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Greetings and good evening everyone and welcome back to the Mark Fraley podcast. Today is Sunday, March 18th, 2018 and what a week it has been here in Nashville.

We woke up Monday morning with snow on the ground and finished Saturday with 75 degrees in sunny. Spring is becoming evident around the garden. I've got onions in, lettuce is coming up and we have some bluebirds making nesting gestures at our bluebird boxes.

Well today's podcast deserves a little bit of a personal story by way of introduction. I grew up pretty much a city kid in Cincinnati. That being said I probably had better than normal exposure to the natural world. Cincinnati does have wonderful parks and it does have nature study programs for children. Boy Scouts took me out camping. I had a father who was a hunter and a mother who was a gardener. That being said I only began to learn that everything we see in the that is green on the landscape was not necessarily good.

When I moved to Tennessee in 1975, there for the first time I witnessed Kudzu. The stuff seemed to be everywhere. The city manager of the city of Gatlinburg at the time where I was working had initiated a program of Kudzu eradication within the city limits. For that time this was a remarkably innovative program particularly important in an area adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. When it came to Nashville and began to work with the state of Tennessee, had the privilege of working alongside botanist Dr. Paul Summers and Linda Dries who was the state park's natural resources management expert. Both of these individuals opened my eyes to what was really going on on the landscape. This was when I started learning about exotic plants like bush honey suckle and Chinese privet and the devastating effect they were having on our natural landscape, native vegetation, and wildlife.

More recently the book Bringing Nature Home by Doug Talame brought into focus just how important what we do in our own backyards can be.

And so I sat down with on Friday afternoon with my friend Mike Berkeley. Mike and his wife Terry Barnes are the proprietors of grow wild nursery in Fairview, Tennessee. Mike is truly one of America's foremost experts in the field of native plants. Mike serves on the board of the Tennessee invasive plant council and he agreed to sit down with me and discuss the most common invasive plants that we see occurring in our neighborhoods and their native alternatives. I encourage my listeners to check out the website of the Tennessee invasive plant council. The website contains a great deal of important information about invasive plants and their

alternatives. You can find the list of plants that are considered to be invasive in Tennessee along with several PowerPoint presentations which are freely available. And so I hope you'll enjoy this afternoon's program with Mike Berkeley.

Mike Berkeley, welcome to the Mark Farley podcast. Hey Mark. Old friend it's great to have you together a long time I guess. I have been looking forward to this so much. Mike you and I've known each other probably 20 years or more and I know you'd fairly well but my my listeners probably don't. Some of them may but tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got into what you're doing. Well I guess foremost I am a co-owner of grow wild incorporated native plant nursery on the Fairview, Tennessee and as far as we can tell right now we're the largest native plant nursery in the whole Mid-South area and we've got somewhere around a thousand different species called bores of North American natives. Endangers some fairly protected endangered species and but we just love growing the natives we've got 30 different species of oaks. So Mike did you grow up in at a farm or what where did you grow up? I grew up in West Nashville in suburbia. I would bet you that some of your listeners probably would remember me back in West Nashville and but my I came from a single parent home my father was out there my mother insisted for my brother and I to do all the boy things that we were meant to do so she got me out in the woods as a single mother and showed me things she didn't know the names of these plants but showed me plants showed me I can remember far back of camping at Pickett State Park up on the couple of plateau and seeing things up there that I didn't see back home in West Nashville and so she insisted in getting us out into the woods and and then I got it to Boy Scales and I think that was that's that's exactly that's it I think at that time it was started an appreciation I still didn't know what these things were but I think there was a now a respect I guess is the word respect of all things natural out there and then I worked in a just fast forward I worked in a garden center that it was more and more garden center and Kid and Paul more there and I met Paul good friend of mine still today and and Paul's the Mossman Mossman now yeah I mean so many jokes we have about Paul and the Smalls but he was the first one I met at a retail level that said okay we're gonna start selling more natives because I gosh you know 80 90% of what we saw in the garden centers and we're not native species and species so it was pretty good see move at the time and I said oh what count me in and so it kind of hire me in as a help him out and finding these plants and Mark we had to look it into Nebraska there was some couple of nurseries up north in the Midwest there was nobody down here in the Mid-South especially in the state of Tennessee at the time that really specialized in native plants and some kind of buy him so I said okay well that there's much there's much I knew this whole time in all my years and of course I'm old age now I think it okay this is where I'm supposed to go and somebody did you go to school and training what called back to school at a middle Tennessee State University and met some great professors there to plant soul science Kurt Bloom there B.L.U.M. by the way which I think is great that he has a last name bloom for in present exactly exactly flowering plants but Dr.

Henry Larry Sizeman were all these guys were you know they were my mentors and what was really great was that the universities at the time didn't say what we're specializing in landscaping with native plants so you would either have a botany sought of it and you would learn everything to keying out plants no understanding species and plant communities and then there was the horticultural sought of it and that is well not necessarily natives but all things that you could that are ornamentals and turf grass and woodies and things that you could put in and it's a typical suburbia commercial applications what I wanted to do was put those two together right and have landscaping with native plants you know it's because it's not just growing the native plants and understanding that plants but we want to put them back where they used to be and where they used to be is right in suburbia or it's at the bank office building in parking lot you know and and even on the green roots you know I do these green roots all native green roots well that's still maybe it's not stories up but it's still where they used to be so the idea is just that you have to have landscaping with native plants because you want to install those back in and put those back in and in many cases you've got to put those in and not necessarily favorable conditions as they used to be you know we're talking turf grass and turf grass is not necessarily a native plant so the the micro rise of fungi all the living organisms that were once there when it was a healthy hardwood forest they're not there anymore so you got to cheat a little bit to get some of those especially the within wildflowers and the firms you know so Mike you're you're here today with us because I posed a question of the Tennessee invasive plant council and asked them to arrange to have a speaker for me and you drew the short straw apparently and it's a it tells about that organization and what it's all about just make sure that we do them justice well yeah and then and it's a great you know I could not profit myself to death and be all over the world and in all these different groups and councils and I love these guys because they really are you know dear to my heart in fact we're really there to bring awareness to the public you know whether it's a homeowner or or a government level but to bring awareness about the risk of these invasive non-native species and what they're doing to our natural areas they started back in 1994 it was in March of 1994 and the idea was to to kind of copy what some other states have done well up into that point it was only Florida and California did it so really you can say we were on the cutting edge as well in state of Tennessee and we were you know the third in the nation to do my understanding is the original group or were mainly federal and state government maybe one or two local government people that manage large tracks of land as true and we're dealing with with Kudzu and some of these major invasive prop right and you know that was you know I think that was there was a turning point there where we said okay it's not just a natural areas it's it's all the land and that means okay as urban sprawl happens you know right year-round Nash we see that as urban sprawl happens we start taking and developing some of these natural areas or you know that we're natural areas and we want to do the right thing and as I put the right thing back in and so knowing you know letting people know that there are some not good plants out

there and and and you know Mark let me say right now that that I'll be the first to say even as much as I love my natives that not every non-native species is a bad one exactly and you know so a great myrtle is yet to be found escaping you can go all over Savannah Georgia you can go down into deep south and look at the great stays where it stays where it's where it is from China so you know not every non-native plant is an invasive but once it starts invading and competing with those natural areas and those native plant communities and in many cases out competing some endangered species are out there and Mike I want to I've got this organization that you're working with that you're on the board of has published a list of of species of plants that they consider to be threatening to the natural environment in the state and then they have some that are on the list that they're just watching to see but I want to go through that list with you here in a moment let's talk about some of those that we might see you know in a typical suburban landscape before we do that though I want to to say that is sort of not I guess a coincidence sort of a nice coincidence that just last week we had the weed rungles going on in our Tennessee state parks tell us about what those were I tell you what mark this is exciting and the fact that national is ground zero that this is where this is the beginning of the weed wrangle and that in this year this this the weed wrangle has jumped up to the Mid-Atlantic in Texas and for the first time it's up in the Northwest the Pacific Northwest and it all started here in Nashville so the idea is that okay we want to make all people wear especially the private sector of how important it is to to know what these non-native invasive species are so the Garden Club of America the National Chapter of Garden Club of Nashville the story goes in Casey McAllister can tell you all about it I think she would be great to be on the show but she had the precedent of the National Garden Club of America come in and in a nutshell she said as Casey was a well if you had a project that this chapter was going to take home as a Garden Club was going to take home what would it be and she started seeing all this bush hiding so it would improve it thinks that she was not used to see because she's from another area of the United States that didn't have these invasive non-native species and Casey said pretty much you know what I guess this will be it and then she has Casey has a relative relative that came up with this idea of calling it the weed wrangle love the idea and it's marketed now you'll see that little a sort of the trade market. And it's been great and it's all happens every year around the last few days of the National Weed Awareness Week so you know the idea is that you know the government says okay well let's let's recognize the fact that we do have some problems with this and so that's the National Weed Awareness Week and then the weed wrangle will happen on that in that week. So for instance Radner Lake and Seeders of Lebanon State Parks and I noticed Montgomery Bell had it they had a place for an opportunity for people to come and participate in a weed eradication. That's right it's all validators. Exactly and you know the great things come out of it and I just love the idea of marketing the invasive non-native species in other words we're not promoting them right we're just making people aware of where. So the first one we had a few years ago I attended and I was with Steve Manning with invasive plant control and a lot of

several people in case the McAllister was there at the Nationals Inn and Mark there was gosh it had to be a hundred plus kids out there from high school elementary middle school some college students there on that one day pulling private which is highly invasive you know about the private highly invasive out of you know this creek area and these kids they didn't know what that plant wasn't you know they know it now and at the end of the day so we're thinking okay well what does that mean well they went home and went to their parents and said mom and dad let me tell you what I did today oh and by the way you know what you got in your backyard and our backyard we have private so there's this awareness is that marketing of the in non-native species and the basis and so I just love it the wheat brain which is snowballing it as several people have said it's got legs of its own now and we're looking to go in national with this and I encourage encourage my listeners to just google Tennessee wheat wrinkle and you will see the Tennessee State Park site will come up the state natural areas site will come up the garden club site will come up and you will see what's going on and you know the their their weed eradication programs are not limited to justice won't event they have things going on all year and opportunities for volunteers to participate yeah and that's that's what makes this so successful is the volunteer group right you know without the volunteers and you know even if you don't know what these plants are you know just having someone there that can pull you when you see thousands of little one inch to inch tall private and you can you could make a big impact on that because if they grow up to maturity and produce scene there you go exactly they become the birds eat them and then they spread them everywhere so you know typically what it is it's it's only been morning from nine to 12 and some of groups would go a little bit further and in some groups is at the past couple of events there's also planting native trees as they are basically based on it's fun well if if it's appropriate to have a weed wrangle in the state park it's certainly appropriate to have a weed wrangle in your backyard as you think absolutely let's let's just might let me get this list which is the list for anybody to see if you go to the Tennessee invasive plant council website you can you can see this list it's not a mystery I know these some of these trees I don't know all tree of heaven of course is the is the is the major problem but you don't see that much in neighborhoods well not in neighborhoods but you'll see it right outside the neighborhoods and and the big thing about the alianthus tree of heaven is and what a terrible common name for because it smells I don't know too many plants if you take and scratch the bark and smell it or twig and smell it there's nothing else I'd say skunky but what we see on the tree of heaven is that it can grow a lot in a lot of places that a lot of other would ease whether it's native or not native can't and so you when you see a rock out crop of a road cut or a row road cut you know and you think okay well nothing's gonna grow in that tree of heaven can it come up they'll come up through the crack inside yeah that was the tree that grew and grew exactly it was accurate heaven so if you see this in your yard it needs to be right and you know of course we want to make sure we are idling these species you know because it's a very close look alike to a lot of our native sumax that we have exactly and of course the sumac will have in the fall or early winter will have those dark red

fruiting bodies and but the leaf on a sumac a negative sumac and the leaf on the tree of heaven almost identical so except the smell the smell and that's the thing you've got this figured out just make sure go up there and scratch the bars it almost it up the leaf almost looks like a walnut leaf because it's a multiple right component leaf you're going to use the botanical term I don't you know the compound leaf yeah but yeah make sure you get it's your identifying it properly but these things produce seed like a wild and I think mark what we sit you know it produces seed and it condoses and you will actually go into a grove of those in some natural areas and what I want to say is that about this is that no you don't see them really in herbids of herbias so much you know but as we again start building out from national okay we start to see it and it was already established maybe there was an old homestead figure and they saw all the nature of heaven this is something I want to have in my yard and you know 50 years later it's taken over this wooded area so the idea is that okay you have an opportunity at that time when you're building that new house on the 2030 acres do something about it then okay and then of course put the native species back in where that used to be one of the things that we do see quite often in and around driving driving around Nashville unless there's will be familiar with the mimosatry yeah and I'll tell you mark that wrote my heart because you don't think about it broke your heart well these you know we were born and raised with a lot of these exactly what I was a kid I climbed my favorite tree in our yard in West Nashville with some of most and those powder puff peat blooms smell beautiful you beautiful it was just a great tree and that and that were on a oriental look that it had you know and then we find out that it was invasive and then it's out competing and it's very aggressive and many times in this late spring early summer you're driving down here in the state just look at that pink hue going down through the interstates of this tree that was not there one time and it came from some of these Japanese yeah species so you know this is where you know I say oh boy I just I hate that but hey we've got to do something about so a lot of it so I think what's happening now like in the native plant movement is that what can the native plant growers produce that would be the most would look alike but would that be well there are a lot of the new red buds coming on are going to be okay is they have the safe shape you know and then the other thing we got to think about is that you know we're not just putting these plants out there just for us and our eye candy you know there's that habitat food source you know when we start doing things that plants that are not originally from here it affects the whole food chain and so potting we're talking you can talk about pollinators right now have several shows about you know the risk of the pollinators you know what is some of most of what does that really do for our pollinators it's not much of anything you can have a Hawthorne out there that has great nectar and pollen source you can have the red buds that have great nectar sources and and of course a lot of your native wildflowers asterisk and colonflowers so you know you you can do that this native this non-native tree the mimosa is strictly there is a it's an ornamental one you know we I tell the story too often but we had a mimosa tree in our backyard when we moved into this house in 1983 and I told him and I cut it down and I think last year

was the first year that I had not seen babies of that tree because the seeds laid dormant in the soil for 10 years or here and the little disturbance of the soil and a bit will come and so that the mimosa's one that everyone would be familiar with and needs needs to be taken a sharp look at right and there's a discussion also mark about you know cultivars of some of these trees you know some of these plants and there's a chocolate mimosa out there that's really hot and oh yeah and it's got a dark red leaf and I'm just I'm just cautioning everybody that they may say that it's in a sterile variety a sterile cultivar caution you know and is that I it's built a species and if it fruits then there you go you got the straight mimosa they said that same thing about the bread for a pair of new eggs going there and you are in middle of March and what is the predominant tree blooming out there right now is the powerous calorie out of the bread for a pair who do I sold that in a retail guard's there at one time I sold bread for pairs mark it was the it was the greatest thing since the wheel a perfect fast growing tree that kept that symmetry had a early bloom grape fall color and then yeah the it produced a small little what's supposed to produce small little fruit so and now it does and the birds took them and now it's has invaded so naturally if you see white off into the woods right now and that's the other thing about some of these now they've invasives is that they bloom and flush out at it for the earliest time right right the bread for pairs are just it and not so now they've lost favor sure okay and people are saying well I don't want you know and I think that's been really encouraging is that a lot of homeowners now saying gosh I used to love this tree now I don't like this tree I'm cutting it down and they're saying okay let's put something in his place so there is that awareness okay and when you cut down the bread for a pair unless it's a dead tree you need to treat the stuff you got to treat the snow and that's or have the stuff removed let's talk about what the Bradford pair is it's really as you you'd use the Latin term it's a high-risk calorie and it is a Chinese it's a Asian species right that was collected to see collected by somebody from the USDA right and yeah this guy he produced a beautiful ornamental tree that was non-fruiting it was sterile okay well it crossed so is that bloom happened they crossed with all those fruit-producing pairs and we love our pairs our fruit pairs and it crossed with that and the next thing you know this sterile species is sterile variety became thick with and that's stone fruit something if you go to the store and buy Bradford pair you're buying root stock that's been that is the straight species of the calorie pair right with that's been graded with a clone of that original Bradford supposedly well and there's other and we call Bradford pairs a bit kind of a catch-all mark I mean we call it Bradford pair but there is actually you know that's why I love this I'll say a high-risk kind of aristocrat you know capital and so there's other varieties and and I hear all the arguments the same well some of these other varieties that are not the Bradford pair are you know maybe they're more sterile it's still pyrus calorie in it if you cut that down at the root what comes up is straight species pyrus calorie in with thorns and will produce and will reproduce so and when you do cut it down it's important that it be treated treated within 20 minutes if you can put the glyphosate on that tree kill it out and there

are billions of alternatives to that tree if you want a nice flowering fruit tree serviceberry serviceberry I and you know so here we're talking about you know what what is it that promotes the native plant for replacements for those beautiful non-native ornamental trees that have escaped you start talking birds edible we can eat them we like them the whole sustainability idea and they're beautiful trees so serviceberries are really coming on now and they're the new Bradford pair look at like they're not as weak wood and that's one of the other complaints about the Bradford pyrus and when they're heavy wind I storm that we get here oh yeah they're going to go down and then also there's no fragrance which is a good thing no fragrance to the serviceberry brand I don't like it you know it's not pleasant so there's there's your replacements and then some of these red buds that that we're talking about there's new varieties actually can bloom white so the idea is again is to find those replacements that are more sustainable in the than if it's not a native plant as long as it's not invasive not sure sure and my guess I drive around Nashville especially at this time of the year what you said earlier about the exotic side I use that term the trees that are not native to to this neck of the woods they're the first things to green up and bloom out but during the winter time when things are not green what's green on the landscape is the winter creeper and the and the English ivy that's out there in the in these huge trees and you drive down share and dial or any of these streets in West Nashville and you'll see these huge trees covered with green almost to chuck the tree right what will chuck the tree eventually and it's winter creeper and English I tell us about those well you know it's funny thing is that you know back in the horticulture days you know without those two you didn't you wanted to cover a brick wall you put English ivy up you wanted to have an evergreen ground cover that you didn't have to water feed or anything in a commercial site in an island in a parking lot well it was though if you want it was Colorado it's the winter green to creeper and and you know so now we're finding those not only are they escaping out into the natural areas they're killing trees in people's y'all English ivy go figure you know and I you know all you need to know if you want to know where we could probably possibly be headed here now drop the corridor between Washington DC and Baltimore and you'll see nothing but English ivy in those trees and therefore how many trees that they lost because this English ivy is just brought down so the idea there is that as soon as you can do it cut those at the base careful not to nick the tree that is all on and and get that to kill out and then yes you can paint that that cut in like we're talking about doing them right prepare but this is a very critical thing because we're watching trees coming down massive oak oak that we thought was not going to disappear are coming down because of the English I mean it's almost a rule of thumb if you see vines that green vine growing on a on a tree in Nashville it's not September is already negative chances are it's not native the only vines that you would see native would be the sum of grape vines and cross-fine and cross-fine and some poison ivy but those those things those that stuff is bad but you know it's still many of these I think the big concern now is that they're still available you can still buy them and still buy them and I think that's where you

know I've always said since I've been in this business don't other any time underestimate the power of the buying gardener I mean look at the millions millions and millions of dollars that we spend in spring and summer in garden centers I guess worse than that let me just tell you because we still have landscape architects and landscape designers I'm using air quotes here specking those those things and and we still have a city government who has a job opportunity to review the plans saying that's okay yeah I do I agree with you but I see the turnaround happening I wish it was faster yeah but I see it's happening I've been hired as a consultant with National Metro to work with their new landscape architect which I've known he worked with the federal government with the National Park System and working with him now to give guidance so that you know they can rewrite the books the regulations say okay there are some plans outlawed and that's the work is this you cannot use as you like now just because they're still available doesn't mean we have to use and I think again is that you know we could we could save this at the government level but the back yard garden with the suburban garden that goes to that garden box store garden center has all she he she can do and walk in there and say you're selling an invasive money so you got a e-no shot on the shelf do you know how bad that is and then here's the caveat you know there's what they'll say I'm not coming back in here anymore well that happens a few hundred times and the next you know some the buyer for that that change store makes some changes so I still say that I see the turnaround happening and really it is from the suburbia that that gardener is making some changes more and I think it's really great to see that is that we get at our nursery of new people coming at all the time say I want to do the right thing and they're removing and they're removing bush honey so cool and they're removing right for pair and they're saying okay I want to do this I want to do the right thing and for every reason you know pollinators the birds while life you know whatever the reason they're making those changes you know so let's talk let's talk just a second about those that you just mentioned bush honey cycle and there are kinds of that as I as I'm right it's summer not as bad as others I mean there's and there's actually native bush honey circle when that's the problem with the common name is you know we call honey circle a lot of serious a genus but there are native what we call bush honey circles and they're not long the series or their entire fields but they the you know when you go to a garden center ask for honey circle you got to be clear with that because there's coral honey circle which is divine that's great for hummingbirds which is a native yes and then there is bush honey circle okay now bush honey circle that we know has been all from regular lake to water park all around national that is on a stock row stop sale list what does that mean okay the state Department of Agriculture came up with a list and this is where the TDIPC the invasive plant council came in is that you know to kind of what what plants can we put on there that can be under state regulation and say they are outlawed in the state of Tennessee and but most of all most got over the journey but it's not it's it's it's it's not on that list so it's still able to be sold so all these all these plants and there are some of these that are not necessarily ornamental species but they are not to be grown in the state of Tennessee by a

commercial nursery and they're not to be sold in the state of Tennessee and each state has its list it's not just in the bush honey circle which honey circle is on that list so you're not going to see it at a garden center so you'll see sure harvest calorie at a breath of paper you'll see burning bush which is start to say another one another one you know but and mumbles but but you're not going to see the bush honey circle well we already are established with it and I mean you go to any natural green space around national and chances are there's going to be bush honey circle or private or both you know they've had such success at Radner and eradicating the bush honey circle it's not done by any means but what an impact they've made there you know in the the impact from a from a positive standpoint of what they've done is we now have are seeing the whole of the hillsides of native ephemeral wildflowers that we'd never saw before well one of the things we didn't know about this bush honey circle is that it's got what we call allopathic root system okay so it actually in common terms adding zooms a toxicity that acts like a pre-emergent herbicide so when wildflowers try to reseed themselves and burdening bring in some seed of a native species and it doesn't germinate so that's why you see moral culture in the bush honey circle like it at some of our local parks is that nothing else will grow on there so how you know that one of the things we take great pride in here in the state of Tennessee especially middle Tennessee is the diversity of our flora you know a lot of different species in the state of Tennessee there's 24 species of oaks okay I mean we can can really be proud of that and say we're very diverse so when you see moral culture like that when you see nothing but one species put up a flag and say wait there is nothing's wrong there's something wrong right so if a lot if a humowner wants to remove a private or or a honey-suckle bush best method is just dig it out dig it out pull it up you know that's one of the things we learned at wheat wrangle is that pulling the power of pulling and there's these wheat pullers that we actually will use a metal bar that just works as a pivot and you can pull these up by the root that's kind of a big lever the big lever in right and you can pull those up pull the pressure to you pull them up and that's the best way and you know it starts simple it's aren't easy you know with it you see those seedlings better down there piece of cake pull those up get that when you see a pivot start flowering at least cut the flowers off so it doesn't go to seed because if we can keep the birds from taking those little black olives looking fruit everywhere you know so and then yeah ultimately do away but also with caution when you take everything out and and in some people's yards I've seen around national if they removed every invasive by the species they wouldn't have a plant left you know so pick your battles these strategic prioritizes do a little section out of time put some native plants back in there do another section at a time you okay and then also don't be so naive to think that they won't come back yeah I'm just gonna say monitor as long as there's a lot of seed you mentioned that earlier is that you know sometimes he seek and sit for a long time in the soil well in your neighbors if just to give knowing you were coming to my yard today Mike and you're gonna do a tour of my yard I went around with with with Beth and we we and we spotted two or three little baby-privileged hedges and I was gonna say

you're mark you've got a really clean yard well they you know if your neighbors are growing right they will come up in your yard okay and so so monitor and when you pull up the seed thankfully the privet seed will only last a year or two in the soil same same with with the with the with the burning bush they don't have they don't have the the seeds don't last well but they do produce a lot of seed and and here's one of the the burgers will be the first to tell you is that we really have a genuine concern now about our markets worry burgers because if that's one plant has been a big one it's in the olive family and that's why it's just that the burn of the bridge yeah and so it produces those clusters those those blue black berries you know tiny little berries and sure you'll see birds all over them in the fall okay well you know they're eating eating eating it's fast food and they're eating it because of so much because they can't get enough nutrient value out of so what happens it weights them down so they'd affects their market by their path south so we're saying that okay it's all connected we see it now it's all connected you know if they eat that many berries is affecting the the flight pad okay there's another reason to take that out oh I'm not gonna take it out because it's because it's invasive
oh but now I love my birds and now there's another reason you know and it's it's funny that you mentioned that because there's been a dust up recently on Facebook about the cedar wax wings and the their consumption of the nandina there's there was a large kill down in north Georgia and it was did when this hit the news everybody but oh here we go and you know nandina's that's a very popular suburban residential pretty it's very pretty it's pretty yeah and you know and we love those if we we call it heavily bamboo so they had that that bamboo like stalked to it had it pretty yellow-white flowers the fall color was amazing but clusters of these red berries that were beautiful we're up around Christmas time and so how can you beat that you know so down in north Georgia the nandina is highly invasive it's just taken over large areas so cedar wax wings came in and said oh red berries and went here we go and there was a large bird kill so there was an all-top cedar ceremony tops he's done and that's what they found was all the nandina berries they have some sort of arsenic or something there's a toxicity in a very and in concentration like that with that many berries walked about so you know there's when you start bringing in a species and putting it in an area where it was not has not evolved something's going to change right you know and we saw that in China my daughter was over China we went to a a sacred island out at least trying to see in their invasive species our golden groin there is outlawed you can't bring our native goats is one of ours which is one of our native plants isn't that interesting so multi-floor rug I don't see that much anymore
oh I see I keep removing it all for our property it's like when I see a leaf in the woods now and it has that arching habit chances are it's the multi-floor rug and we already talked about it I mean mark when when things start the not native species start flushing out earlier and so I see it I don't see it in people's yards so much because it is so aggressive but it's a white flowering rose small white flowers cluster white flowers

crazy thorns on it and it color houses and but it does produce small little
red orange red roseyups the birds do like that they'll drop it all so
that was a great pasture rose at one time I mean they would lie in their
pastures with this rose that was from Japan
Japan and they would lie their pastures with that and kept them at a fence
we make a fence yeah wow well we do have native roses all beautiful native
roses they are better for the birds in fact and
you know some of these roseyups for it that care a lot of rose for us and so that's a
pink rose if you see a rose in the woods and its
paint chances are it is native okay we've got several different species that
occurs in around natural they're going to be highly fragrant gold
eye to the center with pink and a great pollinator plant
and then the birds the roseyups that they're about
size of a dime and the birds go crazy over them and they're much better for
the birds because of the vitamin C so
wisteria is something that that has grown quite a bit
around and the landscape architects continue to
speck it for use in ornamental gardens and that's
the sort of thing to grow on arbors and this
tells about that well it's interesting you know you're talking about the west
park that you take the landscape architect from Atlanta you probably won't see
that because they they some of these states down below us
have already outlawed that plant and we're talking about the
wisteria for among the originances that is the Chinese
wisteria and you can go drive down i-75
into into the north of Atlanta in Georgia and
look at those beautiful Georgia ponds we call them
covered in wisteria bringing those trees down so we know how invasive
and aggressive and to structures I would never put one up on
a goat or gazebo but there are native wisterias
and they're much more forgiving they've been here for thousands of years
yes they are still that lavender blue bloom
and it has a fragrance they still can grow up on a
structure but you know a fraction of the size of what these these
not data species and we have one of those and an
arbor in a back cure and grows fairly aggressively
but not like that not like that it's easier right
what else have we have we missed um oh some of some of the
periwinkle in those sorts of ground cushions are they on the list of invasive they
are on the list you'll find you're going to see
a mini species on our list and we've got several different levels some
at a higher level one that has been really
new for us in the past couple of years has been the coconut grass and it's a
Japanese grass and you know again in the garden center and retail
business I sold a blood grass is what the common name was called red baron
and it was absolutely beautifully got up to about 18 inches tall mats

and had that beautiful blood red color in the summer going on into the fall
dropped all our toughest nails well we're fighting it now especially over in
west kind of sea it is coming up and what we're really
noticing is these fear we have with this grass is the
the burn of the fire and so when we start seeing it coming into the soybean
fields and we start seeing it coming around the farms
is that you know it takes a a matchstick and it's done
when it can burn up you know so it has so much fuel in it and again it's
modern culture so that's one I think what
if see the invasive plant council really what we're trying to do now is that okay
we can't do anything to prevent bush hunting cycle
we can't do anything to prevent the tree of heaven
let's now concentrate a little bit more on prevention so when we start to see
a new invasive species or plant that may be
maybe it was just a it's threatening the natural areas and now we're seeing more of it
okay there goes the red light you know and do something about it and
hopefully in the near future there will be a new stock cell stock growth list
right okay and a lot of my friends that are in the
nursery business a little worried about that too much because
some of those may be some of their ornamental plants
you know burning bush I can't imagine too many neighborhoods around
Marshall it doesn't have burning bush right now what if that was all
you couldn't go to a garden center by burning bush
or Nandina or the graphic paper you know so you know that's the thing is that
you know let's it's going to take all of us it's going to take all of us to
to steal the ties or to speak and you know I will tell you I was
I was not at all persuaded that the Nandina was invasive
or the burning bush because I just you know I've been in a lot parks and life
and and and in Tennessee and I had not seen it but I have now yeah
all of a sudden yeah and I don't know whether there's some warming that's
happening these are things that you know like I said the Nandina invasive Nandina
that we've seen now is just south of China new good how bad it is and it's
you know is it coming our way well yeah more likely as things to go out of
brass it's coming up out of Mississippi into West Tennessee so
you know we're seeing some things and if you want to call it you know the warming
that we're we're having it or not but there is some things happening it's
migrating north so Mike you know you and I were talking
before we got on the air here and about the oak tree and
they the studies that have been done about
that it is on that particular species is host for more
and that's been the great thing about oh man I love you don't be Mark I love my
oaks I just well okay so bringing nature home
you're going to look doctor Doug Taliban and he's been here at the
National in fact the Garden Club probably been run time to get talking
he said entomologist he's a butman out of university of Delaware and he put
out this book that I have to say of all the latest literature in past

a couple of decades this has been the one to turn the garden's head better
more and bringing nature home doctor Doug Taliban
and he talks about our landscapes our suburban landscapes
from a bug's point of view won't so wise you know I mean you know and he has some
pretty close-up photos and his book you mean we need to be growing gardens for
the bugs well okay so what he says and I think this is great if you notice you put
your birds see feeders out if you ever seen a blue bird go up to it never
have or you know a scarlet janitor or you know there's you know there's so
many species of birds he's saying around 86% of our indigenous birds are
carnivorous they eat meat well where is that meat unless you're hanging something
up in that bird feeder that is meat you know
there they have to have worms or larva or caterpillars okay
oaks the quirkus genus produces more food in larva
it's the hopes for that uh meaning 560 up to the good it is
and that's all this meat of in the larva stage that these birds have
go to now even the seed eaters the vegetarians like gofans and cardinals
they still feed their young meat yeah they can't feed a baby bird a seed
right so it's it's now and now he did have a list of of several different
plants there and in this order it was the oaks it was the
prunus which is cherries and plums so if you've got a plum tree that can provide
the food as well and then willows you know so if you have a non-nave we can
willow that's still providing a lot of the food
in the meat form so but it's the oaks and like I said earlier you know if we have
24 species of oaks you can go up to Minnesota and count on one hand the species
that occurs up there you know so I think that's what again that's great is that
that's putting more oaks out there that we are in here in green hills where I'm
sitting right now there was probably six to seven species of oaks that occurred
here in fact I was not more than that yeah you had one one of the
oldest chicken pan oaks I've ever seen in my life
we had a beautiful tree that was struck struck by lightning and had to take it
take had to take it down it was a moussey a how many years how old it was a couple
hundred years old a couple hundred years old right yeah so it was it was
encroaching into the front porch yeah so we were we were afraid that once it got
it got damaged that we were gonna have some trouble but
so we can have we can really encourage a lot of wildlife
in our yards particularly birds right um if we're if we're gonna try to find um
a replacement for the burning bush that's a hard one you know what you know
that's what's been fun here lately is to go out to the woods in the fall and
look back you know a couple hundred yards and and when all our leaves have dropped
off the burning bush is still there in the woods
and that distinct red it stands out like no other
we do we do have a native uh you want to miss bush there is a you want of us and
that's what the burning bush is you want of us the latest and
there is a you want of a Samaritan and there it is which is a strawberry bush or
the uh hearts of busting some busting and uh it i have seen some forms of that
actually in the woods that has that burning bush red okay um

and of course the seeder better for the birds the uh and then there's a small
tree that i really love it i has the greatest common name Wahoo
w-a-h-o-o-wahoo and that's your what i'm a zetra perperias and it's a small tree
that also has the hearts of busting type of fruit
okay not the other one and um uh and well that's a thing again you know i think
this is the thing is that you know these are probably plants here that
did occur and then you've got hearts of busting in your backyard and it's some
specimens are beautiful uh probably not too far away from that there might have
been a wahoo growing you're not going to see as many of the wahoo's as you see the
hearts of busting in the woods so we have the
season for hummingbirds coming up
so what do we do for hummingbirds what coral hunting so cool it's hard
you know think about it if we didn't have our sugar water out there in those
feeders what would they be going to shed a thousand years ago
it would be one of the first things blooming but coral honeysel
columbine watch columbine our day of columbine
acolygia uh canadases and put it in your shade garden
with those upside down blooms okay and look at the spurs that stand up out of it
and up in the bow bow of those spurs there's nectar
the honey bird will hover underneath that flower to feed up it
they like the tubular fly love the tubo flowers and if it happens to be an
orange red you know cross find there's some great selections of cross find now
that are really helps the hummingbirds because they'll bloom
longer into the summer when you of course the hummingbirds are around also
well you know whenever the I predict the hummingbirds coming
by when the azaleas bloom oh you get some beautiful because they're following
those azaleas from the north so most of the azaleas that
people see out on the landscape bar Japanese
right they're Asian Korean um azaleas and if you see it
and azalea blooming and it's evergreen chances are it's not native
right okay so in the native world on the North American continent
we have rhododidron well if you took rhododidron
that genus and all the leaves dropped off on it and became deciduous did it
became not a rhododidron anymore he became a native azalea
and the native azaleas are hot I did some work on those
a few years back there are more species of native azaleas in the southeast
below the mace of the x-line that anywhere else in the world
I'm sure there's some other deciduous azaleas out in the world but
this is a concentration and if you don't believe that
just watch the masters the big march now the the masters are those native so
are mostly all native yeah so you see the florida flame azalea you see the
pima azalea you'll see the flanium which is one of the
craziest prettiest native azaleas and what's crazy about this I just mentioned florida
flame is that a lot of these native azaleas are coming up out of the south
that did do great for us here in the winter but I believe you have a florida
flame in your backyard when it's in bloom is it fragrant

oh it is killer just kill you know yeah and I love using it up wasn't for long
now that's the that's a week or two and the idea is to put several different
ones in so you've got some such you know native azaleas according to the species
you can have some blooming up at the end of July go ahead and first of
August and you've had that we have some of the flame
azaleas and so you can have the early ones some of the pima azaleas will start
coming into bloom soon the florida flame will be coming into bloom soon we
were talking mid march right now and then you'll get some of these that go
right on into the sun so you can have a lot of fun and
a lot of show with the native with the native plants oh well you already know
because you you and Beth have had those for them I'm just saying
now speaking of which we're going to line things up here in just a second now
Mike you have each spring at your facility in Fairview
you have a native plant festival it's a native plant festival
back in about 21 we've been in business 21 years and in about 20 years ago
terry and i which she is my partner in all parts of my life
all right she she she's the president of the company and i'm the vice president
and she and i said okay let's have where everybody could just come in and we'll
call it our open house because we were living there
in our office in fact and so we'll just just welcome everybody so
and it was kind of an introduction to not only grow up but what these native
plants were well as you know it just evolved into this native plant festival
and it's just been absolutely fun we do it on the last weekend proper of April
this year will be able 27th and 28th from 8 to 5 you do not have to make an
appointment which you will have to do the rest of the year but
during those two days to show up we have live music we'll have
whether permitting we'll have a meal ride for people who can take
ride down on this wagon down through our halls about halls and back
we're going to have a raw iron sculpture there showing her doing demos we're
going to have a mushroom god there showing how to do mushrooms
and we're going to have on Saturday a bird walk
last year we did a bird walk and they counted 62 of 63 species of birds
so the whole adage of you build if they will come so with all those native plants
you have a big prairie out there we have a prairie we have a working green roof
or one of our you know it's just all things native we have a 27-kilowatt
solar array set up there so it's really and we you know I've got the greatest
crew in the world and they know that that wheat prior that we do everything we
can to spiff up wax wax the mulch we sort of speak in
and but you'll come in and see the native azaleas in bloom you'll see wild flowers
in bloom and one of the big things we love doing on Saturday will have Dr. Dwayne
essence come in and lead a wildfire walk and what's cool is that you walk
down through this two mile walk you see these beautiful flocks in bloom and
all these crazy things going on you come up to the nursery while there they are
you know so we start to realize that trillium seems like trilliums are not that
hard to have and they used to be here marking your backyard and were trilliums
growing here so you know so I we love the Negapi Festival it's it's a one-time

where we get to really kind of brag about what we have there people have a good time you know you've been I've been there many times and we'll planning to go this year um we've had some difficulty with rain over the last couple of years well not few yet too long ago on May 1st 2010 we woke up to the second AFR festival with rain not a problem because when it rains people's a gardener's a crazy market they'll come out of the rain right well about mid-morning still raining around noon it's still raining and we're here reports of flooding down below we're up on the ridge there at Fairview and that was the historic flood of national 2010 was that Saturday right so yeah but we the show will go on exactly and and the 10% off all all our plants that that's that's of course an extra incentive I will tell you though get there early and at eight o'clock they'll be aligned at the gate you know because we are a grower we're growing and you'll see plants that are coming along right next to plants that are now for sale well of course you want to get those plants that are six foot out of a pot or whatever and and so get there early and grab those and so with that said Friday seems to be coming more important at Saturday we mean Friday the availability on plants
well Mike thank you so much for being with us today we it's been a pleasure to talk with you we could go on and on and on oh we could but thank you and thank you to the Tennessee invasive plant council for for sending you to our way and folks check out his website growwile.com and also check out the Tennessee invasive plant council's website thanks guys
that's more.