What’s In Bloom?
AT ADKINS ARBORETUM IN JULY

Asclepias incarnata (ahs-KLEE-pee-us in-kar-NAH-ta) swamp milkweed—Growing 3 to 6 feet high, swamp milkweed has pink to purplish red flowers in mid-summer. Butterflies enjoy the flower’s nectar and monarch caterpillars feed on the leaves. Native to moist meadows. Find this plant along the marsh edge and in the garden.

Cicuta maculata (sick-YEW-ta mak-yew-LAHT-ah) water hemlock—This plant likes wet, sunny areas like the Arboretum’s marsh. All parts of the plant are poisonous if eaten, but pollinators are attracted to the flowers. The medium sized plant (2’ to 4’ in height) has large flat clusters of tiny white flowers held at the top of a long stalk.

Eupatoriadelphus dubius (yew-pah-TOR-ee-ah-DEL-fus DEW-bee-us) Eastern or coastal plain Joe-pye—In mid-summer large (up to 7” across) pink-purple flower heads appear and pollinators feast on nectar and pollen. This species is shorter than E. fistulosus keeping the butterflies at eye level. Find this plant at the marsh edge and in the gardens.

Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus (yew-pah-TOR-ee-ah-DEL-fus fist-yew-LO-sus) hollow stemmed Joe-pye—A very majestic, tall plant with pinkish, mauve flowers. The stems of this Joe-pye are hollow and hold at the tip a rounded head of flowers usually covered in bees and butterflies. See this plant in the garden and marsh.

Hibiscus moscheutos (hi-BIS-kus mos-SHOO-tohs) swamp rose mallow—An herbaceous plant that looks like a shrub, it has huge showy pink or white flowers with a red center July through Sept. Its seed capsules persist providing an attractive winter feature. The pods are also used in dried arrangements. Find these plants along marsh edges.

Juncus effusus (JUN-kus ef-FYOOS-us) soft rush—Soft clusters of brown seeds grow near the tips of the green flowering stalk. Each fruit capsule contains many minute seeds. This grass-like rush can be up to 3 1/2 feet tall, forming dense clumps or tussocks. These rushes were used in making baskets. Found in the marsh.

Adkins Arboretum, 12610 Eveland Road, P.O. Box 100, Ridgely, MD 21660, 410-634-2847, www.adkinsarboretum.org
What’s In Bloom? at Adkins Arboretum in July

**Impatiens capensis** (im-PAY-shens ka-PEN-sis) jewel weed, touch me not—Orange-yellow flowers about 1 inch long, spotted with red-brown are irregularly shaped and bloom in mid-summer to early fall. Ripe pods explode when touched. Sap from the succulent stems is thought to prevent poison ivy rashes. Found in wetlands and floodplains.

**Lobelia cardinalis** (low-BEE-lee- yah card-in-AL-is) cardinal flower—The bright red flowers attract hummingbirds and humans alike to this showy native. Up to 20 individual small flowers appear at the top of the 2-4 foot tall plant. Prefers wet soils, but does well in the home garden. Found in the marsh and along the water by the Tuckahoe Creekside path.

**Cephalanthus occidentalis** (sef-ah-LAN-thus ox-suh-dent-AL-us) buttonbush – An attractive medium height (up to 6’) shrub that likes the water. The sphere of white flowers with long styles suggests a pin cushion! The seed pods are eaten by some waterfowl and provide a late summer treat. Buttonbush grow along the marsh edge.

**Magnolia virginiana** (mag-NO-lee-ah ver-jin-ee-AY-nah) sweetbay magnolia—This magnolia is a semi-evergreen shrub to medium sized tree. Summer displays of cup-shaped, sweetly lemony fragrant, creamy white, waxy flowers amidst shiny green foliage truly take your breath away. Found in the floodplain forests along Blockston Branch and in the marsh.

**Sagittaria latifolia** (sa-ji-TAIR-ee-ah lah-thih-FOH-lee-ah) duck potato, arrowhead—A perennial herb found in shallow fresh water. Triangular leaves have veins that radiate from the point of attachment to the petiole (the leaf stalk). Flowers bloom in whorls of three, along a flowering stalk. The roots were a source of food for Native Americans. Found in the marsh.

**Verbena hastata** (ver-BEE-nah hos-TAH-tah) blue vervain—purple flowers are always a favorite and this plant provides flowers from summer into early fall. Look for spikes of flowers held like a candelabra. This plant likes moist but well drained soil and does well in the home garden. Vervain can be found in the marsh.