This week’s weather was more dynamic in comparison to last week’s—and much wetter! Several storm systems shook the area, drenching the Garden with heavy rains and high winds. Thankfully, damage in the garden was minimal. Aside from plenty stray branches, the Garden’s only notable casualty was an already-dead ironwood tree that fell at the beginning of the geranium path. The Garden’s thirsty soil cheerfully absorbed the deluge of rain, encouraging a proliferation of fresh blooms.

The wetland wowed with manifold new flowers, including the pointed pair of broadleaf arrowhead and arrowleaf tearthumb. Water horehound also whirled into appearance, while nannyberries ripened near the boardwalk.

The asters are at it again! Red stemmed and white wood aster both bloomed, in the wetland and the woodland respectively. Zig-zag goldenrod also wandered into view in the woodland, whilst the Garden’s final batch of blackberries ripened up along the tree line.

The prairie revealed a new trove of blooms this week, beginning with the delicate and dainty biennial gaura. Plain gentian followed close behind, its tube-like flowers glowing like upturned lamps. The brilliant yellow of Stiff goldenrod also blazed into view, while indian grass’ spikelets rounded out the upland display.

Our feathered friends were out and about this week, with visitors reporting sights of plucky black-capped chickadees, sneering blue jays, purring catbirds, twittering goldfinches, flighty eastern wood peewees, “yank-yanking” nuthatches, hoppin’ robins, and peckish woodpeckers both hairy and pileated.

Of insects there were many in the Garden. An explosion of goldenrod soldier beetles arrived in conjunction with their namesake flower; hundreds of them have been having a grand ol’ time buzzing about the upland. Additionally, the air has been abuzz with the intense sonic ebb and flow of cicadas. Their beautiful and perfectly-tuned hum blankets the bristling auditory landscape, a reminder that while the (pink, sparkly) hourglass of summer may be slipping away, golden days and warm nights still lie ahead.

-Will, Garden Naturalist

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