



Bloom Guide

July



Lizard's Tail *Saururus cernuus* is a spreading aquatic plant that grows in the shallow water of founder's pond. White flowers are born on a nodding spike. If you look closely, you will notice each individual flower on the spike has no petals, just stamens (male parts) and a pistil (female part). These flowers mature sequentially from the bottom up to the tip. Lizard's tail is a fragrant addition to a wet meadow or pond but can be aggressive.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Sweet Joe-pye Weed *Eutrochium purpureum* is one of several species of *Eutrochium* growing at the Preserve. Seen in many locations throughout including both ponds, the meadow, Marsh Marigold Trail and the Visitor Center garden, the purple domed flowers are a butterfly magnet; offering a landing platform, copious amounts of nectar as well as a butterfly's favorite color, purple. Notice the whorled leaves of this plant are slightly torqued along the stem, ensuring the set above doesn't shade those below.



Culver's Root *Veronicastrum virginicum*. An attractive tall plant, Culver's root's inflorescence is made up of tiny star-shaped flowers born on a spike. The plant has sets of 4-5 whorled leaves which give it an interesting appearance even when not in flower. It is somewhat deer resistant and can offer architectural height to your home landscape. At the Preserve, Culver's root can be found throughout the meadow.



New York Ironweed, *Vernonia noveboracensis*. This tall purple flower is a butterfly and bee magnet, blooming from July into September. Each cluster contains 30-50 lobed disk flowers, offering insect visitors lots of pollen and nectar. The genus name *Vernonia* is a nod to the English botanist, William Vernon who collected this plant in the seventeenth century. New York Ironweed is abundant in the lower part of the meadow.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Shrubby St. John's Wort *Hypericum prolificum*. This small shrub explodes with sunny yellow flowers in summer. The abundant stamens offer copious amounts of pollen, which is the only floral reward, as St. John's wort flowers contain no nectar. It is one of many host plants of the gray hairstreak butterfly. Look for this St. John's wort along President's Drive.



Three-lobed or Thin-leaved Coneflower *Rudbeckia triloba*. This self-seeding summer bloomer offers a colorful display of yellow ray flowers (petals) that are offset by brown disk flowers (center disk). The genus name honors Olof Rudbeck (1630-1702) a Swedish botanist and founder of the Uppsala Botanic Garden in Sweden where Carl Linnaeus was professor of botany. Thin-leaved coneflower can be found throughout the meadow, near the President's Drive pond, as well as in the Visitor Center garden.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*. This beautiful member of the mint family produces lavender to pink two-lipped tubular flowers with large showy bracts. An attractive plant to many butterflies and hummingbirds, wild bergamot needs a pollinator with a long tongue to reach deep into the tube to be rewarded with nectar. Wild bergamot can be found in many places in the meadow, in the Visitor's Center Garden and around the President's Drive pond.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Wild Senna *Senna hebecarpa*. Bright yellow flowers containing brown stamens make this plant a showstopper in July for both humans and insects. Two different kinds of stamens full of pollen almost guarantee a bumblebee will leave sated, ants are rewarded for their protective services with a sweet snack from extrafloral nectaries (small protrusions in the axils of the leaves) and several species of butterflies use wild Senna as their host plant for hungry caterpillars. Wild Senna grows along President's Drive, around the pond and in the lower part of the meadow. Look closely. It's a party on a plant.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Short-toothed Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum muticum*, is a pollinator magnet. Though the flowers are not as showy as some of the other meadow plants, bees, wasps, butterflies, beetles, flies and others are attracted to the multiple greenish white flowers with magenta smudges. Fine hairs growing on the leaves not only give this perennial a dusty look but may help deter deer from eating it. Find mountain mint in the center of the meadow or near the President's Drive pond. Don't forget to stop and just listen to the hum of activity!



Photo by Jean Barrell

Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is a low growing milkweed that upon close inspection is made up of unusual crown-shaped flowers. A wonderful full sun garden plant, butterfly weed will grow in well-drained soil and behaves in a perennial bed. Though its toxins are not as potent as other milkweeds, monarch butterflies will still lay their eggs on it for their caterpillars. Look for splashes of orange throughout the meadow, and you will be treated to a bevy of pollinators on this lovely native plant.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Sweet Pepperbush *Clethra alnifolia* This deciduous shrub blooms in part shade, which makes it a great landscape addition. White, fragrant flowers are born on spikes and will bloom for several weeks. A pollinator magnet, so keep an eye out for a variety of bees, flower flies, beetles, butterflies and moths visiting this versatile plant. Sweet pepperbush can be found along the road at the entrance to Founder's Pond.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Purple Giant Hyssop *Agastache scrophularifolia*. This beautiful member of the mint family has a square stem that gives rise to spikes of purple-pink irregular flowers. The spike known botanically as an inflorescence blooms in whorls so only a few flowers are open at a given time. A popular flower for both butterflies and bees, *Agastache* can be found in the Visitor Center garden next to the driveway.



Allegheny Monkeyflower, *Mimulus ringens*. This member of the snapdragon family has irregular-shaped purple-blue flowers growing in the axils of the stem. It is thought to resemble a monkey's face, hence the common and genus name from Latin *Mimus* for "a mimic". Monkeyflower grows in moist to wet soils and can be found growing along both pond edges.



Prickly Pear Cactus *Opuntia humifusa*. It's strange to see a plant so associated with the arid conditions of the southwest, but the genus *Opuntia* is very well represented across much of the U.S. As with most cacti, the photosynthetic stem called a pad acts as a leaf. The beautiful flowers are born along the top edge and are either pure yellow or have an orange ring around the hundreds of pollen-filled stamens. Bumblebees almost roll around the flower completely covering themselves with pollen. Find an impressive stand of prickly pear on the west side of President's Drive just passed the entrance to Founder's pond.



Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*. Despite the name, swamp milkweed can be found growing in drier conditions and makes a nice addition to a sunny garden since it isn't a bully like its 'common' cousin. As with all the milkweed it is the host plant for the monarch butterfly, but it's also an important nectar source for many butterflies, bees, moths, beetles, true bugs, wasps and flies. Find swamp milkweed throughout the meadow and around both ponds.



Indian Hemp or Dogbane *Apocynum cannabinum*. This plant is often overlooked until you notice the activity that surrounds the creamy-greenish flowers floating above opposite, oval leaves. The metallic green dogbane beetle is just one of many insects that rely on Indian Hemp for food, shelter and space. Fibers from the stem can be used to make a very strong rope or basket. Birds including yellow warblers and orioles often use these fibers to build their nests.



Photo by Marv Anne Borge

Spotted Jewelweed *Impatiens capensis*. This self-seeding annual grows in moist to wet soils along streams, ponds and seeps. Each beautiful orange flower has a deep throat that ends in a hooked nectary. You may notice some flowers remain closed. These are called cleistogamous, meaning 'closed marriage' and will self-pollinate to ensure seeds will be made for the next year. Jewelweed's other name is Touch-me-not which refers to the ripe seed capsules that explode when touched! Jewelweed can be found around both pond's edges, on Marsh Marigold Trail and along the parts of the Pidcock Creek. Come to the Preserve again and let your kids spread the



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*, is perfectly designed to give and receive pollen when visited by its primary pollinator, the ruby-throated hummingbird. Red flowers born on a spike are dichogamous (pronounced di-cog-am-us), meaning male and female reproductive parts develop at different times therefore reducing the risk of self-pollinating. Cardinal flower can be found at both ponds and in the Visitor Center garden.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Virginia Spiderwort *Tradescantia virginiana*. It's impossible to miss the swaths of blue-purple flowers as you enter the Preserve and view the meadow in the morning, but by mid-afternoon, that day's flowers have drooped and are easily overlooked. Fuzzy purple filaments hold bright yellow anthers above the three petaled flower. The flowers form a cluster above the narrow leaves and bloom one or two per day, thus providing weeks of enjoyment.