

Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light — THEODORE ROETHKE



ADKINS ARBORETUM
adkinsarboretum.org | 410-634-2847

January to June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2021						
<p>Look for the cones of seaside alder (<i>Alnus maritima</i>) in winter along the edge of the wetland. The seeds held in the cones provide a snack for birds and mammals.</p>			<p>Look for birds' nests from last year in deciduous trees around the meadows. Notice all the different items birds weave into their nests.</p>		<p>Clubmoss or princess pine (<i>Dendrolycopodium obscurum</i>) is a petite evergreen plant that produces spores. Overharvest for holiday wreaths has led to scarcity in some states. Look for it along the Tuckahoe Valley South Trail.</p>	
<p>Crane fly archid (<i>Tipularia discolor</i>) leaves stay green through winter. Flip a leaf over to see the dark purple underside. Look for these along the Upland Trail. You might see raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor</i>) footprints in the mud near streams. Nerves in their front paws become more sensitive when immersed in water, aiding them in identifying food.</p>		<p>Skunk cabbage (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>) flowers can produce their own heat, providing a warm resting place for the flies that act as pollinators. Look for the green and purple spathes protecting a spadix of flowers along Blockston Branch.</p>		<p>The pileated woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>) is the largest woodpecker in Maryland. Listen for it along the woodland trails.</p>		<p>Wolf Moon full moon</p>

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February 2021						
<p>Lichens may resemble plants, but they are a symbiosis between an algae and one or more fungi.</p>			<p>You may see the bright red feathers of a northern cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>) in the winter woods.</p>		<p>Jumping spiders (family Salticidae) may be found both indoors and outdoors in winter. These friendly, furry-looking little spiders eat tiny insects and are among the spiders that don't make webs.</p>	
<p>The pale brown leaves of young American beech trees (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>) flutter in the winter winds. They will fall only when the new leaves begin to emerge, a trait called marcescence.</p>		<p>Near the wetland, winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) still bears bright red berries along its branches—unless birds have eaten them all!</p>		<p>Cedar waxwings (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>) often travel in flocks that can quickly strip a winterberry or juniper of fruits.</p>		<p>Snow Moon full moon</p>
<p>Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>) flowers offer the first hint of spring. These trees are particularly common in wetlands.</p>			<p>Beavers (<i>Castor canadensis</i>) don't rate red maples as a favorite tree, but they love other wetland trees like alders, sweetgum, and willows.</p>			

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March 2021						
<p>Virginia bluebells (<i>Mertensia virginica</i>) bloom along Blockston Branch. The long tongues of bumblebee and butterfly pollinators fit perfectly in the tubular flowers.</p>			<p>Spring beauties (<i>Claytonia virginica</i>), one of the first ephemerals to flower, carpet the ground along the floodplains. By July, these diminutive woodland flowers will be dormant.</p>			
<p>Spicebush swallowtail (<i>Papilio troilus</i>) caterpillars feed on spicebush and other plants in the Laurel family. The young caterpillars disguise themselves by resembling bird droppings.</p>		<p>Spring Equinox</p>		<p>Frogs are beginning to emerge from hibernation. Warm spring nights bring out a frog chorus as they look for mates.</p>		<p>Mayapple (<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>) leaves out in the woods, resembling colonies of small green umbrellas.</p>
<p>Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) has separate male and female plants, but both have clusters of small lime-green flowers. Look for these tall shrubs along the Tuckahoe Valley South Trail.</p>		<p>Migrating birds like this Cape May warbler (<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>) stop for food, water, and rest as they journey north.</p>		<p>Zebra swallowtails (<i>Protographium marcellus</i>), named for their black-and-white-striped wings, are beginning to appear. They will lay their eggs on paw paw trees.</p>		

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April 2021						
<p>Often building several nests, Carolina wrens (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>) begin to nest in spring. Interesting items like shed snake skins, plastic, dog hair, and string are often woven in.</p>			<p>Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>) flowers appear along the branches and trunk of the tree. Look for the large redbud behind the Visitor's Center.</p>			
<p>Lyrid Meteor Shower</p>		<p>Golden ragwort (<i>Packera aurea</i>) blooming at the first woodland bridge and in the parking lot gardens.</p>		<p>Listen for the bell-like sound of spring peepers (<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>) in the evenings. Look for frog eggs in small pools of water in the woods.</p>		

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May 2021						
<p>Eastern kingsnake (<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>)</p>			<p>Eastern painted turtles (<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>) hang out on logs in the wetlands. Look for the turtles with yellow and red markings.</p>			
<p>Common box turtles (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>) roam the woods looking for fruits, worms, and insects to eat.</p>		<p>Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) was brought to the Eastern Shore from the Appalachians for its fast growth and rot-proof timber. Long clusters of white flowers hang from the branches. You can find it growing in the South Meadow.</p>		<p>Pinxterbloom azalea (<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>) flowers along the Upland and Creekside trails. The delicate white to pink flowers have protruding dark pink stamens.</p>		<p>Witchety-witchety-witchety</p>
<p>Tulip poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) has one of the largest flowers in the forest. Find one on a low branch along the forest edge, or look for fallen flowers on the ground.</p>		<p>Super Flower Moon and Total Lunar Eclipse (visible in western US and Australia)</p>		<p>The common yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>) likes fields and brushy areas. Listen for its witchety-witchety-witchety song.</p>		<p>Pink lady slipper</p>

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June 2021						
<p>Eastern cottontails (<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>) love the meadow for its clover and grasses. They often freeze when startled in hopes that predators won't see them, but they can run away at up to 15 miles per hour.</p>			<p>If you're lucky, you might find an eastern wormsnae (<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>) in the woods under a rotting log or under the leaf litter. These small brown snakes eat earthworms almost exclusively.</p>			
<p>These iridescent dogbane beetles (<i>Chrysochus auratus</i>) feed on dogbane (<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>), a close relative of milkweed.</p>		<p>Common milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>) blooms along the edge of the South Meadow.</p>		<p>Look for the delicate pink flowers of swamp rose (<i>Rosa palustris</i>) from the Wetland boardwalk. Multiple stamens provide lots of pollen for bees and bumblebees.</p>		
<p>Summer Solstice</p>			<p>Elderberry (<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>) blooms in the Arboretum's wetlands. Its broad heads of tiny white flowers attract many pollinators.</p>		<p>Sometimes confused with copperheads, northern water snakes (<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>) are always found near water. They like to eat fish and amphibians.</p>	

Photos by Kellen McCuskey and Kathy Thornton Drawings by Barbara Bryan and Diane DuBois Mullaly

Virtual Exhibits

Virtual art exhibits continue on the Arboretum's website, featuring **Julia Sutliff's** spirited plein air paintings and pastels, Impressionistic landscape paintings and collages by **Sheryl Southwick, Rob Brownlee-Tomasso's** bold, mixed media paintings, and intricately nuanced nontraditional photographs by the Arboretum's artist-in-residence, **Liz Donadio**. Until actual shows resume in the Visitor's Center gallery, more virtual shows will be posted, including **John Moran's** hauntingly powerful representational and abstract paintings, **Kit-Keung Kan's** poems, Chinese calligraphy, and stunning waterfall and tree paintings, and **Anna Harding's** exquisite botanical drawings of native plants and endangered or threatened animals and insects.



Sheryl Southwick, "Cherry Tree in Winter," oil on board, 12" x 12"



John Moran, "Woodlands," oil on canvas, 24" x 24"

Yarnstorming

Also known as yarn bombing, guerrilla knitting, kniffiti, urban knitting, and graffiti knitting, yarnstorming is a street art that employs knitted or crocheted yarn in place of paint or chalk.

In 2021, Adkins Arboretum and the Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore (FACES) will partner to bring Yarnstorming to the Arboretum. Works will be exhibited March 6 through April 3. Knitters and crocheters are invited to decorate an Arboretum tree with their creations. See adkinsarboretum.org for Yarnstorming rules and regulations. To learn more and to enter your own yarn creation, contact Jenny Houghton at jhoughton@adkinsarboretum.org.

Outdoor Sculpture Invitational

Sculptures by seven artists hailing from around the mid-Atlantic region will be on view in the **Outdoor Sculpture Invitational—Artists in Dialogue with Nature** from **June 1 through September 30**. Continuing a biennial series inaugurated in 2002, this is the tenth outdoor show of sculptures directly inspired by the Arboretum's varied landscapes of forest and meadows. The artists were invited to walk the paths and respond to what they found by creating site-specific sculptures. There will be a reception and guided sculpture walk Saturday, July 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. in conjunction with Sheryl Southwick's reception.

Succession

Meadows mark a transition in our tree-dominated natural landscape. They often occur where a major human-caused disturbance first took place, such as clearing for a pasture or farm field. They frequently persist where poor soils or periodic fires occur. In most cases, they will gradually revert to forest without further human intervention. These meadows represent the first stage of healing scarred ground.

We speak of fields being "abandoned" as though that were a bad thing. Perhaps we should say they are being released. First annuals appear—plants like devil's beggartick and ragweed that we often think of as weedy. Did you know that the oil-rich seeds of ragweed are eaten by bobwhites, songbirds, and meadow voles? Long-dormant seeds sometimes germinate from the seed bank, speeding recovery of a native grassland. Wind-dispersed plants rapidly arrive. Fibrous-rooted grasses like switchgrasses, bluestems, Indian grass, and lovegrasses hold soils firmly in place. Milkweeds, dogbanes, goldenrods, and asters start dense colonies among the grasses. The leaves and stems of these annual, biannual, and perennial plants die back each winter and gradually enrich the soil.

Habitat

Meadow plants provide unique habitat for myriad insect pollinators, birds, and mammals. Some animals use both the forest and the meadow. Chickadees nest in tree cavities but delight in the meadow's pantry of seeds and caterpillars. Owls and

hawks hunt rodents over the open meadows but roost in the sheltered forest. Box turtles meander from woods to meadows seeking worms, fruits, grasses, and seeds. Snapping turtles from the wetlands lumber over to dig shallow depressions in the meadow's soils and lay their eggs.

Metamorphosis

Many insects transition from egg, to larvae, to adult on plants within the meadow. Look for different types of goldenrod galls that shelter the larvae of a fruit fly, a midge, or a moth. Caterpillars, chrysalises, butterflies, and moths abound in the meadow. You can find egg cases of Carolina and Asian praying mantises, as well as the tiny nymphs and predatory adults.

Celer

The colors of the meadow transition across the seasons. Bright green grasses sprout in spring. Early summer brings white and yellow fleabane and mauve-colored milkweed flowers. Yellow goldenrod and white and purple asters brighten the meadow in late summer and early fall. Grasses turn yellow, pink, and russet red with the cooler fall weather. The winter meadow wears muted tones of brown and gray.

Sound

Spring brings the songs of birds establishing their territories. Listen for the low-pitched warble of bluebirds and the accelerating trill of field sparrows. The chorus of crickets, grasshoppers, and katydids swells as summer progresses. Fall and winter bring the subdued rustles and sighs of the wind passing through the grasses, punctuated by the mournful two-note call of the chickadee and its alarm call of "chicka-dee-dee-dee."

Meadows constantly change from season to season and year to year. May they serve as a source of peace and inspiration for you in 2021.

The 2021 SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE will be here before you know it!

KICK OFF SPRING with some new additions to your garden or landscape. Select from our extensive offerings of landscape-ready native trees, shrubs, perennials, ferns, vines, and grasses. Discounts for members.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

To ensure everyone's safety and convenience, sales will be conducted entirely online. There is no on-site shopping, and we do not ship plants. If you are a member and wish to receive your member discount on plants, you must enter "PLANT10" or "PLANT20" (depending on level of membership) in the promo code box at checkout. **We cannot apply your discount after you have placed your order.**

1. Visit adkinsarboretum.org and click on the Spring Plant Sale link to shop. Once you've selected your plants, click on the cart and then enter your promo code and payment information. Submit your order.
2. Staff will contact you with a phone call or email to schedule your pickup time. You will receive a follow-up email with your order number and pickup instructions. Your pickup time must be confirmed. Do not show up to the nursery before having spoken with a staff member. Your order will not be pulled ahead of schedule.
3. Arrive to the service gate at your scheduled time with your order number displayed on a piece of 8.5" x 11" paper. Our staff will direct you to the appropriate parking space and your plants, identified by order number, at the nursery.
4. Load up your plants and exit via the service gate.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Direct questions and concerns to nativeplants@adkinsarboretum.org.
- If we are unable to provide a plant that you ordered, we will notify you through email and provide the appropriate refund.
- If you need assistance loading your plants, please notify our staff when you schedule your pickup time.



Orders will be accepted online
March 4 through April 8.

Plant Highlights



Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*): Reaching 10–12' tall, beach plum offers white flowers in April, edible purplish-black fruits in August, and a tolerance for sunny, sandy, and salty conditions. The native *Prunus* is an important host plant for many species of butterflies and moths.



Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*): Native to eastern North America, where it typically grows in moist woods, bogs, swamps, and low areas, this upright deciduous shrub typically reaches 5–8' tall. Best grown in acidic (pH of 4.8 to 5.2), organically rich, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Come spring, these shrubs are abuzz with pollinators.



Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*): Need a beautiful plant for a wet, sunny area? This clumping iris gradually naturalizes by spreading rhizomes. Bluish-violet flowers in late spring and summer attract birds and hummingbirds.



Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*): This clumping plant is so versatile! It has a stunning dark green and a red base, and it grows in dry soil and standing water. Soft rush can be planted in a mass or as an accent.

Birds of Note



SUMMER TANAGER: Many songbirds, including the summer tanager, are excellent examples of sexual dimorphism, where the male and female have different appearances or sizes. In the case of the summer tanager, the male is a stunning red, while the female is a golden orange color. You will likely find a summer tanager high in the trees.



YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Yellow-breasted chats are one of our largest warblers. You can often find them in overgrown fencerows and shrubs lining old farm fields or grasslands. They nest in dense vegetation, including brambles and vines, and have quite the repertoire of sounds and song.



ORCHARD ORIOLE: Sometimes mistaken for the Baltimore oriole, orchard orioles are relatively common in open woodlands and thickets. They eat mostly insects but also supplement with fruits and nectar. They have intricately woven nests that hold 4 to 6 light blue or gray eggs. In the fall, they will migrate to Central America for the winter.



GREEN HERON: In the past few years, we have been fortunate to spot a few green herons hunting for a snack. Green herons are considered common but in steep decline due to habitat loss. We've come to love and listen for their startling squawks. By fall, they migrate south for winter, but we know they'll be back for spring.



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One of few warblers that stay farther north in the winter, they are able to digest waxy berries like those of wax myrtles, bayberries, juniper, and greenbrier. Yellow-rumped warblers are divided into two subspecies: the "Audubons" are in the western US and the "Myrtles" are in the eastern US.



ADKINS ARBORETUM

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Partnership with Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The 400-plus acres that Adkins Arboretum programs and manages is located within the 4,000-plus acres of Tuckahoe State Park. The Arboretum operates under a 50-year lease with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Although the Arboretum is fully responsible for its operations as a nonprofit organization, we benefit greatly from being on State land and from our close relationship with Tuckahoe State Park. We are grateful for the support from Tuckahoe State Park managers and rangers who check in on the property when we are not on site, close our entrance gates at dusk, provide security and safety backup, untangle a goat on occasion, and partner on programming.

NATURE SKETCHERS

Fine artist and Maryland Master Naturalist **DIANE DUBOIS MULLALY** invites you to take a self-guided nature walk to sketch what's in bloom, budding, or of interest to you along the paths. Bring your own medium—such as graphite, ink, or watercolor, which are all easily portable—for a quick sketch. Share your sketches with us on Facebook or Instagram by including the hashtags **#adkinsarboretum** and **#naturesketchers**.



Amid closures and safer-at-home orders, the Arboretum is committed to keeping its paths open for the many dog walkers, bikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts who seek solace in open space and the health benefits of spending time outside.

These benefits are numerous. Studies show that time in nature reduces stress, improves mood, lowers blood pressure, improves sleep, accelerates recovery from illness, and boosts the immune system. Forests play a particularly important role in healthy immune systems—when we breathe in fresh air, we breathe in the same chemicals that plants release as protection against insects. These chemicals, in turn, help us fight disease.

In joining the Arboretum, members support their health and the health of the greater community. Members also enjoy free admission throughout the year and discounts on native plant and other purchases.

Our calendar once again celebrates the rhythm of the seasons and the natural world. We hope to reopen the Visitor's Center in early spring to warmly welcome you and resume in-person art exhibits.

It remains our overarching strategy to make the right decision at the right time with respect to facilitated programming. Please check our website for regular updates and to sign up for our Thursday-morning electronic newsletter. Our e-news will keep you up to date on all that is happening at the Arboretum, including new and innovative ways to share nature's wonders with you.

We hope you enjoy, explore, learn, and find solace and joy in nature.

January to June 2021

Members
keep us growing.
JOIN TODAY!

There's never been a better time to
become a member of Adkins Arboretum!