

GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

April 14, 2023 **What's In Bloom**



Common Name: Golden Alexanders

Botanical Name: *Zizia aurea*

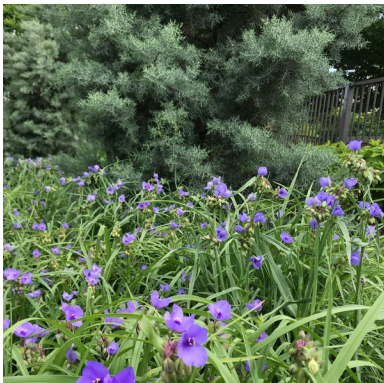
This native spring blooming perennial is a relative of the carrot and is a host plant for the black swallowtail butterfly. It is most often found in habitats such as moist black soil prairies, openings in moist to mesic woodlands, savannas, thickets, limestone glades and bluffs, power line clearings in woodland areas, abandoned fields, and wet meadows. Golden Alexanders is known for its ability to survive dry summers even though it prefers wet habitats.



Common Name: Blue Star Flower

Botanical Name: *Amsonia tabernaemontana*

This plant is a 1-3 ft., erect-stemmed perennial forming large, multi-stemmed clumps. The smooth stems are crowded with narrow, oval leaves which turn golden-yellow in the fall. Blue tubular flowers, the rim flaring to a star-shape, appear in loosely congested clusters at the tips of the stems. The 'Blue Ice' cultivar is planted in the Water Wise Garden east of the Prairie Garden. It is a much more compact and densely growing variety reaching 15 inches tall, and it blooms much more vigorously.



Common Name: Spiderwort

Botanical Name: *Tradescantia sp.*

Prairie spiderwort is a grass-like perennial growing 2 feet tall. It will spread by underground rhizomes and can be used as a groundcover, but it won't get out of control. The three-petaled flowers are light purple and accented by bright yellow stamens. Each flower lasts less than a day but several are produced each day during its blooming season in late spring.



Common Name: Creeping Spurge

Botanical Name: *Euphorbia myrsinites*

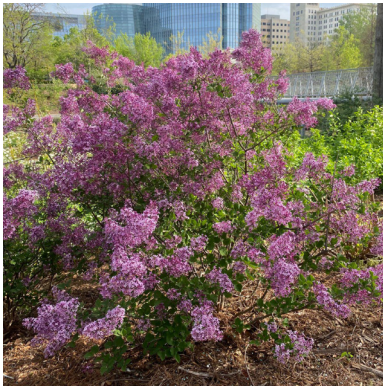
Creeping spurge, or donkeytail spurge, is a dependable evergreen perennial with multiple seasons of interest. Its fleshy, succulent leaves spiral around the stem and remain blue-green all year long. Yellow-green flowers appear in mid spring and fade away by summer. This spurge stays under eight inches in height and spreads one foot. Tolerant of heat, drought and bad soil, it makes an excellent rock garden plant.



Common Name: Fleece Flower

Botanical Name: *Persicaria microcephala* 'Red Dragon'

The beautiful foliage is the most notable feature on this perennial. Its burgundy-green leaves have a bold central splash of purple bordered by a silver chevron marking. The new leaves in the spring have even for vibrant color. 'Red Dragon' is a vigorous grower, but not invasive like its relatives. Flowers appear in summer and are an inconspicuous white. Fleece flower performs well in both sun and shady. Mature plants will be around two or three feet wide.



Common Name: Reblooming Lilac

Botanical Name: *Syringa x Bloomerang*© Dark Purple

The reblooming lilac is a very exciting cultivar. It blooms heavily in the spring and fills the landscape with its iconic sweet scent. After a short pause it will continue to bloom midsummer through the autumn. Bloomerang© is a little more compact and stays under 5 feet. Additionally it has disease resistance that old lilacs lack.



Common Name: Chokeberry

Botanical Name: *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima'

This red chokeberry cultivar is a slow-growing deciduous shrub that is perhaps most noted for its attractive glossy red berries and red fall foliage color. Clusters of white to pinkish, 5-petaled flowers appear in spring. Flowers are followed by abundant glossy red fruits which appear in dense clusters along the branches. Fruits ripen in late summer and persist throughout fall and well into winter. The berries are attractive to wildlife and also edible after soften by freezing temps. It has glossy, dark green leaves that are grayish-green beneath.



Common Name: Wild Geranium

Botanical Name: *Geranium maculatum*

Wild geranium is native to woodlands of the eastern United States. Violet saucer-shaped flowers bloom atop beds of dark, toothed palmate leaves in spring. Geranium, Latin for crane, is so named because the seed capsule resembles a crane's bill. It is an excellent native for woodland and shade gardens.



Common Name: Solomon's seal

Botanical Name: *Polygonatum odoratum* var. *pluriflorum* 'Vareigatum'

Variegated Solomon's seal is a dependable plant for any shade garden. It grows best in moist soil and part to full shade, and will offer a dynamic display as it slowly spreads. The new stems have a maroon blushing as they emerge and the tough green and white leaves persist in to autumn when they turn an attractive yellow color. Tiny white-green tubular flowers dangle from the arching stems in spring and have a sweet smell.



Common Name: Bleeding Heart

Botanical Name: *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* 'Gold Heart'

Bleeding heart enchants woodland visitors in spring with its pink heart-shaped flowers that hang delicately off its long arching stems. The delicate looking foliage on this cultivar is a bright gold color. Plants may die back to the ground in summer but will return again in spring. Bleeding heart is an excellent choice for woodland shade gardens.



Common Name: Red Twig Dogwood

Botanical Name: *Cornus sericea* 'Garden Glow'

Red twig dogwoods should not be confused with tree-type dogwoods that have large showy flowers; they are a shrub in the same genus and offer several seasons of interest in the garden. Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in late spring. The flowers give way to clusters of white berries in summer. This fruit is quite attractive to birds and other wildlife and doesn't stay on the shrub long. The most striking feature of this shrub is its bright red stems in the winter. The 'Garden Glow' variety has bright green, nearly yellow leaves, which contrast strikingly with its red stems.



Common Name: Catmint

Botanical Name: *Nepeta 'Cats Pajamas'*

The genus Nepeata over 250 species native to Europe, Asia, and Africa. Most catmints are aromatic with whirls of blue, lavender or white flowers and are drought tolerant. 'Cats Pajamas' is a compact cultivar which features lavender-blue flowers and boasts an earlier bloom time than most other varieties. It flowers from late spring to early summer. This plant is attractive for butterflies and other pollinators.



Common Name: Bridalwreath Spirea

Botanical Name: *Spiraea x vanhouttei 'Renaissance'*

Bridalwreath spirea is known for its graceful arching branches that are covered in pure white flowers each spring. The slender arching stems can easily be bent to form a wreath of flowers, giving this species its name. The small dark green leaves can develop an attractive red-yellow fall color. This shrub will grow to a height and width of about 8 feet and is definitely a show-stopper in full bloom.

Notes:

Myriad Guided Tours are at 10AM, last Saturday of the month. Please check our web calendar or social media for additional tour dates and times.