



## ELOISE BUTLER WILDFLOWER GARDEN AND BIRD SANCTUARY WEEKLY GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Phenology\* notes for the week Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

The weather remains on the cool side, and the leaves on the trees are definitely starting to lose their bright green color. Fall is in the air.

In the woodland, squirrels have been busy cracking open Ohio buckeyes and littering the trails with the spiky shells and dark brown nuts. The occasional fully intact black walnut can also be found. As for flowers, look for zig zag goldenrod, green headed coneflower, and large-leaved aster. In the wetland is a shrub with triple-tipped leaves and bright red berries. This is highbush cranberry, which is actually a viburnum and member of the honeysuckle family, while grocery store cranberries (and blueberries) are vacciniums, and members of the heath family. In bloom in the wetland are spotted jewelweed, pale jewelweed, great lobelia, Canada goldenrod, flat-topped aster, and purple-stemmed aster.

Autumn is a time of irregularly-shaped and indistinguishable flowers in the upland prairie. Regular flowers are radially symmetrical, which means their petals are arranged around the center like the spokes of a wheel. Indistinguishable flowers either have no visible petal-like parts or the parts are so small that it is difficult to make out their number or arrangement. Royal catchfly, wild anise, groundnut, hog peanut, and trailing wild bean are all irregularly-shaped. Blazing stars, white snakeroot, burdock, thistles, Joe Pye weed, and goldenrods all have indistinguishable flower parts. The composite family, which is composed of flowers with a central disk and petals radiating out from it (think daisy), has many plants in bloom. Among the aster are calico, arrow-leaved, heart-leaved, silky, and New England. For sunflowers, look for Jerusalem artichoke, cup plant, thinleaf sunflower, grey headed coneflower, and prairie dock. White snakeroot and rattlesnake root, although both in the composite family, are quite different. White snakeroot has little white button-like flowers, while rattlesnake root has groups of purplish flowers that hang down in a bell-shape. Also in the upland prairie look for chicory, bottle gentian, fireweed, butterfly weed, and clustered bellflower.

Commonly seen birds in the Garden this week were blue jays, goldfinches, ruby throated hummingbirds, northern flickers, catbirds, indigo buntings, chickadees, and white breasted nuthatches. Outside the back gate were wood ducks, rose breasted grosbeaks, song sparrows, common yellowthroats, and a green heron. Hunting through the underbrush were elusive white throated sparrows.

For more information about the past week's events, tour information, or answers to questions about the Garden ask the volunteers and naturalists on duty.

*\*Phenology: The study of periodic biological phenomena such as flowering, breeding and migration especially as related to climate.*