



Papakeechee Protective Association

second work day of the season will be May 18, 2019, 9:00 am, at the Papakeechee Center. We will assess water sprouts on tree stumps and make seed balls. Seed Balls will be tossed into inaccessible areas primarily the old fish ponds.

by Joyce Arleen Corson, SWGC

Fun Earth Day Festival at WACF, or in your own back yard, and now with Papakeechee Protective Association Syracuse/Wawasee Garden Club teaches area children and adults how to make “seed balls” out of clay, potting soil without peat moss and water. This arrangement provides moisture, nutrition and safety for the seeds to begin a happy life. They may be planted with parent participation in at least 6 hours of full sun and water when soil is dry.

Seed balls are small bundles of seeds, clay, and soil or compost. Although seed balls have been around since ancient times, they were rediscovered in the 1930s by the Guerilla Gardening movement as a way to covertly introduce vegetation by simply tossing the seed balls. They are still used today to re-vegetate areas burned by wildfires. On a small scale, seed balls are fun to make and offer an inexpensive way to sow native plants and flowers.

Instructions:

1. Divide your materials so you have: 5 parts clay (Crayola Clay is good) 1 part compost/potting soil 1 part seeds our choice: (Echinacea, milkweed syriaca common, tuberosia orange or incarnata marsh)
2. Combine the clay and compost. Add a little water if your mixture is dry. The mixture should be moist but not dripping wet; similar to the consistency of cookie dough.
3. Add the seeds to the clay and compost. Thoroughly work the materials together with your hands.
4. Shape the mixture into balls about the size of a golf ball.
5. You can plant the seed balls while they're still moist, or allow them to air dry.
6. Find areas in your yard and surrounding community that could use a little green. Toss or place your new treasures directly onto bare soil. As long as they are watered (either manually or by rain), the clay will break down and the seeds will grow.

Choose Your seed: **Coreopsis** Adaptable to a variety soil conditions and light levels, coreopsis plants are extremely drought tolerant once established. **Coneflower**– A popular plant for butterflies and birds, purple coneflower is also extremely drought tolerant once established. Red Poppies-A symbol of remembrance to honor fallen soldiers, red poppies are easy to grow and provide eye-catching splashes of color.

The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation was formed in 1991 to actively promote, protect and maintain and preserve clean clear water in the Wawasee Area Watershed. Much earlier Lake Papakeechee , in the same watershed , became a protective association, Papakeechee Protective Association was formed in 1928. papakeechee.com

<https://kidsgardening.org/garden-activities-seed-balls/>