

2015 McKesson Green Roof Workshops Series



River Action is partnering with the McKesson Lofts in Downtown Rock Island, IL to maintain the building's regionally unique green roof and offer an on-going workshop series. Workshops will cover topics related to green infrastructure, urban conservation practices, urban horticulture, ecology and environment, and urban sustainability. This series offers the unique opportunity to gain access to one of the few examples of extensive green roof systems in the Quad Cities, get your hands dirty, and experience green roof horticulture first hand.

Workshops will be held monthly from April through October. Each program will include a lecture and discussion session followed by hands-on activities on the roof related to the discussion topic and the maintenance of the green roof. Participants should be sure to bring work gloves, hand pruners, and water, and wear appropriate clothing and foot wear.

Designing Rooftop Community Gardens

Join River Action and the McKesson Lofts Homeowners Association in an effort to design and plan a community garden on an underutilized section of the McKesson Building roof. This workshop will present examples of how others across the United States are using rooftops as community, horticultural and agricultural spaces. Participants will learn about the design and construction of raised garden beds, utilization of containers of all shapes and sizes to grow food and herbs, soil types for containerized gardening, and plant selections for rooftops. The workshop will conclude with an open forum intended to generate ideas to inform the design of the McKesson rooftop community garden and plant selections.



Date: April 4th, 2015

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP Tim Chambers. tchambers@riveraction.org. (563) 322-2969.

Space is limited.

Rooftop Community Gardens: Installation and Planting

This workshop is envisioned to be a continuation of April's program. Participants will assist with the layout of the McKesson rooftop community garden based on design concepts discussed at the previous months workshop. Hands-on activities will include the construction of raised beds, placement planting containers, soil preparation and installation, and planting.



Date: May 16th, 2015

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP Tim Chambers. tchambers@riveraction.org. (563) 322-2969.

Space is limited.

Native Plant propagation: Practical approaches to seed germination, cuttings, and divisions

Are you interested in propagating and growing own native plants for your garden or urban habitat project? This workshop will cover practical approaches, techniques and tools to propagate native by both sexual and asexual methods. Participants will learn about methods to successfully propagate native plants from seed. Discussion topics will include seed dormancy, seed stratification, germination substrates, proper planting methods, and post germination care. In addition, this workshop will cover plant division techniques; preparing and taking root and stem cuttings; and rooting substrates and hormones. Participants should bring a wish list of native plants they are interested in propagating to stimulate discussion during the workshop.



Date: June 6th, 2015

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP Tim Chambers. tchambers@riveraction.org. (563) 322-2969.

Space is limited.

Managing Green Roofs for Wildlife

Green roofs cannot be considered a replacement for or an ecological equivalent to natural areas located at ground level; however, when managed appropriately they can provide some functional habitat for various wildlife species, especially in the urban context, where human activities have disturbed or replaced natural occurring habitat. In cities, multiple vegetated green roofs can serve as much needed wildlife corridors to maintain and enhance urban biodiversity. Integrating human land use with natural systems can affectively increase the land area that serves as habitat space. This workshop will present approaches to managing novel habitat, such as green roofs, to support urban wildlife. Discussions will focus primarily on creating and maintaining habitat for birds and pollinators. Participants will be introduced to plant species, adapted to green roof conditions that support various wildlife



species by providing necessary food sources and nesting sites, and the construction and installation of artificial habitat, such as native bee nests.

Date: July 11th, 2015

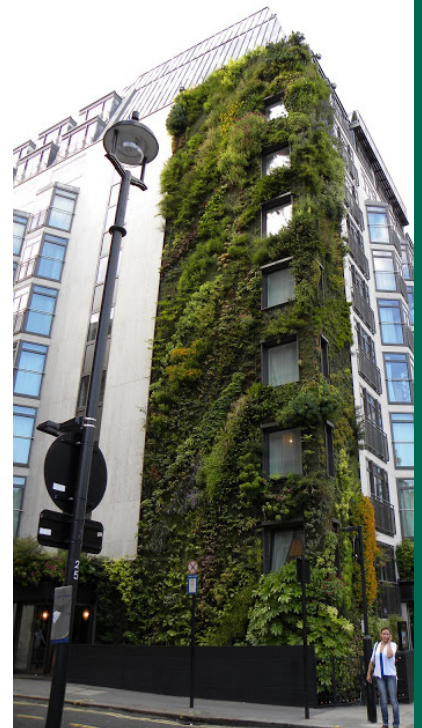
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

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Green Infrastructure beyond Green Roofs: Green Walls, Blue Roofs, Rain Gardens, Bioswales

What is Green Infrastructure? When it rains in undeveloped areas, stormwater runoff is absorbed and filtered by natural soils and plants. Stormwater runoff in urban areas, largely impermeable landscapes, is one of the major causes of water pollution. This runoff carries urban pollutants such as heavy metals, bacteria, garbage, and excessive nutrients and is usually collected and conveyed through engineered storm sewers and discharged into local waterbodies. Green infrastructure uses the natural processes of vegetation and soils to manage stormwater, creating healthier urban environments. At a regional scale, green infrastructure refers to the network of natural areas that provide an array of ecosystem services; and at a localized scale the term refers to stormwater management practices that mimic services provided by natural systems. This workshop will introduce various cost-effective, local green infrastructure practices and the benefits they provide to the environment and our communities.



Date: August 8th, 2015

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP Tim Chambers. tchambers@riveraction.org. (563) 322-2969. Space is limited.

Gardening with Natives

Are you curious about native plants? Interested in beautiful, low-maintenance landscapes? Consider gardening with natives. Native plants communities are disappearing at an alarming rate due largely to human activities such as urban and suburban development and the expansion of agriculture, which has led to the loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity necessary for balanced ecosystems, and erosion. These issues are exacerbated when native



plants are replaced by non-native species in landscape plantings. The purpose of this workshop is to inform participants about the many benefits of establishing native plants in your garden and landscape. Participants will learn the basic concepts of landscaping with native plants and the necessary steps to take to get started. We will discuss site assessment and design, site and soil preparation, plant selection and planting, and native plant maintenance.

Date: September 12th, 2015

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP Tim Chambers. tchambers@riveraction.org. (563) 322-2969. Space is limited.

Collecting Native Seed: Techniques in seed collection and storage

How should I collect seed? When should I collect? If you have asked yourself these questions, then this workshop is for you. Workshop participants will learn about all aspects of the seed collection process from plant identification and recognizing ripe seed to seed processing and storage. Emphasis will be placed on the proper identification of plant species, recognizing mature seeds and the proper handling and storage techniques to ensure seed viability. This workshop will be hands-on, using the McKesson Green Roof as the outdoor classroom.



Date: October 10th, 2015

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: McKesson Building, 100 19th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP Tim Chambers. tchambers@riveraction.org. (563) 322-2969. Space is limited