

# Natural Area Preservation News

Volume 3, Number 2

Summer 1998

*The mission of the Natural Area Preservation Division is to protect, restore and champion the natural areas of Ann Arbor, especially those in the City's park and recreation system.*

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## Native Plant Focus: Sumac (Cashew Family)

by Kathy Sorensen

Sumac is a fairly common native shrub found in south-east Michigan, growing from ten to twenty feet high. There are several different species, but two of the most common in our area are staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*). The two species look similar except for their stems. Staghorn sumac's stems are very hairy and soft. In fact, its name comes from its stems' resemblance to the velvety, soft antlers of deer. Smooth sumac stems are hairless.



smooth sumac

Illustration Credit:  
Ronald A. With from  
*Shrubs of Ontario*

Both species have sharply toothed leaves that are pinnately compound (see illustration above) with 11-13 leaflets per leaf stalk. The leaves are dark green on top and pale green with hairs on the bottom. In the fall, the leaves offer a tremendous display of brilliant red. For this reason, sumac is a truly beautiful plant to have in any landscape. There is one problem, though. If you don't have room for sumac to spread, you may soon be sorry it is in your yard. Sumac grows clonally, meaning it spreads by the roots. You can see this yourself when looking at a clump of sumac. The older (and taller) plants will be in the middle with many smaller shoots at the edges. Sumac needs plenty of sunlight to live but can tolerate a variety of soil and water conditions.

Sumac fruits develop in mid-summer. The berry-like fruit is covered with red hairs and grows in a big cluster. The hair on the fruit contains malic acid, the same acid in apples. This acid gives the fruits a tangy, lemony flavor. In fact, the fruit can be used to make a sort of "lemonade" by gently bruising it and soaking it in cold water. When the water turns pink, drain out the berries and stems, add sugar to taste, and chill. For added flavor use the juice of wild black raspberries—another delicious fruit from our native smorgasbord. If you prefer, you can drink your sumac juice hot, like tea. Hot water can be used to soak the berries, but this leaches out the bitter flavor of tannic acid from the stems and berries. In fact, the bark and leaves of sumac have so much tannin that they were once used for tanning leather. The sumac fruit can be collected for "sumac-ade" from mid-summer to early winter, but collecting them before too many heavy rains will ensure that the malic acid has

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**Parks & Recreation**  
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

*Natural Area Preservation is a Division of the City of Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation.*

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## Coordinator's Corner: "Spring Transition"

This was the name of a wonderful class I had in college during the month of May in northern Wisconsin. For an entire month we got to be outside and watch spring unfold after a long, cold winter in the north country. During those four weeks there was such a dramatic change in the appearance of the landscape as the trees leafed out and the blanket of snow gave way to a carpet of wildflowers.

We at NAP are undergoing an equally dramatic transition during these spring and early summer months. The face of our staff is changing as much as is the face of the forest during these months. After two and one-half years with NAP, Catriona Mortell bid us farewell in March to take a job with the Washtenaw County Soil Erosion office. Our new Outreach Coordinator, Courtney Babb, is making her newsletter debut with this issue. David Mindell started as our Stewardship Coordinator the same time Catriona started in October, 1995. But he, too, left NAP in May of this year to launch out on his own doing native landscaping and ecological restoration consulting in his new business venture, *PlantWise*. Much of what David attended to will be incorporated into the job description of NAP's new permanent staff position which will be funded beginning with the new fiscal year in July. The search to fill that position may take a bit longer, but I hope to have someone in place by late summer. Until then, Greg Vaclavek will be keeping the field operations running smoothly as he moves from his position of Conservation Worker into a new position as Conservation Crew Leader. This is Greg's fourth season with NAP, so he brings a wealth of experience to this position.

The same week that David left, we also lost Amie Ottinger who is going back to school to work on her Ph.D. at UM. Our new Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Maigret, will now be doing her best to answer my many computer questions and keep the office running efficiently.

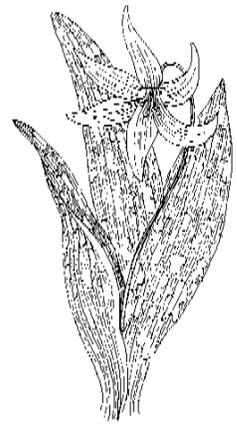
In the field, the changes are equally dramatic. Chris Rickards joined the staff this year to coordinate our butterfly survey, and Dea Armstrong returned to run the breeding bird survey. Dea helped with our first breeding bird survey in 1995, so she already knows her way around the parks. Finally, this June Cara Rockwell will retire after two and one-half years as a Conservation Worker to join the Peace Corps. We are all awaiting word on her final destination, and it will be fun to see from which country her postcards to NAP are being mailed.

It is fun to send former staff members off into far corners of the world, but it is always bitter-sweet when part of our NAP family moves on. This includes volunteers as well as staff. Each member of the family has contributed so much to the NAP program and left his or her permanent, indelible mark somewhere on the organization. Some of those marks are more conspicuous than others—for example, a beautiful display of wildflowers where once there had been only a buckthorn thicket. Others are less obvious, but no less important—such as an innovative organizational system that allows the rest of the NAP program to function more efficiently.

Of course, there are obvious challenges as a result of this transition, but I prefer to focus on the opportunities--opportunities for growth, innovation, and renewal. Transition times are always such exciting times! Just imagine how dull it would be in May and June if Mother Nature decided to hold on to that blanket of snow and keep the temperature below freezing year-round. We'd have no wildflowers, no migrating birds, no butterflies or frogs, and no prescribed burns! I would have had no "Spring Transition" class.

Thank you to the *former* staff and volunteers who have made NAP what it is today. Thank you to the *new* family members who will make us what we will be tomorrow.

--Dave Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Coordinator



trout lily



bloodroot



blue eyed grass



wild geranium

## NAP-penings

Master gardener volunteer Miriam Manary began work at the native plant garden at Furstenberg Park this spring. She has been working very hard to clean up the garden, including removing non-native plants. It's a huge project. If you would be interested in assisting Miriam, please call Courtney at 996-3266.

Ann Birkle, another master gardener volunteer, will be propagating native plants from seed to be used in NAP restoration projects. The seeds were collected by NAP staff and volunteers last year. If you have extra garden space and would like to grow native plants for NAP, please call Courtney at 996-3266.

Susan Carrara and Brian and Mary Glass have been on the lookout for garlic mustard in Bird Hills Park and Cedar Bend Park, respectively. They adopted these parks to inventory and control this invasive, non-native plant. Thank you for helping to preserve our native plants!

NAP's frog, plant, butterfly, and breeding bird surveys are in full gear this season. The data collected in these surveys are used to make important management decisions about our city lands. Thank you to our many survey volunteers!



Hooded Merganser

## Staff Updates

As you read in the Coordinator's Corner, this is a time of tremendous staff changes for NAP. This summer edition of the *Natural Area Preservation News* gives some of us a great opportunity to say "hello" and "good-bye."

### *Hello*

My name is **Courtney Babb**, and I am very excited to be NAP's new Outreach Coordinator. This spring I graduated from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan with a Master's degree in Conservation Biology and Ecosystem Management. Although I've lived in Ann Arbor nearly seven years now, I'm just beginning to discover the treasure of the city's parks and natural areas. It's thrilling to be working for an organization with such an important mission and with so many wonderful staff and volunteers. I look forward to meeting each one of you!

My name is **Jennifer Maigret**, and I am the new Administrative Assistant. My background is in biology. I received my Bachelor's degree from Hartwick College (Oneonta, New York) and my Master's degree from the University of Michigan. You may also see me hanging around Black Pond Woods chasing birds as the breeding bird survey kicks into full swing or in the Project Grow gardens at Zion working on my garden plot. I am excited to be a part of the NAP team and hope to meet you out in the parks!

**Chris Rickards** joins NAP this year to coordinate our Butterfly Survey. Chris was born and raised in England, where he began breeding butterflies at the age of nine. Since then he has set up butterfly houses in Michigan and the Caribbean. He has also done field research in entomology in Turkey, the US, and the UK.

**Dea Armstrong** returns to NAP after a two-year hiatus to again coordinate our Breeding Bird Survey, just as she did with Mike Kielb in 1995. During the interim, Dea has been working on her M.S. degree from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at U of M. Her thesis title is "Variations in Avian Marsh Communities along an Urban Gradient." She's been working in Gallup and Furstenberg Parks and comparing today's breeding bird communities with what existed there 50 years ago!

### *Good-bye*

**Amie Ottinger**, NAP's Administrative Assistant, leaves to pursue her PhD from the School of Natural Resources at U of M. She will be spending the summer in Indianapolis with her fiancé before beginning school this fall.

**David Mindell**--It's been a wonderful 2 ½ years, but I'm sad to say that by the time you read this, I've left NAP. I'd like to report that it's because there's no more buckthorn, honeysuckle, or garlic mustard to remove, but sadly that's not the case. Rather, it's time for me to graze in different knapweed-filled pastures, so to speak. I'm staying in town to found "PlantWise," a business dedicated to native landscape consulting and ecological restoration. (Give me a call! 769-6981) That's right—in truth I can't get enough of this work, but I'll wield my loppers on private grounds. It's been a true delight to work with you all. Rather than say "good-bye," I'll

*continued on page 4*

# Native Species Challenge: Mink (*Mustela vison*)

by Cara Rockwell

Have you seen any small, brown, weasel-like creatures scooting about Ann Arbor lately? It may come as a surprise that our riverside parks are ideal locations for a fairly common, though shy, member of the weasel family—the mink (*Mustela vison*). Although minks do stray onto dry land, if you have seen one, it was probably within close range of water. Their semi-aquatic lifestyle dictates an inherent link to streams, lakes, and ponds in locations all across North America except for the southwestern United States.

In addition to its thick, lustrous, brown fur, the mink can be distinguished from its weasel relatives by its partly webbed feet (which aid its excellent swimming abilities) and comparatively larger size (480-680 mm). However, like all members of the family Mustelidae, it is a voracious carnivore, feeding on crayfish, frogs, small mammals, fish, and some waterfowl.

Intolerant of sharing space with other members of its species, the mink will mark its territory with secretions from enlarged anal glands, giving warning to both male and female minks. This solitary lifestyle extends to life in their underground dens as well, except when females give birth in the spring, usually to a litter of 4 to 9 kits. The dens may be up to 3.5 meters in length and are constructed close to the water's edge.

Unfortunately, because it spends a great deal of time in water, the mink is vulnerable to aquatic pollution and accumulates high levels of heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, and pesticide residues in its tissues. This collision course with the toxic by-products of human civilization could lead to very real threats to viable mink populations, illustrating yet another motive for watershed monitoring.

To catch a glimpse of a mink, check out natural areas along the Huron River at dusk or dawn. Ideal city parks for this activity are Barton, Furstenburg, and Gallup. Look quickly—they are excellent movers whether on land or in water!

*Editors note: In May Dave and Dea got a great look at a mink chasing a Virginia Rail in the cattail marsh at Furstenburg Park!*

## Staff Updates (continued from page 3)

just say that I hope to continue seeing you at various NAP events as a fellow volunteer. Thanks so much for all your insights, efforts, stories, and camaraderie—you have all helped to make my job an exciting and interesting one.

Some of you may remember **Malin Ely** who worked for NAP as our Administrative Assistant in 1996-97 before moving to New Hampshire where her fiancé got a teaching position. Malin just announced that she's been selected as the Director of a brand new Audubon Society environmental center in the "Lakes Region" of New Hampshire! Congratulations, Malin!



Photo credit: James F. Parnell from *Mammals of the Great Lakes Region*

## Sumac (continued from page 1)

not been washed away. The fruit of smooth sumac is more acidic than that of staghorn, but either can be used.

Aside from providing humans with a refreshing summer drink, sumac fruits are also eaten by 97 species of birds. Since the fruit stays on all winter, the fruit is especially important to over-wintering birds such as chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers. Small mammals also eat the fruit in winter, and deer browse the twigs and fruit throughout the year. In addition, with its clustered growing patterns, sumac makes good nesting areas for catbirds and robins.

Other members of the *Rhus* genus include poison sumac (*R. vernix*) and poison ivy (*R. radicans*). Poison ivy has only three leaflets, making it unmistakable from sumac. Poison sumac looks very similar to smooth and staghorn sumac but grows in wet areas, while staghorn and smooth sumac prefer drier sights. All three sumacs are found in open, sunny spots or on the edges of wooded areas. Both poison sumac and poison ivy also have white fruit, not red, so there's no danger of accidentally making poisonous sumac beverages.



smooth sumac fruit  
Photo credit: From the web site of Native American Indian Resources

# Summer 1998 Volunteer Calendar

## - J U N E -

**June 6, Saturday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Cedar Bend Park, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Join us in removing invasive garlic mustard to improve conditions for native plants. Staff will lead a plant walk at the end of the workday. Meet at 10:00 am at the pull off by the perennial garden on Cedar Bend Drive off of Broadway.

**June 6, Saturday**  
**Breeding Bird Walk**  
**Barton Park, 8:00 am**  
 Meet at the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Drive.

**June 10, Wednesday**  
**Breeding Bird Walk**  
**Ann Arbor Landfill Property, 8:00 am**  
 Meet at the Platt Road entrance.

**June 13, Saturday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Black Pond Woods, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Our task will be to revegetate and place erosion control measures around Black Pond. The workday will conclude with a discussion about future management of Black Pond Woods. Meet at 10:00 am in the parking lot near the Project Grow Garden at the Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road.

**June 14, Sunday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Dhu Varren Woods/Foxfire South, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Meet along Omlesaad Street south of Dhu Varren Road.

**June 20, Saturday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Furstenberg Park, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Help us remove invasive plants such as Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, and dames rocket. Bring shovels and gloves if you have them! Meet at 10:00 am near the bathrooms at Furstenberg Park on Fuller Road.

**June 20, Saturday**  
**Breeding Bird Walk**  
**Scarlett-Mitchell Park, 8:00 am**  
 Meet at the Scarlett-Mitchell School parking lot.

**June 20, Saturday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Brown Park, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
 Meet at the parking lot on the south side of Packard, just east of Cobblestone Farm.

Please note that butterfly and breeding bird walks are weather dependent. Butterfly walks will be cancelled on rainy, heavily overcast, and very windy days. Breeding bird walks will be cancelled during heavy rains but will take place in drizzly weather.

**June 24, Wednesday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Barton Park, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**  
 The task will be to remove invasive garlic mustard to improve conditions for native plants. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Drive.

**June 26, Friday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Foster Area of Barton Park, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
 Meet at the first pull off west of Warrington on Huron River Drive.

**June 30, Tuesday**  
**Breeding Bird Walk**  
**Dolph Park, 7:00 am**  
 Meet at the parking lot on Wagner Road.

## - J U L Y -

**\*July 4, Saturday (tentative date)**  
**Fourth of July Butterfly Count**  
 Contact NAP at 996-3266 for more information.

**July 12, Sunday**  
**Huron River Day**  
**Gallup Park, all day**  
 Join the plant id. walk at 10:00 am, a nature walk at noon, and a butterfly walk at 2:00 pm. All walks are led by NAP staff. Meet near the Gallup/Furstenberg bridge. Also, visit us at the Exhibit Tent from noon to 4:00 pm.

**July 15, Wednesday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Bandemer Park, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
 The task will be controlling purple loosestrife, an invasive wetland plant. Meet at 6:00 pm at the main parking area off Barton Drive.

**July 18, Saturday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Kuebler Langford Park, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
 Meet along Beechwood Street just north of M-14.

**July 23, Thursday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Folkstone Park, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
 Help remove invasive shrubs. Bring gloves if you have them! Meet at 6:00 pm at the north end of Folkstone Drive.

**July 26, Sunday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Gallup Park, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Meet at the first main parking lot in Gallup Park off of Fuller Road.

## - A U G U S T -

**August 2, Sunday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Greenview Park/Pioneer High School**  
**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Meet at the Pioneer High School parking lot on Seventh Street.

**August 5, Wednesday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Miller Park, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
 Help remove invasive shrubs. Bring gloves if you have them! Meet at 6:00 pm at the Arborview entrance to the park.

**August 14, Friday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Marshall Park, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
 Meet at the main parking lot on Dixboro Road at Plymouth Road.

**August 18, Tuesday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Black Pond Woods, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
 Come help collect woodland seeds or remove invasive plants. Meet at 6:00 pm in the parking lot near the Project Grow Garden at the Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road.

**August 22, Saturday**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Bandemer Park, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
 Meet at the main parking lot which is over the bridge and under M-14 from Whitmore Lake Road.

## - S E P T E M B E R -

**September 9, Wednesday**  
**Volunteer Stewardship Workday**  
**Greenview Park, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**  
 Our task will be to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. Meet at the park entrance on Greenview Drive.

## - A L L - S U M M E R -

**June-August**  
**Volunteer Stewardship and Monitoring**

**Purple Loosestrife**  
 Purple loosestrife can quickly invade wetland areas. We need volunteers to patrol areas for purple loosestrife and help control this invasive, non-native plant. Please call 996-3266 for more information.

**Photo monitoring**  
 We are looking for volunteers to help with photo monitoring of restoration projects in our city parks and natural areas. No photography experience is needed! Please call 996-3266 for more information.

# A Smokin' Spring

by David Mindell



"February, where art thou?" we wondered as March came and went with only a single respectable burn and another poor excuse for one. While the earlier month passed by with many sunny 50 degree days and forecasts for a warm, dry spring, March was not, by any standard, a nice month in which to use a drip torch.

Warm, wet weather meant that spring flowers emerged quickly in our park woodlands. By April 16, we had completed burns at only four sites (in contrast to eleven at the same time last spring), and just about all the woods on our original list were too green with spring wildflowers to burn. The season seemed like it would be over before it had started. Staff moped about, drooping like scorched buckthorn.

Then, on April 17, the sun shone again. Like moths at a candle, the NAP burn crew darted about town in an eleven day frenzy of fire. When the smoke cleared, we had completed thirteen more burns in eleven parks and eaten many, many cookies. In total, we burned across 115 acres of park land and adjacent property. While we ended the season short on our woodland burns, we managed to use fire effectively in many savanna and prairie areas.

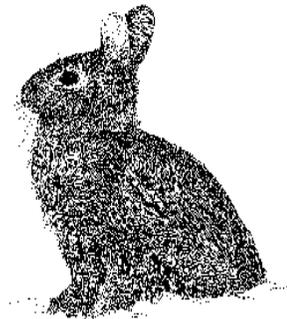
Highlights included a very intense burn between the wood chip path and railroad tracks at Barton Park and first time burns at Bird Hills (the small area north of Bird Road) and Oakwoods Parks. The Bird Hills site was a combination of a savanna remnant, where small patches of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and coffee plant (*Triosteum perfoliatum*) grow beneath northern pin oaks (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) and an old homestead struggles to revert back from forsythia to thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*). Oakwoods is a site with a wonderful oak and hickory overstory, yet poor oak regeneration and little ground cover. By burning here, we hope to increase the light levels to allow oaks and woodland wildflowers to thrive. Our burn here was very complete. Since the site had not been burned by NAP in the past, there was a thick carpet of leaf litter, and the dry conditions allowed the fire to sweep through the woods with a good deal of intensity.

Other sites we burned were the prairie and planted savanna at Furstenberg, the central portion of Black Pond Woods; much of Cedar Bend; the southeast portion of Marshall; the wet meadows at Bandemer and Foster; the woods at Foster; the upland portion along the Gallup bike path and a botanically rich site on private property just across the railroad tracks there; Ruthven; the savanna area of Huron Parkway; and old prairie remnants at Scarlett-Mitchell, Swift Run Drain, and Brown Parks. The season was possible only with the dedicated help of many volunteers who participated in all aspects of our burn crew. Thanks so much to Barbara Powell, Jan Wolter, Stefan Szumko, Garrett Lussenden, Kate Wright, Manfred Schmidt, Steve Weaver, Steve Bean, Liz Moray, Paul McKelvey, Mike Appel, Kim Waldo, Faye Stoner, Ted Hejka, Cynthia Radcliffe, Jason Stover, and Jim Sorensen.

Be sure to visit these spots to see how they change seasonally and over the years. Let us know of your observations, insights, and concerns. Learn more about fire—it's an incredible process in its ability to sculpt the landscape.

## New NAP Inventory

Ever wonder about the effects of NAP's prescribed burn program on small mammals? Ever wanted to get involved in NAP's inventory efforts but didn't think you could sort out the various species of plants, butterflies, birds, or frogs? If so, you may be interested in volunteering to help with the first ever NAP small mammal survey! Sally Petrella, a UM grad student, will be doing a pilot project this summer to begin looking at how small mammals, including the "special concern" woodland vole, are responding to NAP's management activities (see Amie's article on this species in the Spring 1998 *NAP News*). Sally plans to live trap and then release these critters back where they came from. Contact Courtney at 996-3266 for more information.



# Gardening for Butterflies

by Kathy Sorensen

Want to attract some wildlife to your yard and landscape with native plants? How about a butterfly garden? Butterflies are creatures of the sun and warmth, perfect icons of summer. To have your very own butterfly garden, basically you will need a sunny prairie with a few special additions for our winged wonders.

**Hot-spots:** Since butterflies only move about when warm, they could use a little help getting going on cool summer mornings. You can help by placing things like rocks or bricks in your garden. These will warm up quickly in the sun, and the butterflies will go there to warm up.

**Shelter:** You will also need to provide some shelter from the elements, so plant shrubs and trees nearby (select species that are good food sources).

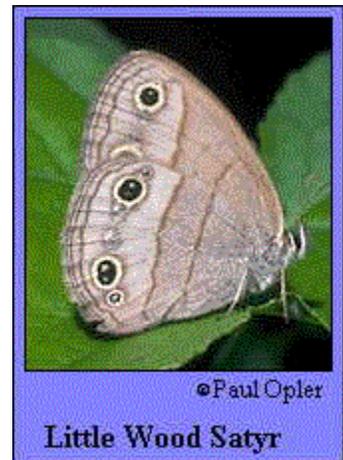
**Water:** Butterflies need watering holes such as puddles or something as simple as a bucket of sand and water buried in the ground. This is especially important for the males during mating time—it is thought they need the extra salt.

**People-food Garden:** If you have a “people food” garden nearby, you might attract a few butterflies by having plenty of representatives of the cabbage family (cabbage, turnips, broccoli, kale), carrot family (carrots, dill, parsley), and legumes (peas, beans).

**Display:** Grouping the same flowers in a cluster will form a dramatic display likely to attract the casually wandering butterfly.

**Continuous Blooming:** Have a variety of flowering plants so that there will be something in bloom all summer long.

**Food:** Most butterflies eat nectar, so you’ll need plenty of flowers. Some butterflies, however, eat sap, rotting fruit, or even dung (not everything about butterflies is beautiful). Don’t forget the caterpillars (larvae). If you really want the butterflies to stick around you’ll have to convince them it’s a good spot for egg laying.



If you are looking to attract a specific species you will have to research its dietary requirements. For example, if you want to have some spicebush swallowtails visit, you will need to plant some spicebush or sassafras for the larvae and joe-pye weed, jewelweed, and golden alexander for the adults. If it is monarchs you are looking for, be sure to plant milkweed.

One way to decide what plants to use in the garden is to know what butterflies are in your area. Thanks to our many volunteers, NAP has collected information on 74 butterfly species occurring in Ann Arbor Parks, so we have a good idea of what species to target for a butterfly garden in this area.

There are a few species that count for well over half of the butterfly observations in Ann Arbor Parks, so there is a good chance of attracting the following four butterflies if you plant what they like. The **clouded sulphur** prefers members of the legume family, so if you don’t have a “people-food” garden nearby, plant some showy tick trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*) or round-headed bush clover (*Lespedeza capitata*). The **pearl crescent** larvae and adults both eat asters. **Little wood satyrs** and **wood nymphs** need grasses for the larvae to eat. The wood nymph adult eats tree sap and rotting fruit.



There are some plants you can start with that satisfy many butterflies. You will need plenty of flowers for the adults; grasses for some of the larvae; and shrubs or trees for protection, egg laying, and sap. You might also want to have a little rotting fruit available for the adults. It’s up to you (and maybe your neighbors) if you really want to attract the butterflies who eat dung. Choose several plants from the lists below that are suitable for your yard, and you will have a great start on attracting butterflies as they flutter by.

*continued on page 8*

## Butterfly Garden Plants (continued from page 7)

### Shrubs

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)\*  
New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)  
Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*)  
Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)\*  
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)\*

### Trees

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
Oaks (*Quercus sp.*)  
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)  
Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)  
Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)\*  
Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)\*  
Willows (*Salix sp.*)\*

### Grasses

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)  
Bottlebrush Grass (*Hystrix patula*)  
Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)  
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

\*Prefer moist to wet soil

Note—many of the flowers that are nectar sources for adults are also food plants for caterpillars

### Flowers

Spring to Early Summer  
Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)  
Hairy Beard's Tongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*)  
Violets, Long Spurred (*Viola rostrata*)  
Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

Late summer to fall

Smooth Aster (*Aster laevis*)  
New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)  
Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)  
Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)

Summer

Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
Blazing Star, Rough (*Liatris aspera*)  
Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)\*  
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)\*  
Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)  
Yellow Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)  
Ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*)\*  
Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)\*  
Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)\*



**Natural Area Preservation**  
City of Ann Arbor  
Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
1831 Traver Rd  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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