

Wildscape Update **John Dycus**



We don't know enough yet. Time to learn some more.

Beginning in April, each first-Saturday volunteer opportunity in the wildscape will include a new learning

experience.

After a couple of hours of work — spring blooms! birdsong! butterflies! you call this work? — and a short break for water and refueling, volunteers will be rewarded with a 20-minute presentation (with handouts) followed by a 10-minute question period.

Each month will offer instruction to increase native gardening expertise.

In June, Suzanne Tuttle will lead wildscape volunteers in discovering more

about wildscape plants. Another month's learning experience will feature Heather Dowell, Arlington Parks and Recreation Department forester, demonstrating planting and caring for native trees.

Additional sessions will focus on attracting birds and butterflies, water conservation in landscapes, native plant propagation, native landscape maintenance, controlling invasive exotics and composting.

The concept launches at 9:00 am April 5 with a demonstration of assembling an inexpensive container for rainwater harvesting. Before the first Saturday in May, a calendar for 2008 volunteer/learning opportunity days will be added to the wildscape Web site, www.thewildscape.org.

