

Conococheague Audubon Naturally August 2010

Special Edition by Valerie Barnes

This is a special edition of Conococheague Audubon's *Naturally Newsletter*. The entire issue is focused on native plants and the Audubon Native Plant Garden at Norlo Park.

We thank

- Audubon Pennsylvania for the Collaborative Grant that supported this publication and the Open House at Norlo Park;
- Our garden committee members who plan, plant, and care for the garden;
- Volunteers who helped to prepare the ground, plant the garden, and build the kiosk;
- Volunteers who help to care for the garden;
- Guilford Township; and
- Contributors who gave financial or material support to establish the garden (Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, Valley Quarries, Inc., Wagoner's Memorials, Walmart Store 1850).

Native Plant Garden Open House by Valerie Barnes

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 4 between 9:00 and noon**. Come to our FREE Open House at the Native Plant Garden at Norlo Park

We welcome all Audubon members, supporters, local government, business leaders, gardeners, and visitors to come:

- Tour the garden
- Learn about native plants
- Pick up a free native plant while they last!
- Enjoy light refreshments

We hope you are inspired to go native!

Norlo Park is located in Guilford Township, Franklin County, at 3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222. The garden is just below the farmhouse, near the Community Center.

Contact Ruth Barton, 352-7349, for information about the Open House.

What is a "Native Plant"? by Valerie Barnes

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources defines a native plant as one that was in the state before Europeans settled here. Audubon's Audubon At Home website adds the condition that a native plant should grow without direct or indirect human intervention. Native plants are adapted to the region.

Native plants include ferns, clubmosses, grasses, sedges, rushes, flowering perennials, annuals, biennials, trees, shrubs, and vines. There are more than 2,100 native plant species in Pennsylvania.

Go Native by Debby Heishman

What's the big deal about planting native? We actually help ourselves when we concentrate our home landscapes on natives – not just plants that grow in Pennsylvania or in the northeast, but plants that thrive in the types of soil where they will be planted.

Think first of the high demands of non-native plants unsuited to our ecology. The Audubon At Home website offers a few:

- High maintenance (pruning, shearing, etc)
- The potential to become invasive (take over and kill off other plants)
- Greater dependence on water (incomparable growing needs)
- Little or no wildlife value (unfamiliar to wildlife)

On the other hand, native plants have evolved alongside native animals, insects and other native plants in a co-supportive ecosystem. Native plant seeds germinate naturally in areas that provide the right amount of moisture, light and soil conditions.

Consider how native plants in your landscape can contribute to your time, money and enjoyment:

- Decrease water dependence (less watering)
- Reduce the need for fertilizer and pest control
- Abundant wildlife value (a familiar source of food, shelter or nesting material).

Planning a meadow? Take a drive: What sun-loving flowers do you see in open spaces?

A seep at the edge of your property? Filling in a shady spot? Do your homework.

Planting native varieties does not mean “shoplifting” from a state forest or a neighbor’s property. Not only does taking plants from the wild deplete populations, but wild-collected plants often do not survive transplanting. It’s a lose-lose situation.

You’ll find a variety of native species in many area nurseries and the Internet can help you find native-only nurseries.

Be conscious, though, of what you’re looking for. Assorted columbine cultivars are sold in nurseries, but only the plant *Aquilegia canadensis* – a red and yellow columbine – is native to Pennsylvania. Knowing scientific names is a big advantage. Ask the staff to help you.

Where do you start? DCNR offers a free brochure, “Landscaping with Native Plants in Pennsylvania” that lists flowers, ferns, grasses, shrubs and trees. Included are the scientific name, habitat, bloom color and season, soil preference and attributes of each plant. There’s also a short list of websites, books and organizations offering more information. For a copy, call 787-3444 or visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry>.

Sources:

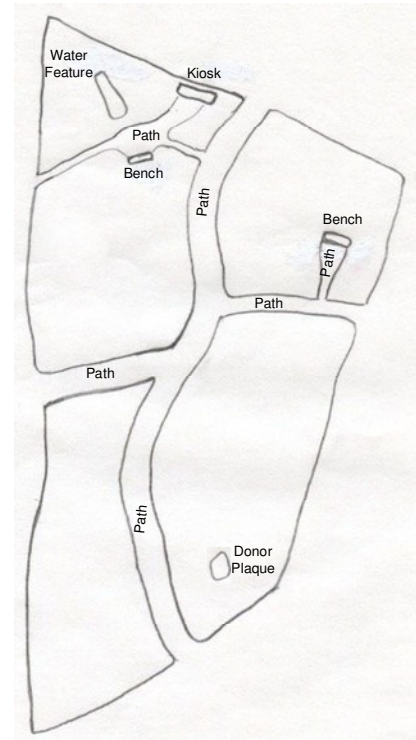
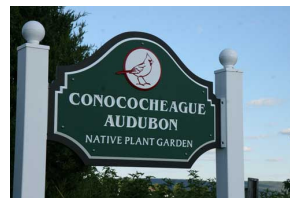
- Audubon At Home (http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home)
- DCNR “Landscaping with Native Plants in Pennsylvania”

Conococheague Audubon Native Plant Garden at Norlo Park

~ 9,000 square feet

More than 50 species of native plants

3050 Lincoln Way
East, Fayetteville, PA



Plants in the Norlo Park Garden by Corinne Anderson

All of the species Conococheague Audubon planted in the garden at Norlo Park are native to Pennsylvania. Weeds growing in the garden may be invasive species; we try to control them by mulching and pulling them out.

We’ve installed a variety of sun-tolerant perennials, shrubs, and trees in the Conococheague Audubon Native Plant Garden.

Herbaceous Perennials

<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i>	Thread-leaf Blue Star
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem (grass)
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine
<i>Asclepius tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed
<i>Asclepius purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	Blue Wood Aster
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i> ‘Lady in Black’	Calico Aster
<i>Aster laevis</i> ‘Bluebird’	Select Smooth Aster
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i> ‘Raydon’s Favorite’	
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i> ‘October Skies’	Aromatic Aster
(for other Asters see also: <i>Eurybia</i> and <i>Symphyotrichum</i>)	
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> (grass)	Northern Sea Oats
<i>Coreopsis auriculata</i> ‘Nana’	Mouse-eared Coreopsis
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> ‘Moonbeam’	Whorled Tickseed

<i>Echinacea 'Sundown'</i>	Orange Coneflower
<i>Echinacea purpurea 'Ruby Star'</i>	Purple Coneflower
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common Boneset
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White Wood Aster
<i>Helianthus x multiflorus 'Capenoch Star'</i>	Many-flowered Sunflower
<i>Liatris spicata L. var. spicata</i>	Spike Gayfeather
<i>Monarda didyma 'Jacob Cline'</i>	Scarlet Bee Balm
<i>Monarda fistulosa L.</i>	Wild Bergamot
<i>Monarda x 'Raspberry Wine'</i>	Bee Balm
<i>Oenothera fruticosa 'Fireworks'</i>	Sun Drops
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue
<i>Phlox divaricata 'London Grove Blue'</i>	Wild Blue Phlox
<i>Phlox paniculata 'Robert Poore'</i>	Fall Phlox
<i>Phlox stolonifera 'Sherwood Purple'</i>	Creeping Phlox
<i>Phlox stolonifera 'Blue Ridge'</i>	Creeping Phlox
<i>Physostegia 'Miss Manners'</i>	Obedient Plant
<i>Scutellaria incana</i>	Hyssop Skullcap
<i>Sedum ternatum 'Larinem Park'</i>	Sedum
<i>Rudbeckia hirta L. var. hirta</i>	Blackeyed Susan
<i>Solidago 'Little Lemon'</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass (grass)
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium 'Lucerne'</i>	Blue-eyed Grass (not a true grass)
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium L. Nesom</i>	Common Blue Wood Aster
<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster
<i>Tradescantia ohionensis 'Mrs. Loewer'</i>	Spiderwort
<i>Vernonia glauca</i>	Upland Ironweed

Shrubs

<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea
<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>	Dwarf Hackberry
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American Witch Hazel
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak Leaf Hydrangea
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry
<i>Viburnum acerfolium</i>	Maple Leaf Viburnum
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum

Trees

<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe Tree
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak

How The Garden Began by Ruth Ann Smith

Guilford Township offered Conococheague Audubon a room in the farmhouse of Norlo Park to use as our office. As the discussions of the facility progressed, several members talked about plantings they had in mind for around the farmhouse and stressed the desire to use native plants identified in the book, *Native Plants in Creation of Backyard, Schoolyard and Park Habitat Areas*, published by Audubon Pennsylvania as a guideline and educational tool.

In 2005, the township created a garden plot and a path along the plot. They installed electricity and water in the area, planning for a future water feature. Our garden committee obtained shrubs through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. And slowly the garden began to develop.

Boy Scout troop 340 assisted with clearing the mulch away from the areas for the tree and shrub holes and Guilford Township augured the holes. The scouts assisted with tree and shrub planting, as well as picking up rocks and large pieces of mulch.

As work progressed, grass paths were created through the garden and large boulders unearthed from construction at the park were moved to the garden. Next a purple martin house and bluebird boxes were donated and installed by members.

Conococheague Audubon received a grant from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation to help defray the costs of developing the garden. Walmart provided a grant to cover installation of the water feature. Valley Quarries contributed stones and the labor and equipment to place them. Wagoner's Memorials reduced the price of the donor plaque.

Volunteers watered, weeded, roto-tilled and did other ongoing maintenance tasks. A volunteer built the kiosk which is used to document information about the native plant garden and Conococheague Audubon. We are pleased to have watched the garden develop to a point where birds nest there and people stop to enjoy the garden.

Attracting Butterflies to Your Yard Using Native Plants by Alex Lamoreaux and Anna Fasoli

There are a variety of native butterflies of Pennsylvania that can be easily attracted to your backyard garden by planting the correct host plant species. With a total of 146 butterflies possible in the state, the thought of attracting and identifying them may be overwhelming. A good place to start is butterfliesandmoths.org, where there is a "map search" by state and county that will lead you to a list of native butterflies in your area. Here, you can select a variety of target butterflies, and learn which plants each butterfly species prefers. Having this knowledge can help you purchase the correct host plants for your garden.

Many butterflies are very picky eaters. For instance, the Pipevine Swallowtail can only survive on pipevines as a caterpillar. However, other species, like the Red-spotted Purple have a wide variety of host plants. It is important to try and provide a wide array of host plant species in order to preserve the butterfly diversity we have here in Pennsylvania.

Ideally, a butterfly friendly garden contains nectar plants for adult butterflies and host plants for caterpillars. Caterpillars of all butterflies have a "host" plant, which is what the caterpillar requires in its growing stage. Adult butterflies have more general needs, and any garden with a variety of native blooming flowers through spring, summer and early fall will typically suffice. Plants such as asters, joe-pye weed, milkweed, and Purple Coneflower are good for attracting a wide variety of butterfly species. Try to mimic nature and plant a wide variety of plant species that are different heights, scents, and colors. This will help to make your garden more appealing not only to butterflies but to you also!

In addition to native plant gardens, butterflies are attracted to overgrown and weedy areas, such as unmowed lawns and meadows. They will also use wet, muddy areas to soak up water and nutrients, which would be a good feature to add to your butterfly oasis. In general a butterfly garden should be planted in a sunny area sheltered from the wind. Finally, it is important to use minimal, or better yet, no pesticides, to keep your garden healthy and build its immunity naturally as well as not have any

negative effects on the local native insect populations.

To Volunteer

The Garden Committee welcomes and appreciates help with the maintenance of the garden at Norlo Park. Contact Cindy Fair (762-3350) for information and to volunteer.

Conococheague Audubon Website

<http://home.comcast.net/~audubonc/>

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