety.org)

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