Midwest Native Plant Society
1912 Devils Backbone Road
Cincinnati, OH 45233

The Midwest Native Plant Society supports the designation of April as "Ohio Native Plant Month." We believe that the formal designation of a month devoted to our state's native plants will help to raise the public's awareness of the important economic, environmental and aesthetic benefits of planting and preserving this important component of our natural heritage.

The vast majority of plants offered for sale by the nursery trade are not native to Ohio. By promoting the use of Ohio natives in their place, we can advance public appreciation of the equally beautiful plants which grow naturally in our state. Beyond the value of the plants themselves, our native plants form the basis of a healthy ecosystem. Most of our native insects rely on native plants for their survival – they are not adapted to using non-native replacements. In turn, our native birds and other animals depend on an abundance of insects for feeding their young. By landscaping with native plants, and by preserving their natural habitats where they grow wild, we can help to ensure the continued flourishing of natural Ohio for future generations.

The Midwest Native Plant Society is presenting a one-day public workshop devoted to native spring wildflowers and ferns in Dayton on April 13. This is in support of our mission of "Connecting People With Nature" by promoting awareness of native plants and the wildlife that depend on them. We believe that being able to connect such events with an Ohio Native Plant Month would further our mission, and more importantly, help us to protect Ohio's native plants and other wildlife.

Kathy McDonald
Co-Chair, Midwest Native Plant Society