

THE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN AT TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM

Provided by the
South Shore Audubon Society



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This project was funded by a grant from the National Audubon Society

More information on native plants may be found at: www.audubon.org/native-plants

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Native plants in our yards and public spaces restore vital habitat for birds in our communities. Native plants also help birds' survival in the face of climate change.

Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.

Though almost all plants require some watering after planting, native plants have adapted to thrive in their regional landscapes, without the need for the continuous irrigation and/or fertilization that many non-native species require. However, when planting, be sure to space plants as recommended on accompanying instructions.

Many of the best native plants for birds are also important plants for insect pollinators—both as sources of nectar and as “host” plants. Some native butterflies lay their eggs only on particular host plants. In turn, many of these insects provide nutrition that baby birds need to grow and thrive.

The description for each plant is organized as follows:

Flower Common Name

Scientific name: (spp indicates cultivar or, unknown species).

Description: Perennial vs annual, height and width of mature plant, description of the flowers and foliage, blooming season.

Value for wildlife:

Care:



Aronia 'Viking' Chokeberry

Scientific name: *Aronia melanocarpa*

Description: Perennial native cultivar, 3 to 6 feet high; glossy green leaves, red fall color, small clusters of white blooms in May.

Value for wildlife: Blooms are key nectar source, purple black berries in late summer relished by birds. The fruit hangs on the shrub into fall and early winter.

Care: Trouble free, grows well in a variety of soils, full sun, or partial shade.



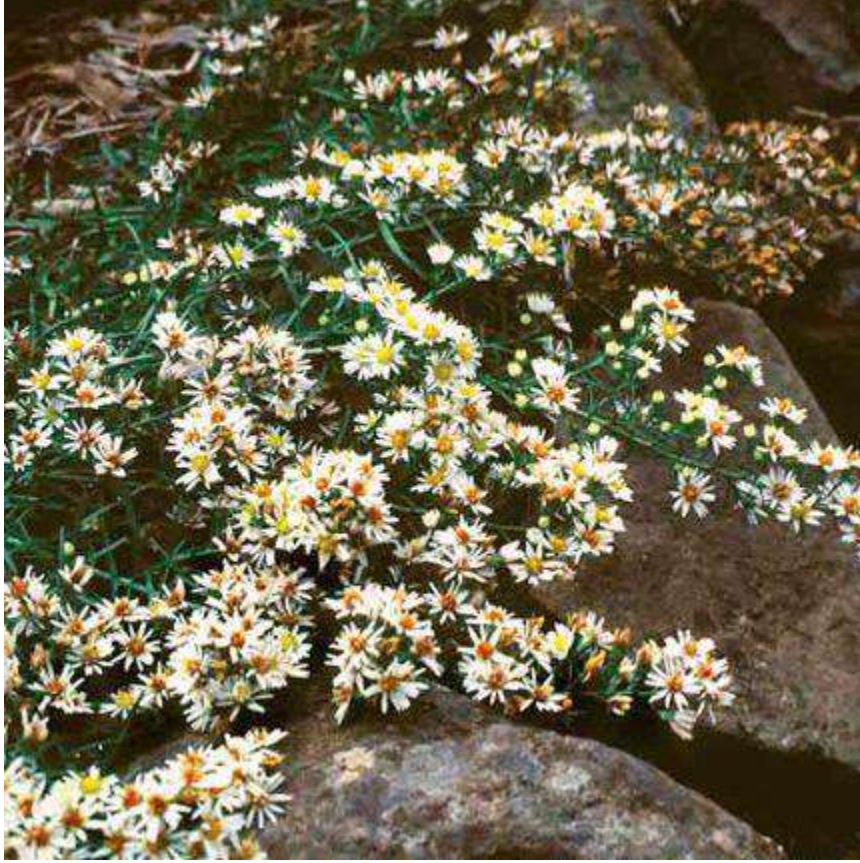
Aster 'Bluebird'

Scientific name: *Aster laevis* 'Bluebird'

Description : Perennial, 3 to 4 feet tall, 2 to 3 feet wide; flowers violet blue with yellow center, held in clusters at the tips of the growing stems; attractive blue-green foliage. Flowers late summer to mid fall.

Value for wildlife: Attracts birds, butterflies including migrating monarchs, and other pollinators.

Care: Full sun, grows readily in a wide range of soil types, including clay.



Aster 'Snow Flurry'

Scientific name: *Aster ericoides* 'Snow Flurry'

Description: A robust native perennial ground cover, 3 to 4 inches tall and 18 inches wide, with white flowers. Blooms in the fall.

Value for wildlife: Attracts butterflies and other pollinators.

Care: Full or part sun, grows well in almost any type of soil including clay; drought resistant. Can be planted spring, summer or fall. In mid spring, the previous year's stems should be trimmed back to the green sprouts.



Bee Balm

Scientific name: *Monarda didyma*

Description: Perennial, spreading clumps, height 2-4 feet; upright rounded clusters of bright red tubular flowers; square stems, aromatic leaves. Flowers mid to late summer.

Value for wildlife: Highly attractive to hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators

Care: Sun to part shade; evenly moist, well-drained soil.



Black Eyed Susan

Scientific name: *Rudbeckia fulgida*

Description: Perennial, can grow to over 3 feet tall; sunny golden flowers with a brownish-purple center, 2 -3 inches across on a stalk up to 8 inches long. Blooms midsummer to fall.

Value for wildlife: Attracts birds to seeds, insects to blooms.

Care: Sun to part shade, well-drained soil.



Blueberry

Scientific name: Vaccinium ssp

Cultivars There are many different species of Vaccinium, and these species hybridize easily. Below are three cultivars at Tackapausha.

'Brunswick' Lowbush, rarely grows taller than 2 feet. Waxy white bell-like blooms in May, and edible purple berries in summer. Small glossy oval leaves turn scarlet in the fall.

'Jelly Bean' Lowbush, rarely grows taller than 2 feet. Waxy white bell-like blooms in May, and edible purple berries in summer. Small glossy oval leaves turn bronze in the fall.

'Perpetua' Cross between lowbush and high bush. Grows 2 1/2 feet high, 30" wide. Waxy white bell-like blooms in Spring and edible purple berries in summer. Blooms again in late summer for a fall crop. Small glossy oval leaves turn scarlet in the fall.

Value for wildlife: Edible blue purple berries; bees and other pollinators like the bell-like flowers

Care: Sun to part shade, moist well drained to wet acidic soil.



Butterfly Milkweed

Scientific name: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Description: Perennial, grows in clumps up to 1 to 3 feet tall clusters of bright orange to yellow-orange flowers. Blooms July-August.

Value for wildlife: Blooms are nectar-rich, attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Like all milkweeds, serves as a host plant for butterfly species including the Monarch.

Care: Full sun and dry to moist, well-drained, sandy soils.



Cardinal Flower

Scientific name: *Lobelia cardinalis*

Description: Short-lived native perennial, can grow up to 4 feet tall by 2 feet wide; showy red flowers at the end of terminal spikes bloom mid-summer to fall.

Value for wildlife: Especially attractive to hummingbirds.

Care: Can grow in full sun to shade, average soil, capable of thriving in standing water; enjoys being kept moist or wet.



Christmas Fern

Scientific name: *Polystichum Acrostichoides*

Description: Native perennial, evergreen fern with lustrous, evergreen leaves, height 12 to 18 inches with a spread of 12 to 18 inches and will gradually colonize an area.

Value for wildlife: Provides winter cover.

Care: An adaptable species that will grow in rich or poor, acidic to neutral soil, in part or full shade. Water well on planting and until established. Drought tolerant.



Common Milkweed

Scientific name: *Asclepias syriaca*

Description: An herbaceous perennial 3 to 4 feet tall; spherical umbels of fragrant, pink to purple flowers. Blooms from June to August.

Value for wildlife: Host plant for butterfly species including the Monarch Butterfly. Monarch butterflies will only lay their eggs on milkweed, and the caterpillars must eat milkweed leaves to grow and metamorphose into adults.

Care: Drought tolerant, grows in full sun and in a variety of moist soils. A good plant for low spots or other moist areas in the landscape.



Common Yarrow

Scientific name: *Achillea millefolium*

Description: Spreading, perennial herb, 2 to 3 feet tall; flower heads are arranged in large, flat, compact clusters at the top of the stem, feathery compound leaves. Blooms June to September.

Value for wildlife: Produces nectar for butterflies and many beneficial pollinators

Care: Full sun, dry soil. Forms spreading colonies



Coneflower

Scientific name: *Echinacea Purpurea*

Description Perennial, height 1 to 3 feet, width 1-2 feet; colorful orange, pink, purple, red, white, or yellow flowers. Blooms late summer to fall.

Value for wildlife: North American native attracts butterflies and other pollinators, seed heads attract goldfinch and other birds, leaves host insects.

Care: Sun to part shade, well drained to dry soil, drought tolerant.



Coreopsis 'Tickseed'

Scientific name: *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb' and other *verticillata* cultivars

Description: Perennial, grows 12-18 in tall and 18-24 inches wide, spreads by rhizomes fine threadlike leaves. Small deep yellow flowers. Blooms abundantly throughout summer through October.

Value for wildlife: Attracts butterflies, other pollinators and other beneficial insects. Attracts birds if allowed to go to seed.

Care: Easily grown in dry to medium moist, well-drained soil in full sun. Thrives in poor, sandy, or rocky soils with good drainage. Tolerant of heat, humidity, and drought. Fewer flowers if allowed to go to seed but can be cut back in mid-August for more blossoms, then allowed to go to seed in the fall.



Eastern Ninebark 'Tiny wine'

Scientific name: *Physocarpus spp*

Description: Dwarf spreading shrub; 4 feet by 4 feet, small dark maroon leaves, pink buds open to whitish pink flowers. Blooms May to June.

Value for wildlife: Attracts pollinators.

Care: Grows best in full sun, can grow in partial shade as well, can grow in harsh soils, from acid to alkaline; from gravel to heavy clay; and from moist to dry. Insect and disease-resistant and drought tolerant. Suitable for erosion control on banks.



Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus

Scientific name: *Opuntia humifusa*

Description: Perennial, height 6-12 inches, spreads to up to 6 feet wide. Vicious spines. Its yellow, cup-shape flowers last just one day, but a large clump of prickly pears will bloom for several weeks in summer.

Value for wildlife: The flowers are pollinated by insects, birds and bats. The bright red fruits are eaten by rodents.

Care: Drought tolerant, full sun and well-drained soil, tolerates sandy, rocky soil. Plant in spring or early summer, water well after planting to encourage a strong root system. If the green pads become dull or stunted, apply an all-purpose fertilizer. In winter the fleshy pads wrinkle and take on a slight purple hue but will expand and revive when warm weather returns.

Other Information: Edible pads are used to make candies and jams



Goldenrod

There are two species in the garden

Value for wildlife: Attractive to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

Other information: Goldenrods have been wrongfully accused of causing hay fever; hay fever is an allergic reaction to wind-borne pollen from other plants such as ragweed.

‘Solar Cascade’

Scientific name: *Solidago Shortii*

Description: Perennial, clump forming habit, 2 to 2.5 feet high, 1.5 to 2 feet wide, narrow green leaves, Bright golden yellow flowers late summer to early fall.

Care: Low maintenance, best grown in moist, gravelly, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best performance is in full sun.

‘Fireworks’

Scientific name: *Solidago rugosa*

Description: Perennial, height 2.5 to 3 feet, width 2.5 to 3 feet. Showy golden yellow blossoms August to October.

Care: Full sun, will tolerate clay soil or wet soil. Plant is extremely aggressive and spreads rapidly.



Herbstsonne Cone Flower

Scientific name: *Rudbeckia laciniata*

Description: Perennial, sunny golden flowers with a yellow eye, 2 to 3 inches across on a stalk up to 8 inches long, 6 feet tall, blooms late summer.

Value for wildlife: Attracts birds to seeds, insects to blooms

Care: Sun to part shade, well-drained soil.



Hibiscus 'rose mallow'

Scientific name: *hibiscus moscheuto*

Description: Woody based perennial, can grow to 8 feet high and 3 feet wide, very large flowers, blooms mid-summer into fall. (other cultivars come in varied colors).

Value for wildlife: Attract pollinators.

Care: Sun, needs additional water during times of drought.



Joe Pye Weed (at museum entrance)

Scientific name: *Eupatorium purpureum*

Description: Erect perennial up to 8 feet high, 5 feet wide, narrow leaves whorled along the erect stem. Large, domed flower head composed of several branches bearing pale pinkish-lavender florets blooms July through September.

Value for wildlife: Important pollen and nectar plant, produces seed heads that persist into winter; attracts butterflies, other pollinators, and birds

Care: Grows in full sun to shade and in moist soils.



Major Wheeler Honeysuckle

(at fence adjacent to north side of museum)

Scientific name: *Lonicera sempervirens*

Description: Perennial vine, native cultivar, 6 to 8 feet tall, 5 to 10 feet wide, Semi evergreen vines with slender tubular blooms, showy clusters of orange-red flowers, Multiple flushes of blooms throughout the summer.

Value for wildlife: Beloved by hummingbirds, berries eaten by many types of small wildlife.

Care: Easy to grow, sun to part shade, well-drained soil



New England Aster 'Alma Potchke'

Scientific name: *Aster novae-angliae*

Description: Perennial, 3.5 feet tall; hot pink flowers, medium green to gray-green foliage. Blooms September through October.

Value for wildlife: Finches and cardinals enjoy the seeds, butterflies and other insects enjoy the pollen and nectar

Care: Full sun, moist well drained soil; cut back in spring. The plants should be divided every two to three years in late fall to promote vigorous specimens. Plant far enough apart to provide good air circulation.



New York Ironweed

Scientific name: *Vernonia noveboracensis*

Description: Perennial 4 to 6 feet tall, spreads 3 to 4 feet; violet fluffy florets, upright willow green leaves. Flowers late summer to early fall followed by rusty seed clusters.

Value for wildlife: Attracts butterflies, pollinators and birds

Care: Full or medium sun. Prefers rich, moist, slightly acidic soils but will tolerate clay soils. Plant height may be reduced by cutting back stems nearly to the ground in late spring.



Phlox 'Jeana'

Scientific name: *Phlox paniculata*

Description: Perennial, 2 to 4 feet high, 1.5 to 3 feet wide, fragrant tubular lavender pink florets densely packed in large, tiered terminal clusters up to 6" long. Blooms summer to early fall.

Value for wildlife: Rich in nectar, visited by hummingbirds and highly attractive to butterflies.

Care: Mildew resistant, thrives in organic, moist to average soil in full sun to light shade. Tolerant of drought once established.



Stokes Aster 'Blue Danube'

Scientific name: *Stokesia laevis*

Description: Perennial, 24 inches high clump, 12 to 18 inches wide, semi evergreen strap like leaves, flowers large blue daisies. Blooms mid-summer.

Value for wildlife: Pollinator friendly.

Care: A drought-tolerant native. Easy to grow, can grow in a variety of natural environments full sun to part shade, in well drained to moderately damp soils.



Sunflower

Scientific name: *Helianthus spp*

Description: Annual, 3 to 6 feet tall; flowers small to giant golden disc.

Value for wildlife: Bees and butterflies enjoy flowers; birds enjoy when seeds develop.

Care: Sun to part shade, well-drained soil, easy to grow from seed.



Vernonia 'Iron Butterfly'

Scientific name: *Veronia lettermanii*

Description: Perennial, upright well branched, 30-36" tall, 24" wide; willow like green leaves, fluffy violet purple florets. Blooms late summer to early fall.

Value for wildlife: Attracts butterflies

Care: Needs sun and medium water.



Viburnum 'Maple leaf'

Scientific name: *Viburnum acerfolium*

Description: Rounded deciduous shrub, 3 to 6 feet tall, 2 to 4 feet wide; green maple like leaves with small black spotting on undersides, tiny white flat-topped flowers. Blooms in spring; pea sized fruit ripens in mid-summer; reddish purple fall foliage. Suckers form large, loose, open colonies.

Value for wildlife: Birds eat the berries, and find good cover among the branches,

Care: **Grows in** sun, part shade, shade; in rocky, sandy, loam, or clay, dry and moist soils.



Switchgrass 'Shenandoah'

Scientific name: *Panicum virgatum*

Description: Perennial warm season ornamental, upright grass native to North America, Grows 4-5 feet tall, spreads 2 feet, Topped in summer by reddish –pink flower spikes that hover over foliage like an air cloud. The bright green leaves turn red in July and deep wine red in October. Seeds ripen in fall.

Value for wildlife: Offers good cover. Seeds in late summer are eaten by birds and small mammals. Butterflies and moth larvae, and grasshoppers eat the leaves. Birds and many mammals eat the insects that eat the grass.

Care: Sun to light shade, well drained wet to dry soil, tolerates flooding, drought, and erosion. Cut back clumps in late winter or early spring.

Non-Natives

Converting to a native plant garden does not have to be done all at once.

In the Tackapausha garden there are non-natives which were previously planted including:



Everlasting Pea

Robust, sprawling vine like perennial, often seen on roadsides, vibrant pink blossoms.



Russian Sage

Fragrant lavender purple flowers on silvery grey stems.