

Children's Garden Club  
August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Garden Fairy's  
Beneficial Bugs – Insects  
Sappington Garden Center  
11530 Gravois

Welcome to the August Meeting !!! Glad you all were able to join us, I wish to thank our Host Annie Stanley & Mark Labarge.

Our topic today has multi proposes always to educate you and also to have fun with a topic. As we all know a fairy is a small, supernatural creature that dwells in a magical place. In folklore fairies are usually in human form but they are know to disguise themselves well when needed. There are a wide variety of earth spirits, from the elves and gnomes Of the deep forest - to the pixies and fairies of flower gardens and meadow lands. Undines, nymphs and sprites are water creatures and sylphs are air spirits. You can see Annie's daughter's interpretation of what a garden fairy may look like on the way to the greenhouse, you might even get to meet one.

Today we have for you a project of decorating a cloth bag with of course bug, butterfly, and other stamps option to use to decorate , and some Lady Bugs to take home.

Inviting beneficial bugs into the garden is not a new idea. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, golden ants were sold at markets to area farmers to protect the mandarin orange trees from insects pest. Farmers even built bamboo bridges to connect trees so the ants could move freely between them (His Han, 304 A.D., records of the plants and trees of the southern regions). Today ladybugs, lacewings, praying mantises, predatory mites, and parasitic wasps are just a few of the beneficial organisms commercially sold for pest reduction. You don't need to go to the use of pesticides. Beneficial bugs will come to your own backyard if the conditions are right, especially if you can plant some beneficial plants to attract the Good Guys to assist you!

Where do we start? As we all are gardeners in understanding the frustration of when you are ready pull off a bright red tomatoes and find worm holes. Your first angry response may be to get a pesticide and spray away. But if you are like many other environmentally sensitive people you don't want to spread poison all over your yard either. Beneficial insects may provide an ideal solution. You may already know about

some of these “Terminator” bugs: praying mantis, ladybugs, decollate snails and beneficial nematodes. In addition to faithful predators such as, purple martin birds etc.. Biological alternatives to chemical pesticides are gaining wide popularity. I think in creating your yard landscape to the betterment of wildlife in general is the place to begin ( now the deer I am beginning to question about them in the yard?). I was trying to remember to the book about our native landscape and how we changed it all to those beautiful Lawns & Landscapes with the use of all the chemicals and how the birds, butterflies, etc were all most lost. I know we all are conscientious about our environment the home garden is a complex landscape of flowers, woody ornamentals, vegetables, turf, and some undesired plants. The home garden represents an ecosystem, where food, shelter, and myriad species of insects, spiders, slugs and fairies are found. Finding that peace and harmony is the secret we are going to try and unfold, understand.

It may seem strange to spend money on a carton of ladybugs, or a little box decollate (“carnivorous”) snails at your local nursery. Also for those who are squeamish, handling insects may be a major detriment to starting a bi-control program. You may be thinking : “ I hate bugs, why would I want to add more to my garden?” With a good System of bi-control, you won’t even notice the tiny insects that will protect your plants. In fact, you’ll feel more relaxed, knowing that you don’t have to keep the children or pets from the area you sprayed with chemicals.....

Here are a few tips on how to use beneficial insects in your garden

1. Think about what fruits, vegetables, or flowers your going to plant, and possible problems might have. With the help of your friendly Garden Center and this hand out which beneficial insect they will go after these pest. Think of it as a food chain game of matching predator to prey.
2. Create an attractive environment for bugs, this means plentiful food, water, and shelter. One way to encourage the process is to have a permanent border of native plants around the area with an occasional sprinkling of water to provide enough moisture for your beneficial insects to thrive. If you create a good environment you’re beneficial’s may breed and reproduce, which will create a perennial army of “terminators”.
3. Release during early morning, or early evening and early spring to mid summer believe it or not the Insects also don’t like extreme heat or cold, so you’ll get best results if you release them during the mild weather seasons so they stay around your garden.

Buying healthy plants that are well adapted to your garden conditions is also a part of the pest-control plan, again prevention is the key. This Combination with good gardening practices will go a long way, as well as create a good growing environment – crop rotation and companion planting can reduce the buildup of some garden pest. When possible choose resistant cultivars. Crop rotation is beneficial especially in

vegetable gardening. Keep a clean garden, Give you plants a weekly check over of removal of any dead foliage or spent blooms. If you are keeping a journal you will have noted these spot check in keeping track of pest problems when and where they have occurred and what you did do to control them. When removal hand picking of disease or insect infested leaves etc. be sure and put in a sealed plastic bag or burn them. Be sure and hose off the foliage daily for a while after removal you may not have to use any chemicals.

There are also organic products that can be used to assist such as Garlic Barrier – which could repel insects such as mosquito, bees and wasps. NIMBY is not in my back yard an organic repellent to keep away rabbits and squirrels, but must be sprayed often and after each rain. Diatomaceous Earth – pulverized glass and bone – causes cuts on ants, slugs, and destructive beetles. Insecticidal soap made from cellular fats and oils, it is biodegradable and releases no residue so it does not harm humans, bees or ladybugs. It is useful for control of soft body insect such as aphids, thrips, and can be applied to most vegetable and fruit crops but not all. Pyrethrum is harmless to human and animals, but will kill predators along with the pest. If it is sprayed at dusk, plants will be safer for the bees the following morning effective against aphids and caterpillars and is able to be used up to harvest time and is washed off.

Rose Spray made from Chives: place chopped, firmly packed garlic or onion chives with a equal amount of water. Blend to a juice. Strain through a thin towel or cheese cloth before filling sprayer. Use of roses three day in a row for long freedom from blackspot, mildew and aphids. (store in refrigerator) Also garlic and onion refuse make a excellent mulch for roses. Or Insect Spray 3 large onions 1 whole garlic (not just the clove) 1 hot pepper pod or 2 tablespoons of Cayenne pepper. Barely cover the container with the mixture with the water, and let stand overnight. In the morning put mixture through sieve and mash it through. Then strain through a dish towel or cheese cloth. Put liquid into a one gallon jug and fill jug to the top with water. Now it is ready to pour into a hand sprayer. Apply three time in one day for best results.

Taking care of your family and yourself, with regard to mosquito and other bugs related problems during your outdoor activities, again prevention is the key. You can help control the mosquito population by removing/ get rid of standing water – where clogged roof gutters, storm creeks, pool covers, boat covers any standing water, bird bath Water should be Clean and Fresh Daily for the birds and to prevent mosquito larvae. Wearing mosquito repellent is always helpful, if you do get bitten, a anti-itching creams and sprays that are helpful are Rhuli cream or gel, Cortisone and cortisone for kids Benadryl, Aveeno are in a range from \$3.00 - \$8.00

Today once you have finished your cloth bag you will be receiving one of the most popular and loved by gardeners and children alike is the Lady Bug. Lady Bugs prefer to eat aphids and will devour up to 50 a day, but they will also attack scale, mealy bugs, boll worm, leaf hopper and corn ear worm.

Lady Bugs should always be released after sundown since they only fly at night. During the night, they will search the area for food and stay as long as there is food for them to eat. The more they eat the more the eggs they lay and the more insect-eating larvae you will have. Lady bugs tend to crawl toward light. So release them at the base of the plant.