Insect Observations at The Native Plant Center

May 2024–August 2024

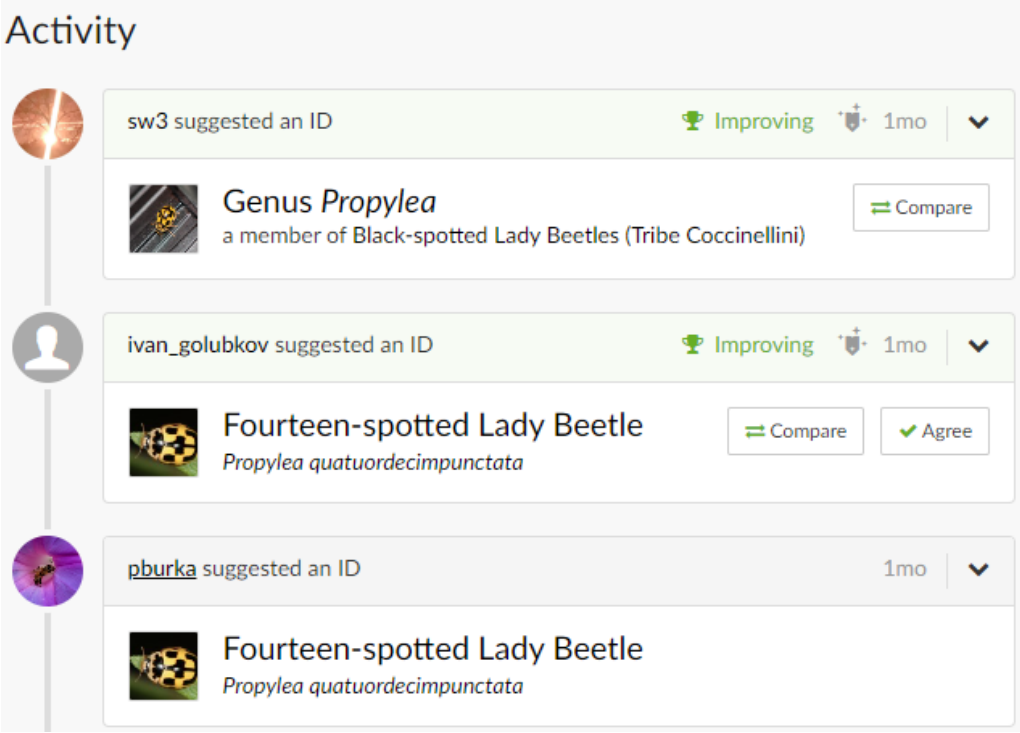
Photos and text by Shonari Winter

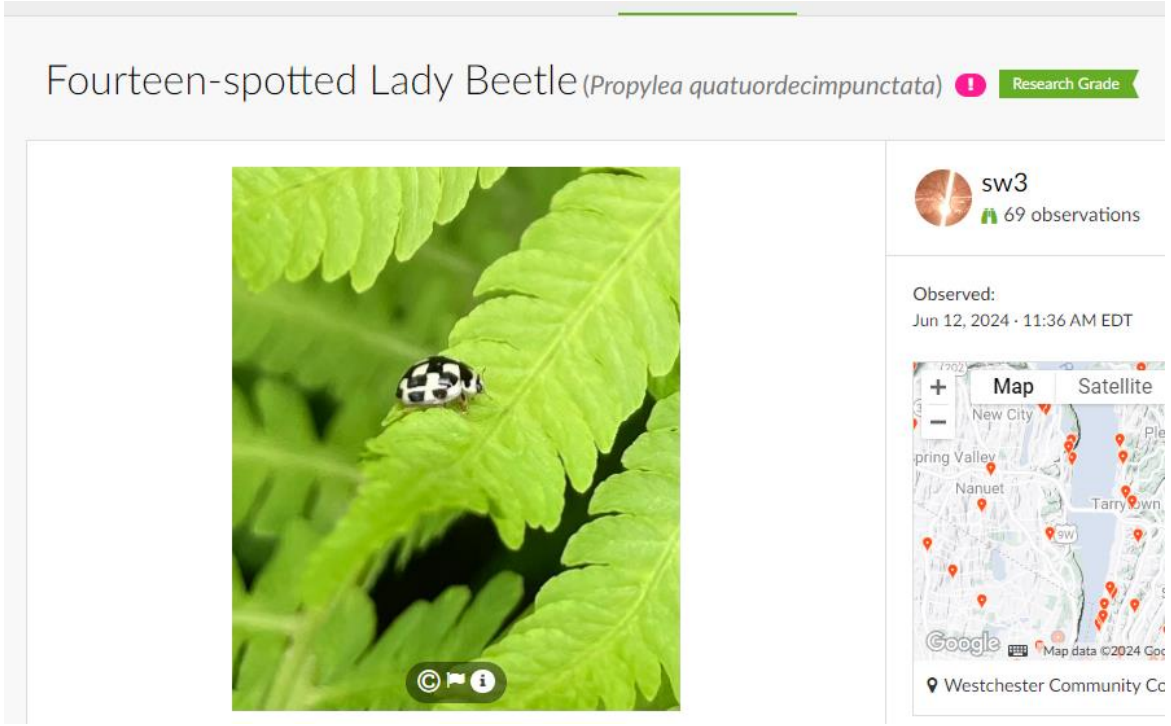
Background

- This project was done as a part of a contribution to community science during an internship at the Westchester Community College's Native Plant Center, with a focus on insect plant observations at the Lady Bird Johnson demonstration gardens.
- Why insects? Insects are a fundamental components of ecosystems playing roles such as pollination, nutrient cycling and decomposition.

Process

- Pictures were taken with a phone and uploaded to INaturalist documenting the insects to get help from experts to identifying them.
- Those that were not I'd, were narrowed down using online guides and keys.





Contents


True bugs

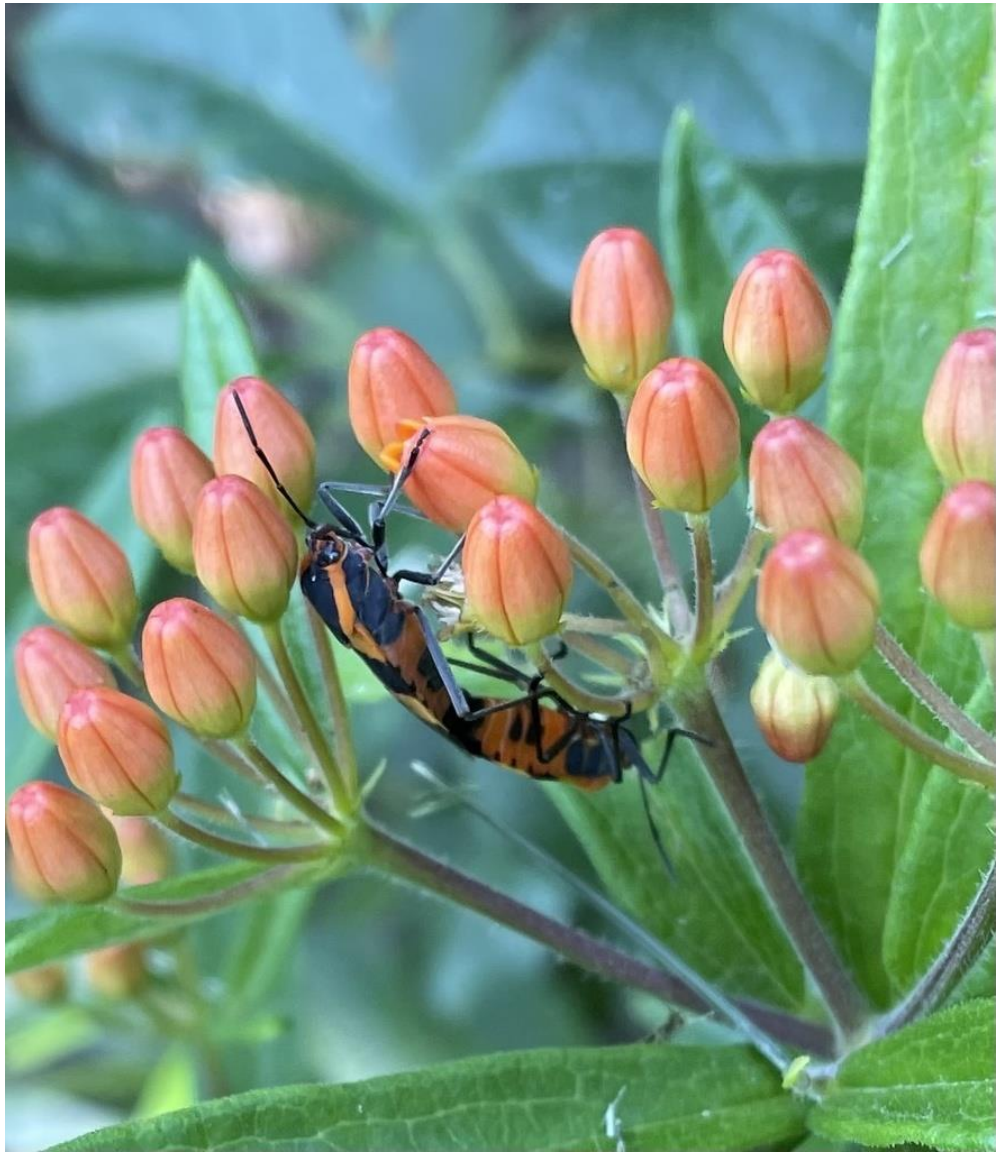
Large milkweed bug
(*Oncopeltus fasciatus*)

A regular sight on milkweeds, sporting an orange-red and black color.

They feed on the sap from the leaves and stems and seeds of milkweeds (*Asclepias sp*.).

Pictured in the demonstration gardens on some Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa)*.

Learn more: https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/large-milkweed-bug



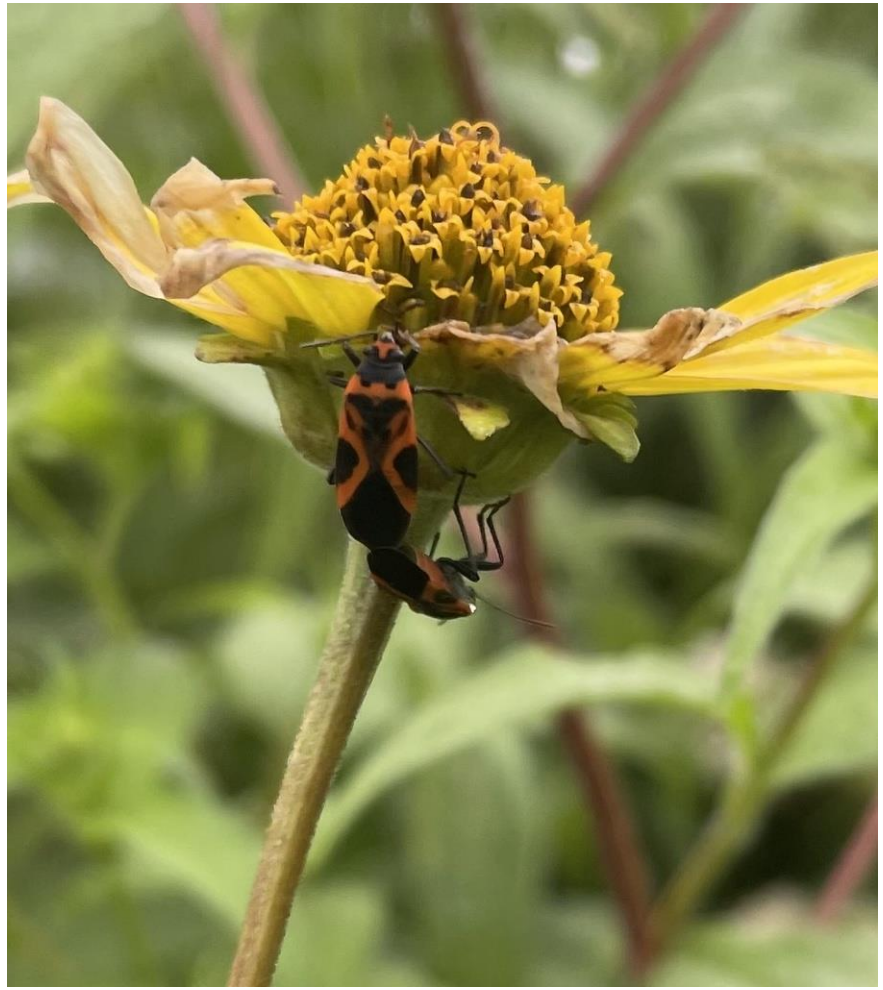
False Milkweed Bug
(*Lygaeus turcicus*)

It looks very similar to milkweed bugs as they are closely related. However, it is smaller and does not feed on milkweed.

These bugs feed on False sunflower(*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Pictured on a False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) blossom in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://www.birdsoutsidemywindow.org/2022/08/14/milkweed-bugs-large-small-or-false/



Clouded plant bug
(*Neurocolpus nubilus*)

A small sap feeder which is generally mottled brown in color. Noticeable is the thick lower segments of antennae

Generalist sap feeder found on a variety of plants, not recorded to be harmful or a major pest problem.

Pictured in the demonstration garden on the flower buds of a Prickly pear cactus(*Opuntia humifusa*).

There is still much to learn about these bugs.

River edge nature center has a nice excerpt on them:
https://riveredgenaturecenter.org/bug-othe-week-clouded-plant-bug/

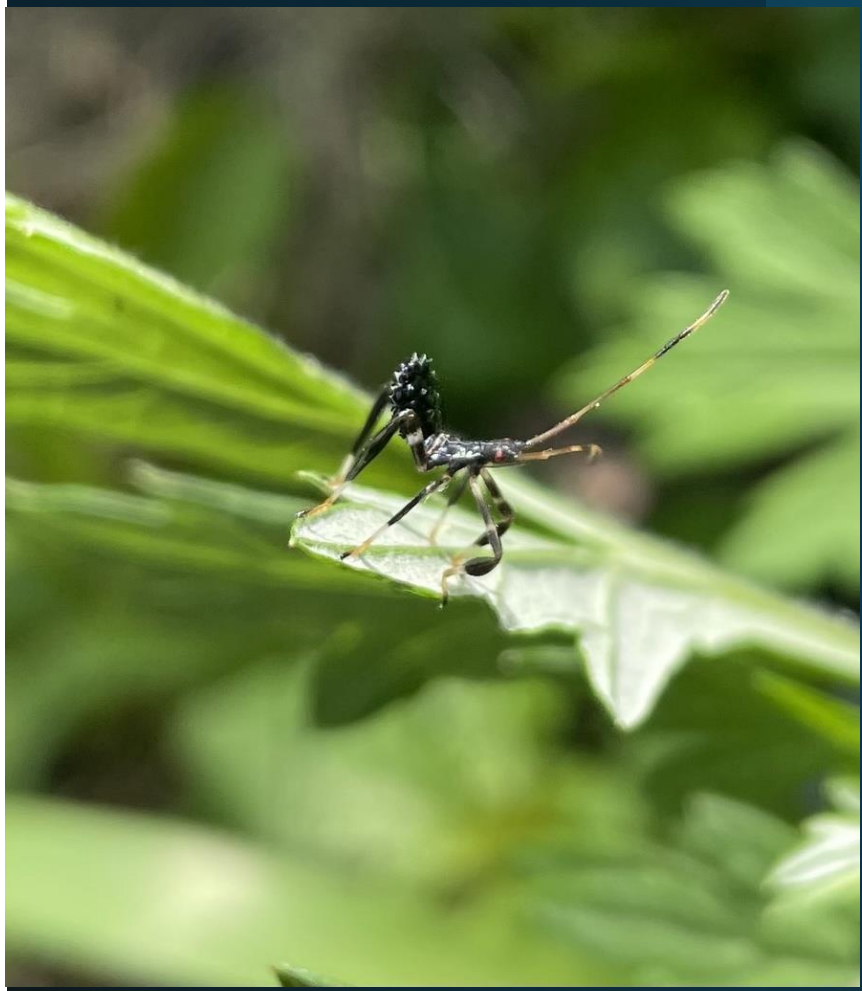
Leaf-footed bug
(*Acanthocephala terminalis*)

A common sight across the Eastern United States, but unusually lacks a common name. The younger nymphs appear dark blue in color with bands of yellow. The adults are much bigger and grey brown in color with orange highlights

They feed on sap from a variety of plants but are not recorded to be a major pest or nuisance.

Nymph pictured on Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) in the Community Garden.

Learn more: https://mlbs.virginia.edu/organism/acanthocephala_terminalis



Citrus Flatid Planthopper
(*Metcalfa pruinosa*)

A rather small insect commonly misidentified as a moth. However, unlike moths they lack antennae.

Like the name suggests they do feed on citrus trees but are more of a generalist feeding on a wide variety of plants.

Pictured on Snowberry(*Symphoricarpos albus*) in demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/shrubs/citrus_flatid_planthopper.htm

Twice-stabbed Stink Bug
(*Cosmopepla lintneriana*)

A commonly overlooked bug due to its small size. It is recognized by the two red spots on its back which gives the name twice stabbed.

Feeds on the sap of a variety of plants including goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), echinacea and mints such as *Monarda* sp.

Pictured in demonstration gardens on False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

There is much more to learn about these stink bugs, although they have been observed to be somewhat of a nuisance.

Brown marmorated stink bug (*Halymorpha halys*)-Invasive

An unwelcome stink bug which made its way to North America from Asia possibly via shipping. Characterized by its brown-grey mottled color and bands of white near the antennae tips.

Feeds on a wide variety of plants including Blueberry (*Vaccinum* sp.), Hackberry (*Celtis occindentalis*) and more.

Nymph pictured on Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://extension.psu.edu/brown-marmorated-stink-bug

Spotted Lanternfly
(*Lycorma delicutula*)- Invasive

An invasive insect that has had a major population growth in recent years. Adults have black spots on their forewings and red hind wings. Younger nymphs are black with white spots and molt into red nymphs.

The host plant is the invasive Tree of heaven (*Alianthus altissima*), but it has also been known to feed on other plants especially grapes (*Vitis* sp.)

Adult pictured resting on Steeplebush (Spiraea tomentosa) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/spotted-lanternfly

Keeled treehopper

Entylia carinata

A very small tree hopper, recognized by the saddle like depression and large horn in females.

They feed on a wide variety of plants including Goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.)

Female pictured protecting eggs on Lance-leaved rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia lacinata)* in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/ientylia-carinatai-the-keeled-treehopper

Psyllid

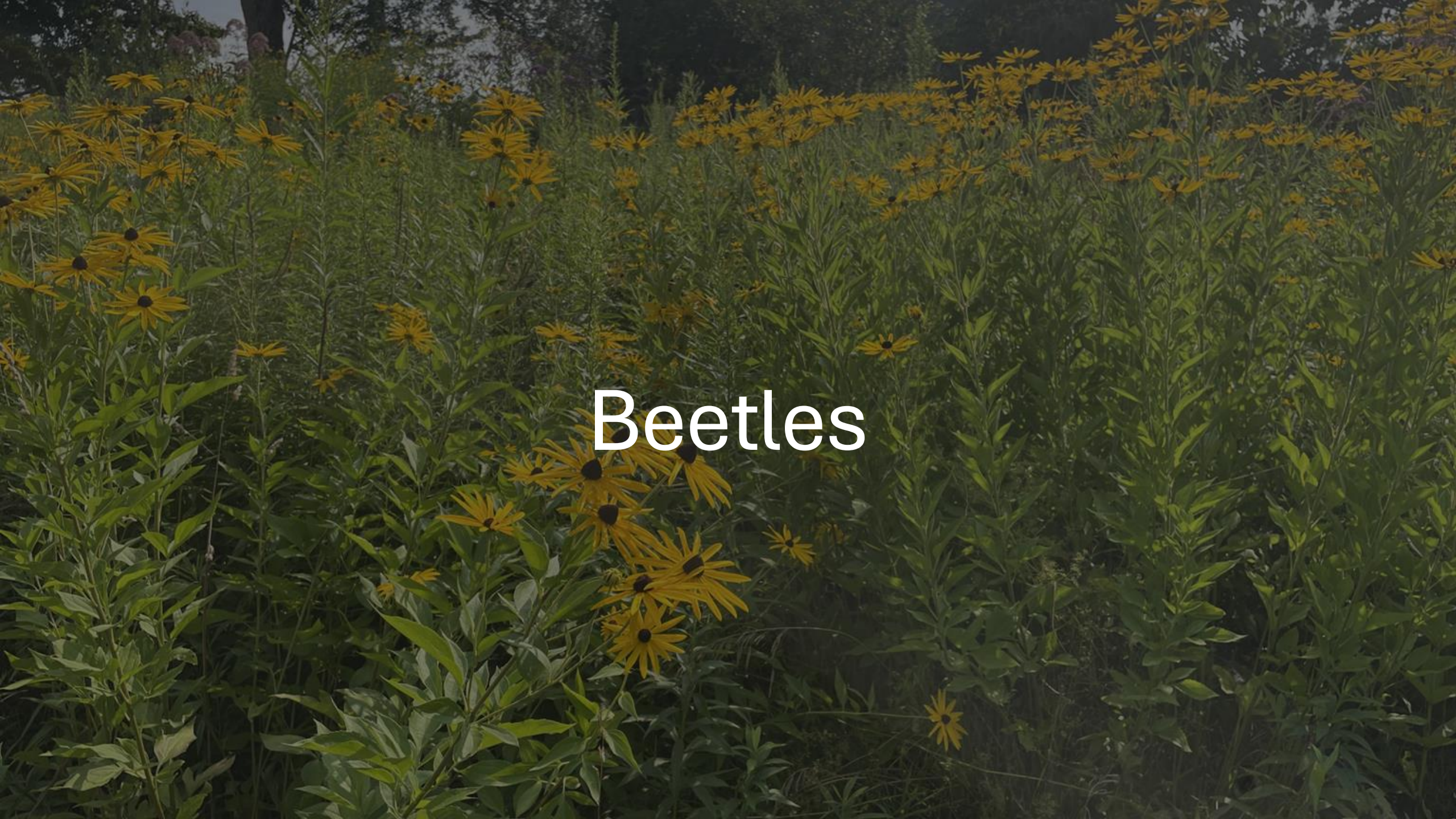
Trioza obtusa?

A mysterious cluster of small green nymphs with tufts of fine hairs.

These nymphs were found feeding on Serviceberry(*Amelanchier*) leaves.

Pictured on Serviceberry(*Amelanchier*) leaf collected in the bird garden.

There are many other psyllids which are known to feed on serviceberry, so the identification of these specimens is still under way.


Beetles

Red milkweed beetle
(*Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*)

The second milkweed feeder observed on the list. A cylindrical shaped longhorn beetle ranging from orange to red in color with variable black spots.

Feeds on a variety of Milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.) and is a pollinator.

Pictured in the demonstration gardens among the flowers of Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

Learn more: https://www.lifeoncsgpond.com/red-milkweed-beetle

Swamp Milkweed leaf beetle

(*Labidomera clivicollis*)

Another companion milkweed feeder sporting orange with black variable spots. In some ways it looks like a very large ladybug.

Is said to favor Swamp milkweed over other milkweeds but it is not host specific.

Pictured on Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) in the demonstration gardens

Learn more:

https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/swamp-milkweed-leaf-beetle

Dogbane leaf beetle
(*Chrysochus auratus*)

A shiny emerald iridescent colored beetle that boldly displays its toxicity as a warning.

These beetles feed primarily on Dogbane(*Apocynum cannabinum*) and other milkweeds (*Asclepias sp*.).

Pictured on Dogbane(*Apocynum cannabinum*) leaves in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:

https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef709

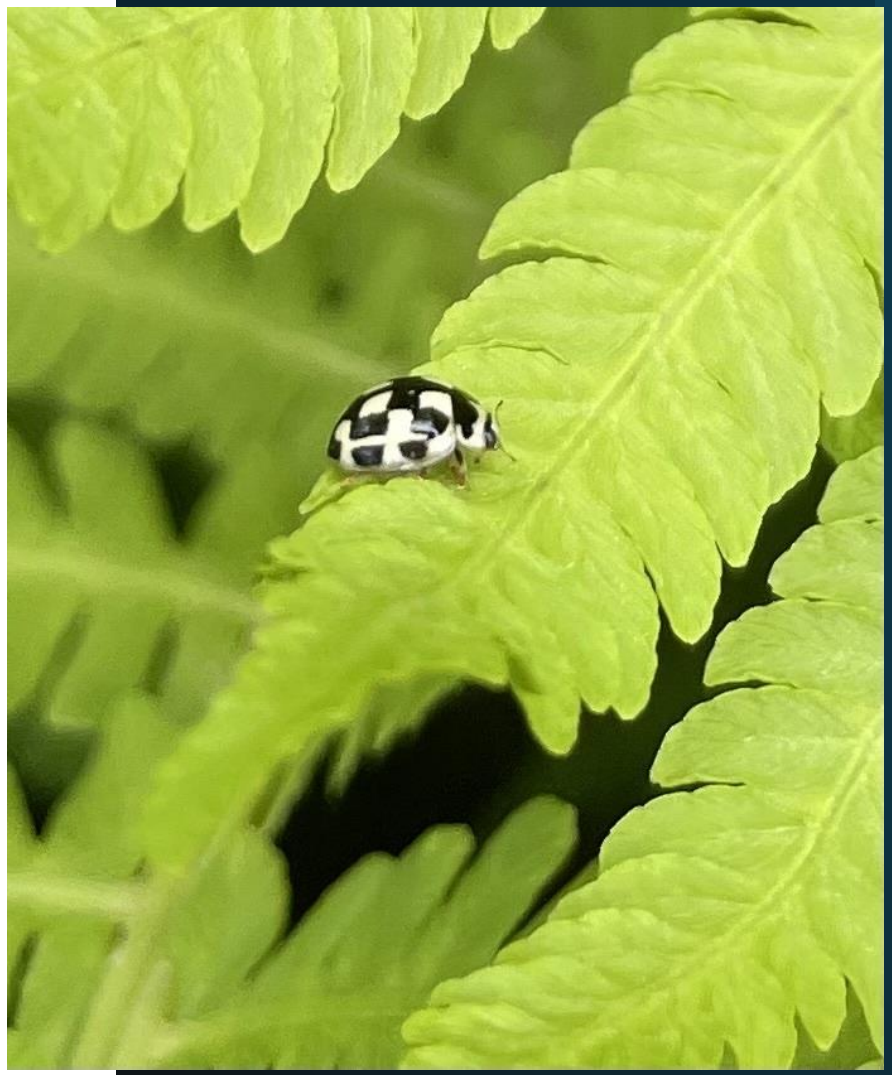
Fourteen-spotted Lady Beetle
(*Propylea quatuordecimpunctata*)- Introduced

This species of ladybug was initially introduced to help control greenbug aphids on wheat crops. It is recognized by its white to yellow orange color and black rectangular spotted wings.

Like other ladybird beetles it feeds primarily on aphids and other soft body insects.

Pictured on Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) at the east entrance sign near the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Propylea_quatuordecimpunctata/



Seven-spotted Lady Beetle

Coccinella septempunctata- Introduced

A fellow introduced lady beetle now established in the United states. It is named after the number of spots on its wing covers.

Like many lady beetles, it is a voracious predator of aphids and other soft body insects like thrips.

Pictured in the demonstration gardens on Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)

Learn more: https://val.vtecostudies.org/projects/lady-beetle-atlas/seven-spotted-lady-beetle/

Common Eastern Firefly
(*Photinus pyralis*)

A common sight during the summer evenings. It is recognized by its glowing abdomen, and black and yellow wing covers.

Larvae have been observed feeding on snails and slugs and soft body insects.

Pictured on Blue cohosh (*Caulopyllum thalictroides*) leaves in the demonstration gardens.

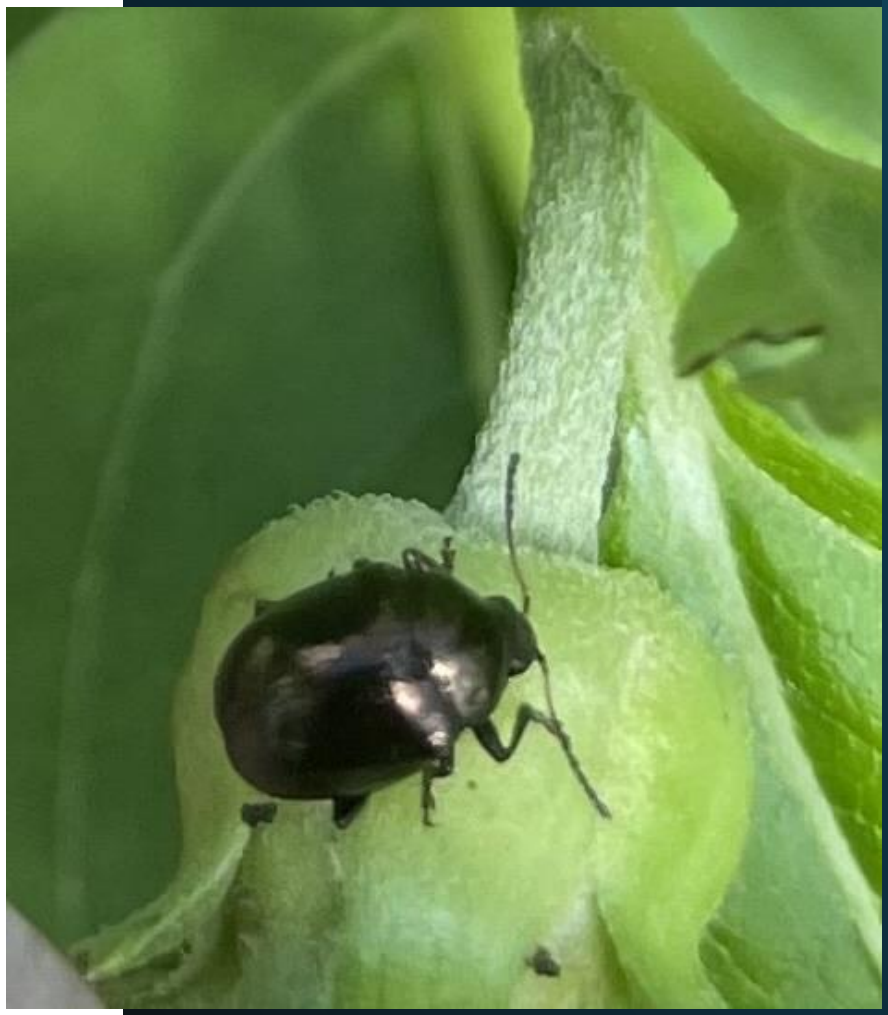
Learn more:
https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/bneely/articles/page1587050468972

Leaf Beetle
(*Brachypnoea* sp.)

A member of the leaf beetle genus, frequently found on flowers and leaf bud tips.

Pictured on the False sunflower bud(*Heliopsis helianthoides*) in the meadows of the demonstration gardens.

There appears to be much more to learn about these insects. Still looking forward for an identification



Green June beetle
(*Cotinus nitida*)

A rather large metallic green beetle with varying coloration of wing covers from a reddish brown to completely green.

Larvae can be somewhat of a nuisance in turf as they feed on the roots, whereas adults may feed on the leaves of a variety of plants.

Pictured on Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/green-june-beetle

Locust borer

Megacyllene robiniae

A longhorn beetle sporting a black and yellow coloration to mimic sting insects such as wasps to display a warning.

Eggs are laid into the Black Locust(*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and larvae bore into the wood and feed on it.

Pictured feeding on pollen of a Goldenrod(*Solidago* sp.) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://agsci.colostate.edu/agbio/ipm-pests/locust-borer-2/

Weevil

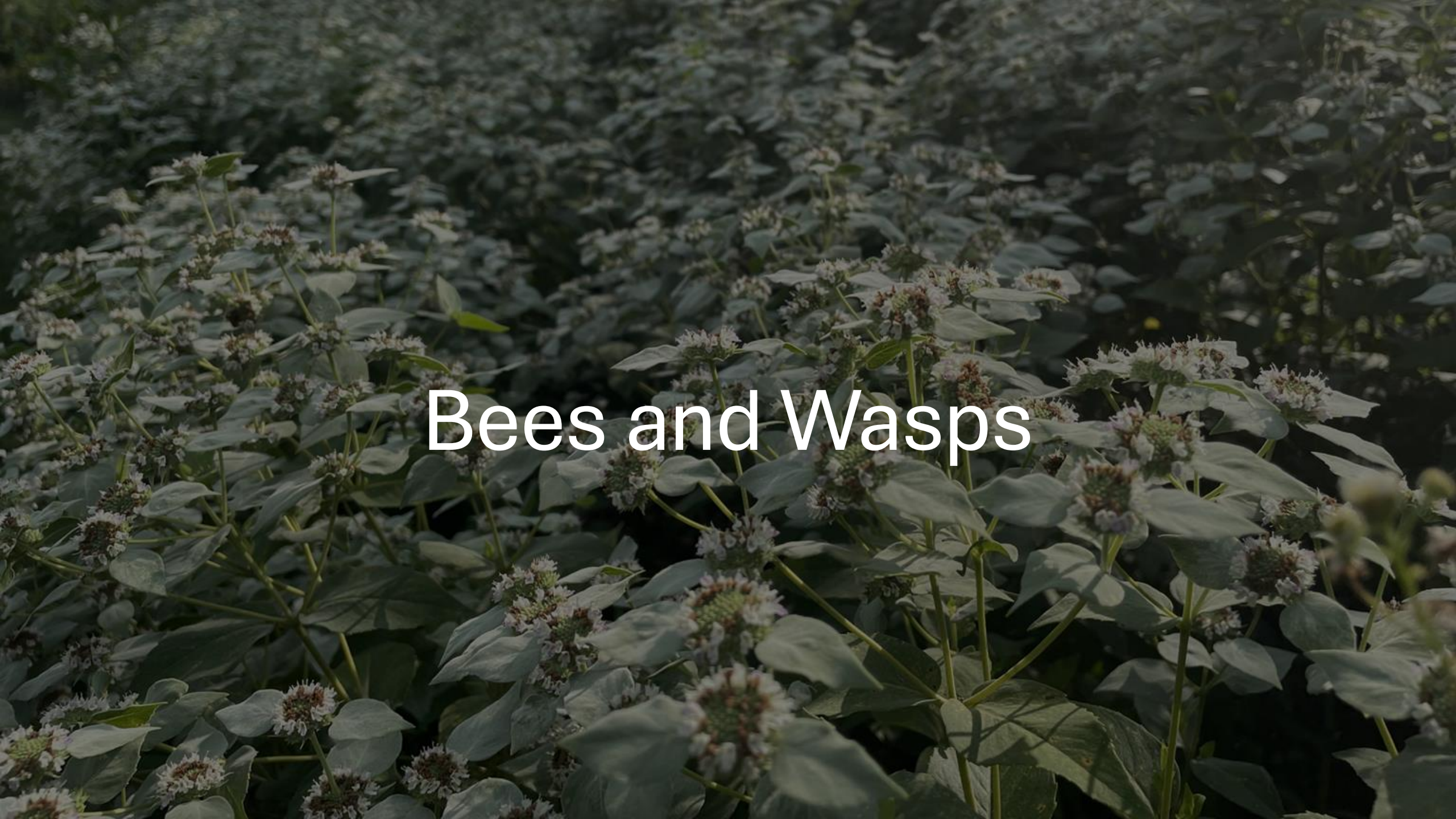
Cylindrocopturus quercus

A special little weevil sporting a black, grey and white coloration.

Its host plant has been recorded to be Ragweed, (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*).

This insect was collected from Goldenrod(*Solidago* sp.) in the demonstration gardens and is pictured in a petri disc.

There are little sources on this insect, but if curious this publication does detail its life cycle: https://www.jstor.org/stable/3999852


Bees and Wasps

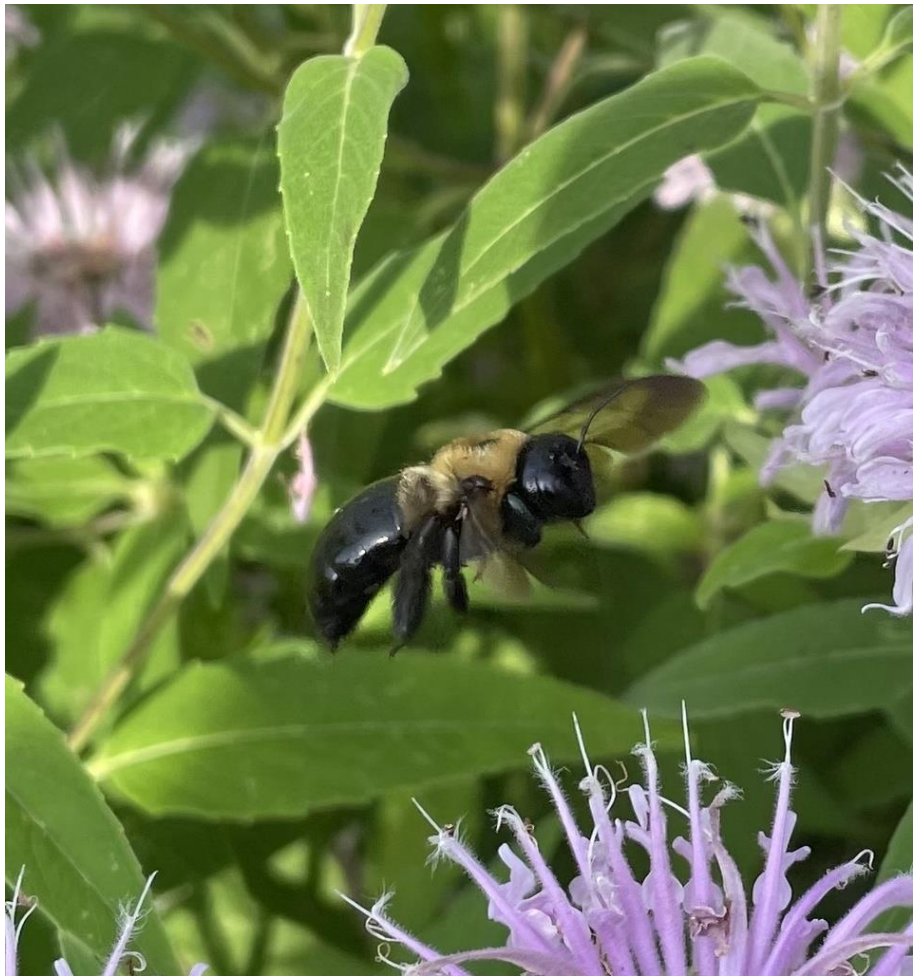
Eastern carpenter bee
(*Xylocopa virginica)*

An important native pollinator, characterized by its shiny abdomen and solitary wood nesting nature.

These bees are known to "rob nectar" from deep tubed flowers by cutting into the sides of petals.

Pictured visiting Beebalm(*Monarda fistulosa*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://extension.psu.edu/the-eastern-carpenter-bee-beneficial-pollinator-or-unwelcome-houseguest



Common eastern bumblebee
(*Bombus Impatiens*)

A frequent visitor of the gardens, never too far from a flower. Is identified by the sparse bald patch on thorax and yellow hairs on first abdomen segment.

Females can be distinguished from males by the pollen sacs on their legs.

Pictured collecting pollen on Cedarglade St. Johnswort (*Hypericum frondosum* 'Sunburst') in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://wisconsinbumblebees.entomology.wisc.edu/online-guide/species/common-eastern-bumble-bee/

Brown-belted Bumble Bee

Bombus griseocollis

A fuzzy bumblebee with a wide documented range spanning from the east to west coast. It is named after the brown coloration on its upper abdomen.

Forages on a wide variety of plants, noted to favor milkweeds(*Asclepias*), and St. John's Wort(*Hypericum*) in the garden.

Pictured collecting pollen on Cedarglade St. Johnswort (*Hypericum frondosum* 'Sunburst') in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://wisconsinbumblebees.entomology.wisc.edu/online-guide/species/brown-belted-bumble-bee/

Western Honeybee

Apis mellifera- Introduced

A very familiar bee ranging from brown to grey in color and was introduced for agricultural pollination, honey and products such as beeswax.

These bees can communicate by dances, which can direct fellow bees on routes for foraging.

Pictured resting on Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/BEES/euro_honey_bee.htm

Bicolored striped sweat bee
(*Agapostemon virescens*)

A small metallic green bee, easily recognized by its black and white striped abdomen in females and black and yellow for males.

Unlike honeybees, they don't form large social hives, but females have been observed to nest in small groups.

Pictured on Sundrop flowers at the demonstration gardens(*Oenathra fructicosa*).

Learn more:

https://www.backyardecology.net/bicolored-sweat-bee/

Denticulate longhorn bee

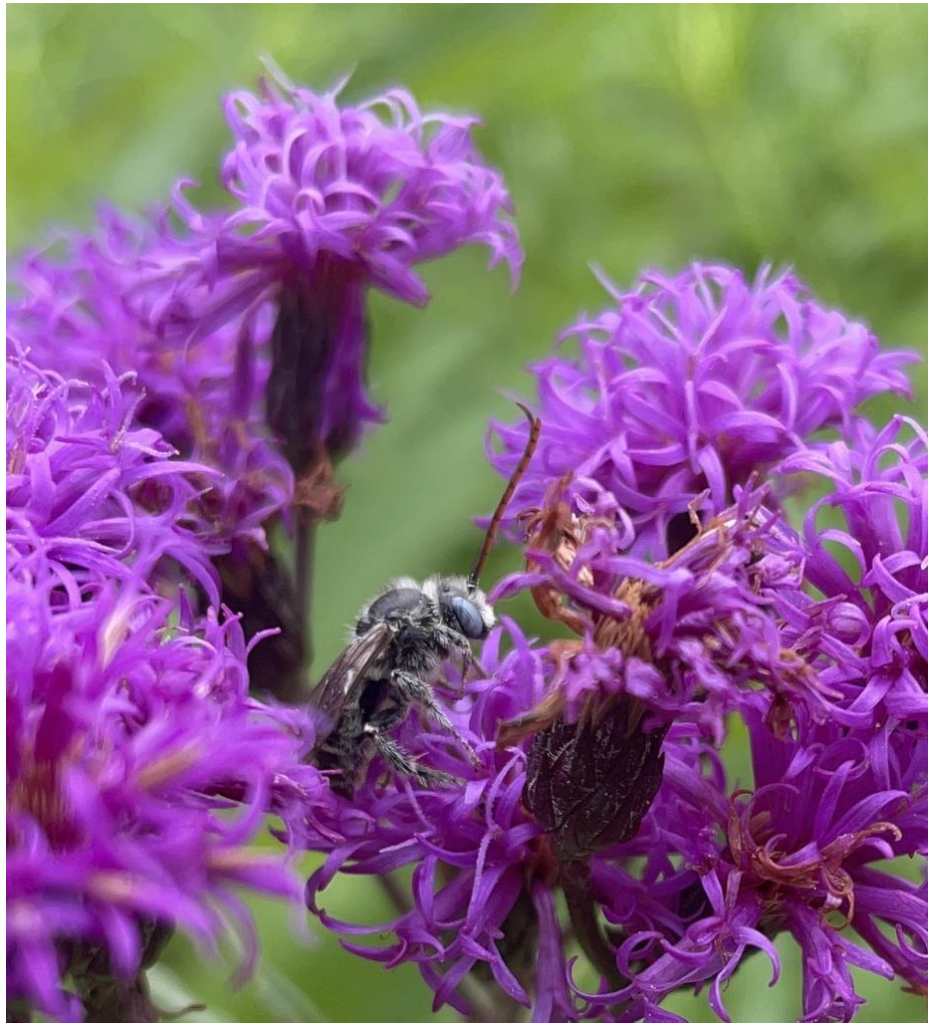
Melissodes denticulatus

A fuzzy grey-black bee with long antennae like other longhorn bees; males are distinguished by their long red antennae.

It is known to forage primarily on Ironweed (*Vernonia* sp.), but it may also visit other plants such as goldenrod and rudbeckia.

Pictured visiting Ironweed(*Vernonia noveboracensis*) flowers in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://www.sharpeatmanguides.com/long-horned-bees-new-york



Two-spotted Longhorn Bee

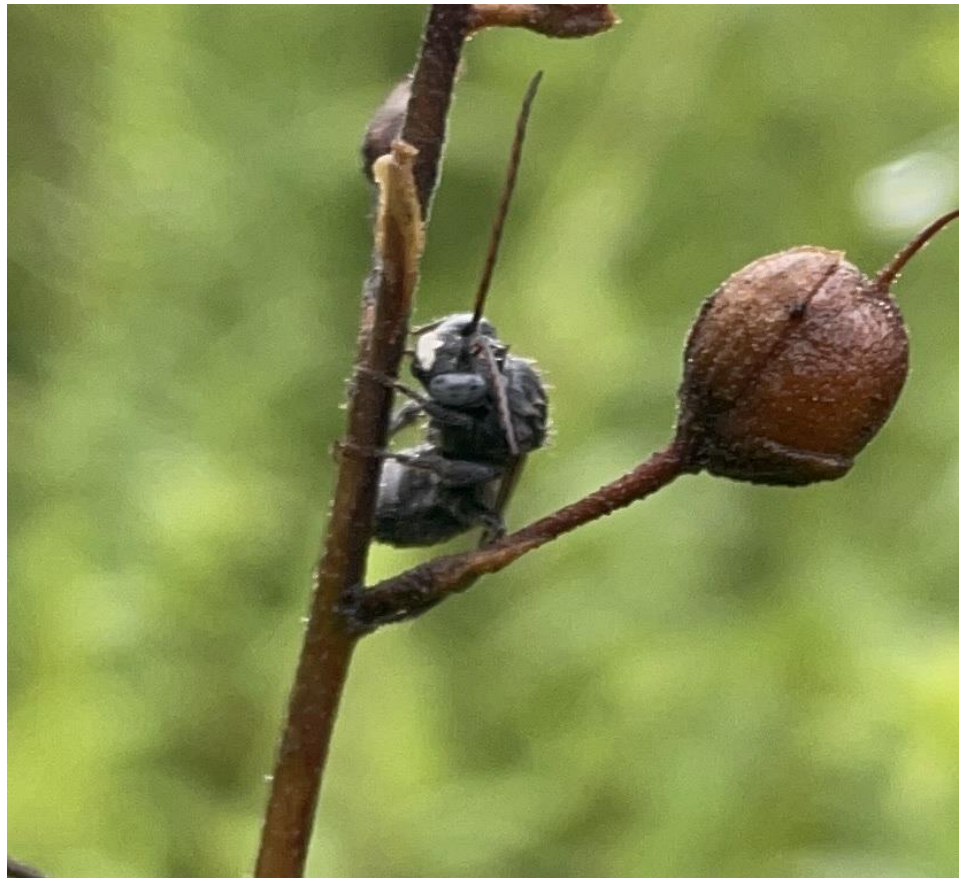
Melissodes bimaculatus

A fuzzy mostly black longhorn bee named after two spots found on the female's abdomen. Males have a yellowish, white patch on their face and long antennae.

They forage on a wide range of plants and are noted to be among the first bees to visit a flower in the morning.

Pictured damp by rain on a Moth mullein(*Verbascum blattaria*) flower stalk in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://www.sharpeatmanguides.com/long-horned-bees-new-York



Ligated Furrow bee

Halictus ligatus

A common small sweat bee that is grey to back in color with light fuzzy hairs and a banded white abdomen.

They frequent a variety of flowers but are noted to enjoy compound flowers like Sunflowers(*Helianthus* sp.).

Pictured collecting pollen on a Woodland sunflower(*Helianthus sp.*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://www.jungledragon.com/specie/26582/ligated_furrow_bee.html

Two moons beewolf
(*Philanthus bilunatus*)

A small solitary wasp sporting a unique black and yellow coloration. An identifying feature is the narrow bands of yellow on its abdomen with a U-shaped indent.

The larvae feed on sweat bees captured by adults, while adults feed on nectar and pollen.

Pictured feeding on Mountain mint(*Pycnanthemum muticum*) flower.

There is much more to learn about beewolves, this link to bug guide shares some information about this species: https://bugguide.net/node/view/124024

Ichneumon wasp
(*Ischnus inquisitorius*)

A small reddish-brown wasp, white markings on its face and antennae. Females have long ovipositor which they use to lay eggs in caterpillars.

These wasps are parasitoids meaning they lay eggs into insects primarily caterpillars, and the larvae develop within the caterpillar and feed on it, emerging as an adult killing the caterpillar.

Pictured sticking its ovipositor in a rolled Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) leaf in the demonstration gardens.

There is much more to learn about these wasps.

Noble Scoliid wasp

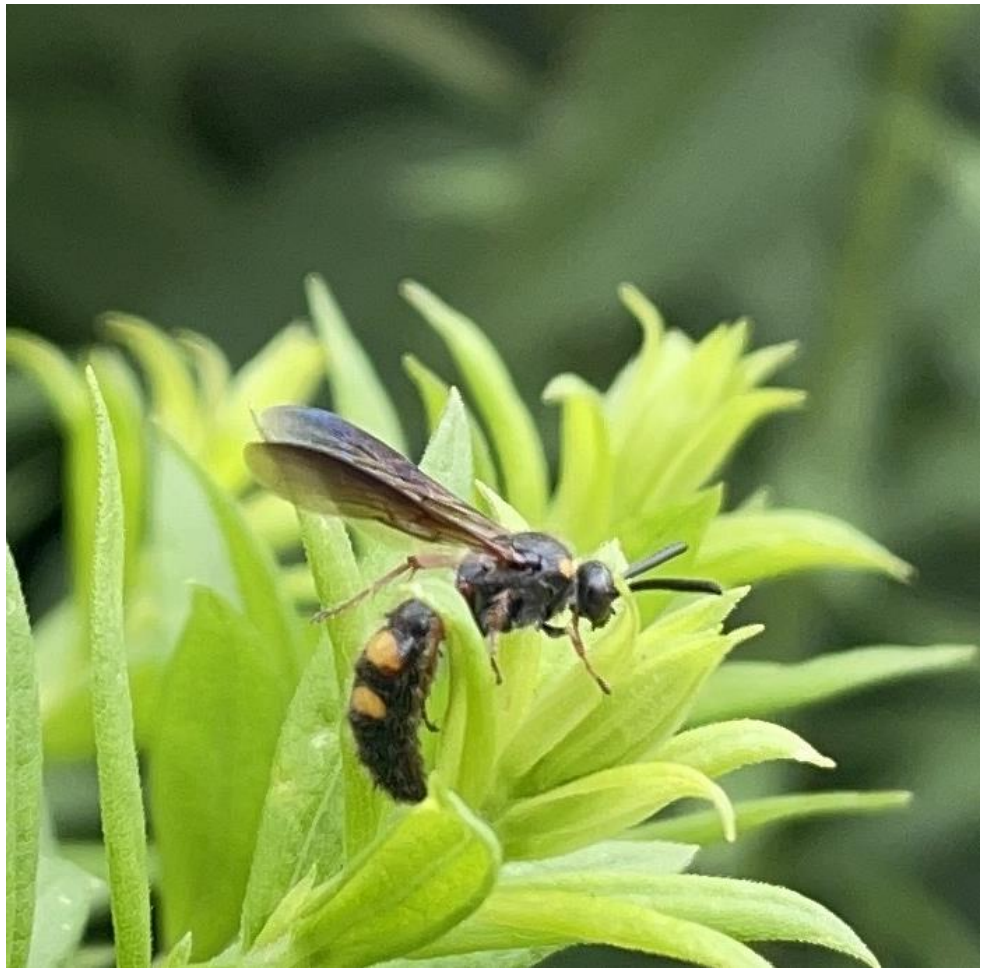
Scolia nobilitata

A bluish black wasp with metallic blue wings and abdomen with variable orange-red to white markings. The wasp is covered with fine hairs more noticeable on its abdomen.

Adults are often seen visiting flowers as they feed on nectar. While wasp larvae hatch out and feed on the beetle grubs paralyzed by female wasps.

Pictured resting on a Goldenrod(*Solidago* sp.) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/scoliid-wasps#:~:text=Like%20other%20scoliids%2C%20it%20is,just%20over%20%C2%BD%20inch%20long.



Bald-faced hornet

(*Dolichovespula maculata*)

The name is a misnomer as it is a yellow jacket distinguished by its white and black coloration. It may get aggressive if disturbed or if close to nest and gets threatened.

Adults hunt for insects to feed to larvae while they mainly eat nectar.

Pictured on the wooden stakes in the pollinator plots in the demonstration gardens, chewing wood likely to aid in nest building.

Learn more: https://extension.psu.edu/baldfaced-hornet


Flies

Thick-headed Flies
(*Physocephala tibialis*)

On first glance , it appears to be a wasp, but this "wasp" lacks long antennae and a stinger. These wasp mimicking flies are parasitoids of bees.

As parasitoids, they lay their eggs in the abdomens of bumblebees and larvae develop within the bee. After pupating they emerge killing the bee in the process.

Pictured hanging out on the Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), waiting to ambush a passing bee.

Learn more:

https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/physocephala-tibialis-face-scarpulla-virginia

Transverse-banded Flower Fly
(*Eristalis transversa*)

A bee like fly recognized by its robust yellow body and transverse bands.

As adults they visit many flowers playing a role as important pollinators, whereas the larvae feed on a variety of soft body insects like aphids.

Pictured on False sunflower(*Heliopsis helianthoides*) in the meadow of the demonstration garden.

Learn more: https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/2023-08/Flower%20Flies%20fact%20sheet%20-%20DRAFT.pdf

Oblique streaktail

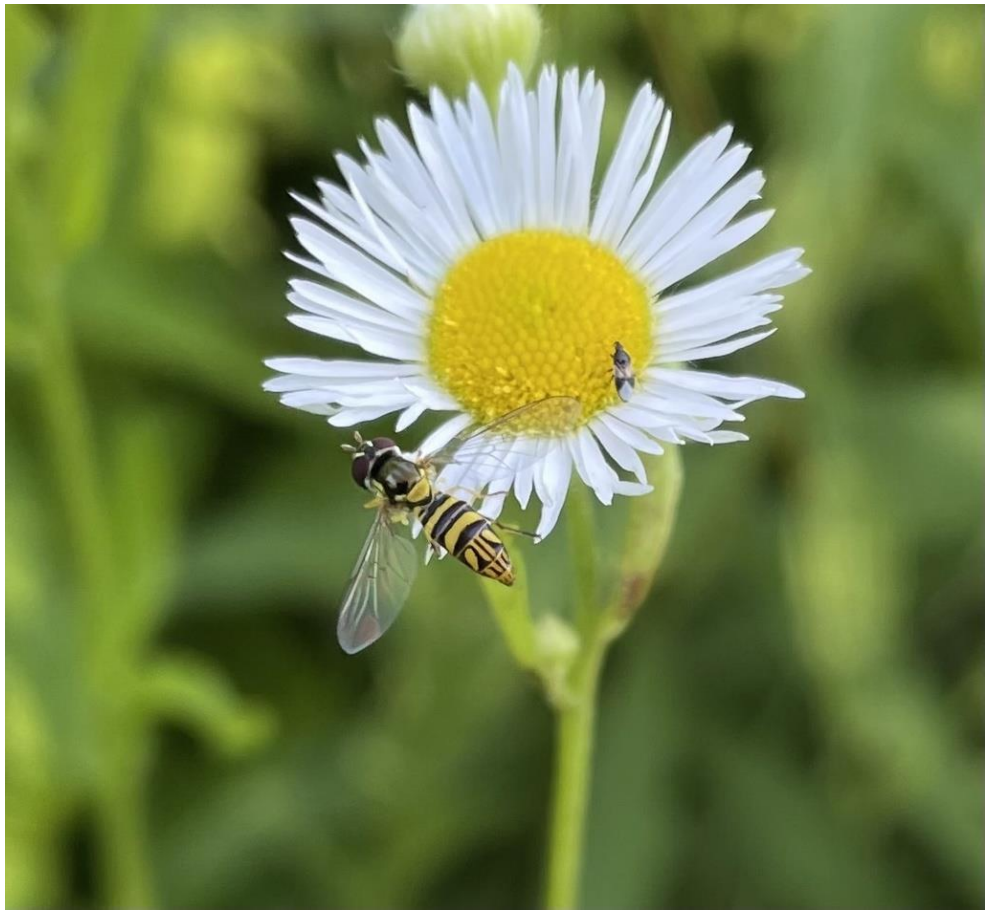
Allograpta obliqua

A widespread hoverfly, sporting a protective black and yellow coloration to mimic stinging insects. The streaks on its lower abdomen give it its name.

Adults frequent a variety of plants to feed on nectar, while larvae feed on soft-body insects like aphids.

Pictured in flight over a Fleabane(*Erigeron* sp.) flower in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/in342



Northeastern Hammertail

Efferia aestuans

A slender grayish black fly, named after the clubbed tail of males.

These flies are predatory and feed on a variety of insects often ambushing them in flight. They are known to lay their eggs in flower heads.

Pictured resting on a bench in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://robberfly.org/efferia/


Butterflies and Moths

Monarch butterfly

(*Danaus plexippus*)

Iconic orange butterfly margined with black veins and dotted with white spots. The color warns of the toxicity they gain from compounds within milkweeds.

Feeds on a variety of milkweeds (*Asclepias sp.*)

Fun fact some monarchs travel over 3000 miles down to overwinter in Mexico.

Pictured feeding on Common milkweed flowers (*Asclepias syriaca*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:

https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/monarch-butterfly

Eastern tiger swallowtail
(*Papilio glaucus*)

A large butterfly with a yellow wings with black stripes that are reminiscent of tiger stripes.

Host plants: Black cherry(*Prunus serotina*), Tulip tree *(Liriodendron tulipifera*) and Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*).

Female tiger swallowtails range in color from yellow to a darker bluish black which is believed to mimic the distasteful Pipevine swallowtail.

Picture feeding on Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/TigerSwallowtail.shtml

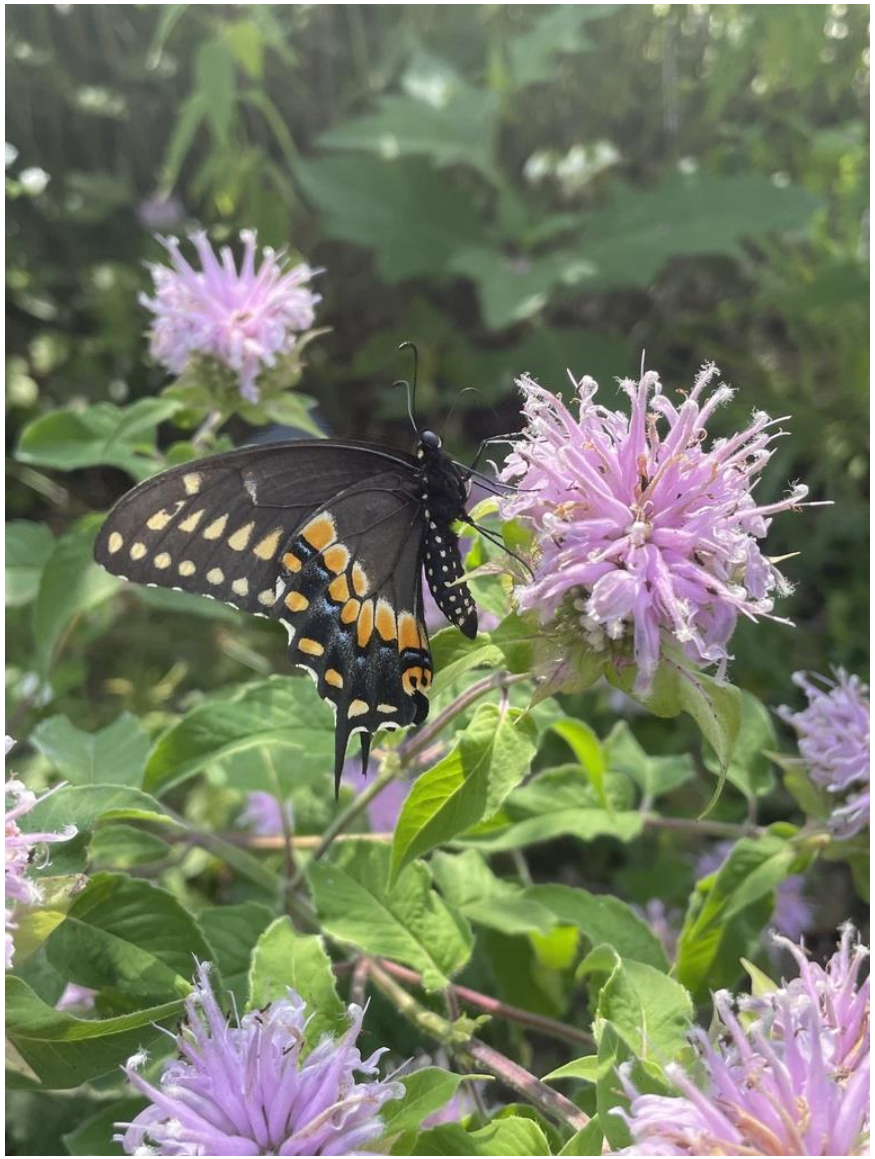
Black Swallowtail
(*Papillo polyxenes*)

A common sight through North America, which is commonly misidentified with other fellow swallowtails. It is identified by two rows of orange markings and black circular dots towards the tails of its hind wings

Larvae feeds on a variety of host plants in the carrot family (*Apiaceae*) including Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*) and Wild parsnip *(Pastinaca sativa*)

Pictured feeding on Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*) in the demonstration garden.

Learn more:
https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/bfly2/eastern_black_swallowtail.htm



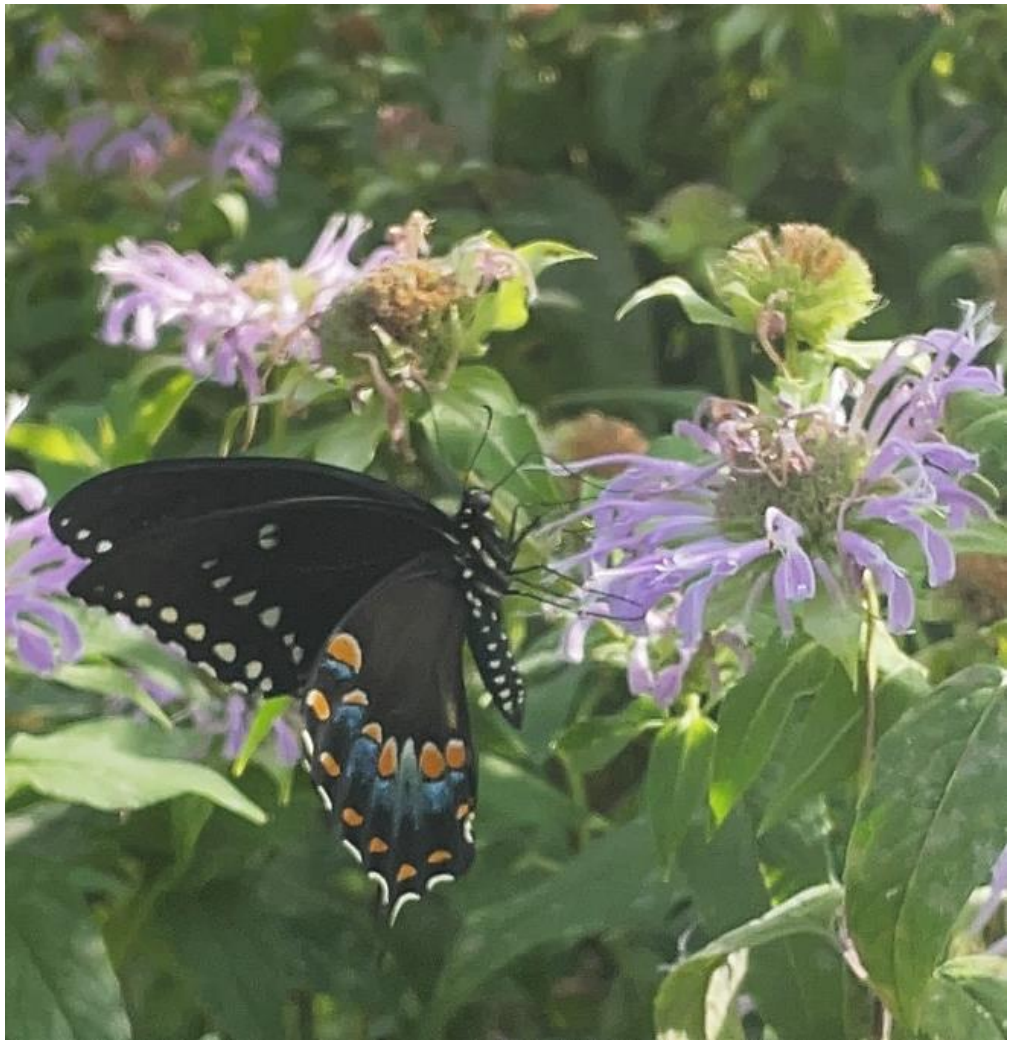
Spicebush Swallowtail
(*Papilio Troilus*)

A common sight easily mistaken for fellow swallowtails. It is distinguished by the lack of an orange dot on one of the blue streaks on its wing pattern.

Host plants include Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Pictured feeding on Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*) in demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/spicebush-swallowtail



Pipevine Swallowtail

Battus philenor

The adult butterflies are fast flying, black in color with blue iridescent hind wings and bright orange spots .The caterpillar's range in color from black to reddish brown with long spiny protrusions on body.

The caterpillars feed on the host plant Dutchman's pipevine(*Aristolochia macrophylla*).

Pictured on Dutchman's pipevine(*Aristolochia macrophylla*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/pipevine-swallowtail.shtml

Red-spotted Purple

Limenitis arthemis ssp. astyanax

A large blue butterfly with white dotted margins and a faded amber overlay on the top of its forewings. Commonly mistaken to be a swallowtail but it lacks the tails on the hind wings.

Some host plants are Birches (*Betula* sp.) and Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.)

Pictured resting among some Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/red-spotted_purple.htm

American lady

Vanessa virginiensis

A primarily orange and brown colored butterfly with a striking underwing pattern of streaks and two noticeable eye spots.

The caterpillars feed on a variety of plants and are known to host on Pussy toes(*Antennaria plantaginifolia*) in the Cottage gardens.

Pictured feeding on Summer sweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) in the demonstration gardens,

Learn more:
https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Vanessa-virginiensis

Silver-spotted skipper
(*Epargyreus clarus*)

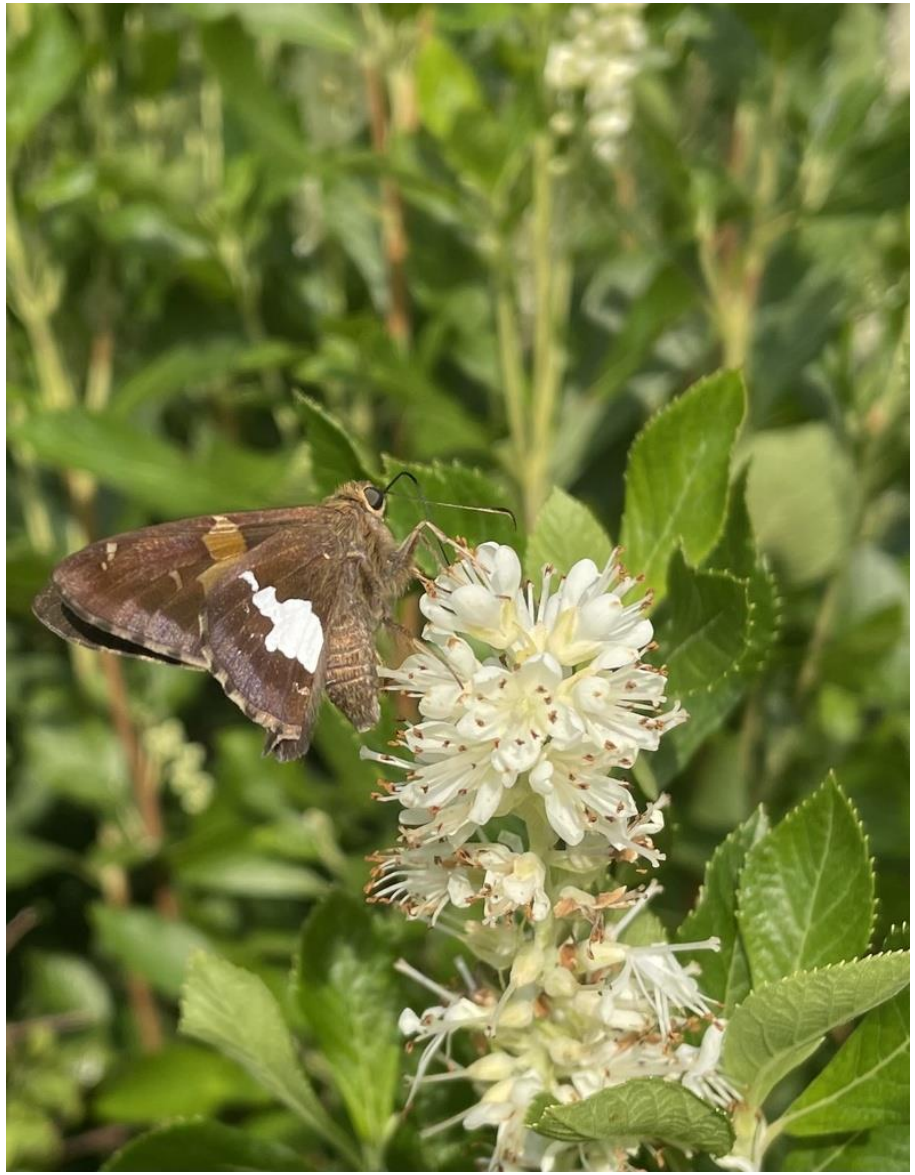
A common sight across the eastern United States, characterized by an irregular white spot on both wings of adult butterflies.

Larvae feeds on a variety of plants primarily in the Fabaceae (pea family), like Wild blue indigo (B*aptisia tinctoria*) and Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

Pictured feeding on Summer sweet(*Clethra alnifolia*) in demonstration gardens.

Learn more:

https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/silver-spotted_skipper.htm



Summer Azure
(*Celastrina neglecta*)

A rather small butterfly with an iridescent blue front wing and a white to grew underwing decorated with black spots.

Caterpillars are said to feed on a variety of shrubby dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.), Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*) and New Jersey Tea (*Ceanthonus americanus*).

Pictured on Wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra exima*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:

https://val.vtecostudies.org/projects/vermont-butterfly-atlas/summer-azure/

Banded Hairstreak
(*Satyrium calanus*)

A rather small brown butterfly with patches of brown markings outlined with white fringes on the underside of wings, with thin tails on hindwings.

Caterpillars feed on a variety of woody plants such as Oaks (*Quercus* sp.), Walnuts (*Juglans* sp.), and Hickories (*Carya* sp.)

Pictured on Culver's root(*Veronicastrum virginicum*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://www.butterfliesofmassachusetts.net/banded%20hairstreak.htm

Red-banded Hairstreak
(*Calycopis cecrops*)

This butterfly has a close resemblance to the banded hairstreak, but it sports a unique pattern of white, black and red bands on the undersides of its wings.

Larvae feed on mostly fallen leaves of Sumac (*Rhus* sp.) , Oaks (*Quercus* sp.) and Bayberry (*Morella* sp.)

Pictured resting on Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/red-banded-hairstreak

Eastern Tailed-Blue

Cupido comyntas

Males are iridescent blue on top while females are brown. The underwings are white to grey with black dots. Towards the margins of the hind wings there are orange circular markings near small fine tails

Caterpillars feed on a variety of plants in the *Fabaceae* (legume) family

Pictured resting on Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) leaf in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://wildadirondacks.org/adirondack-butterflies-eastern-tailed-blue-cupido-comyntas.html

Huron Sachem
(*Atalopedes huron*)

A common sight in gardens and meadows, quite playful and fast and closely resembles other skippers. Males are light brown in color whereas females are slightly larger and darker brown.

The larvae feed on a variety of common yard grasses including Crabgrass (*Digitaria sp.*)

Pictured resting on Blue star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) leaves in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://www.butterfliesofmassachusetts.net/sachem.htm

Orange mint moth
(*Pyralis orphisalis*)

A small colorful moth, active at day, recognized by its bands of orange and brown tapered by fringes along the wings.

Its larvae feed on plants in the mint family (*Lamiaceae)* like Mountain mint ((*Pycnanthemum muticum*) and Beebalm (Monarda sp.)

Pictured on Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) in the demonstration garden.

https://uspest.org/mint/orangemoth.htm

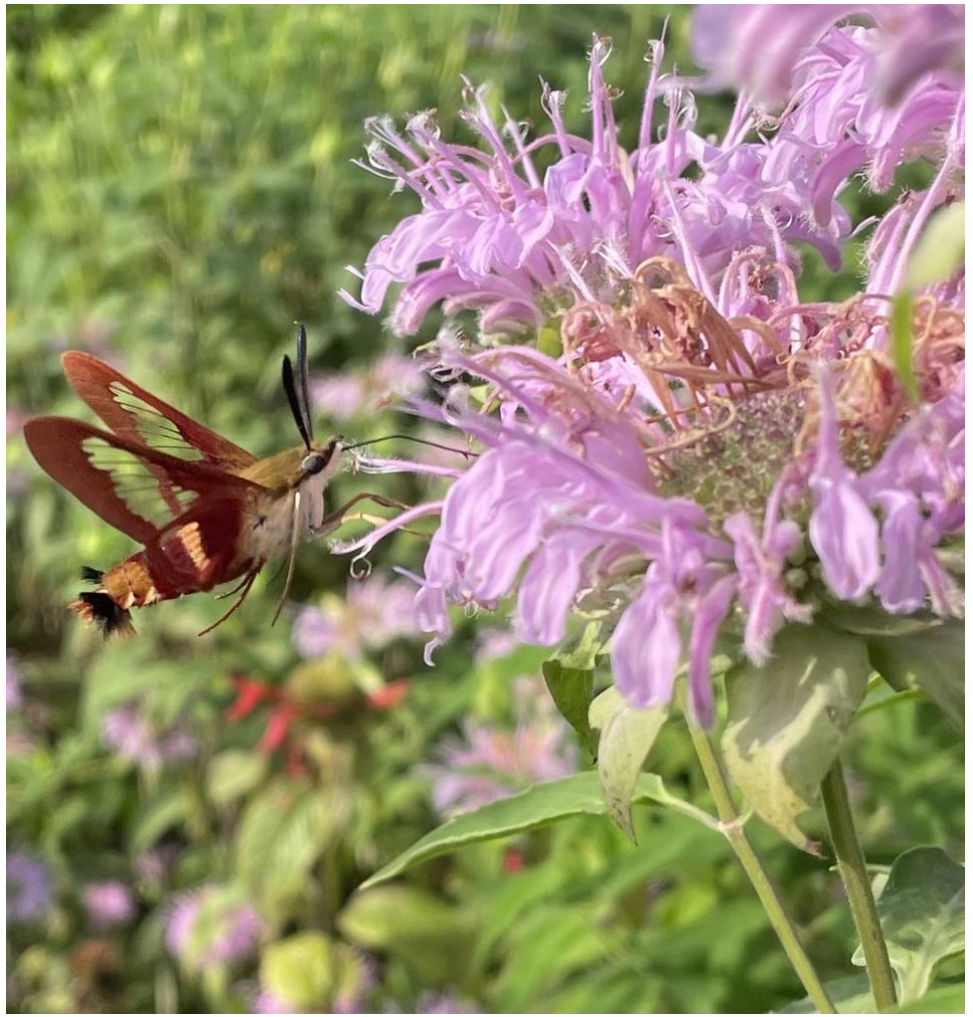
Hummingbird Clearwing
(*Hemaris thysbe*)

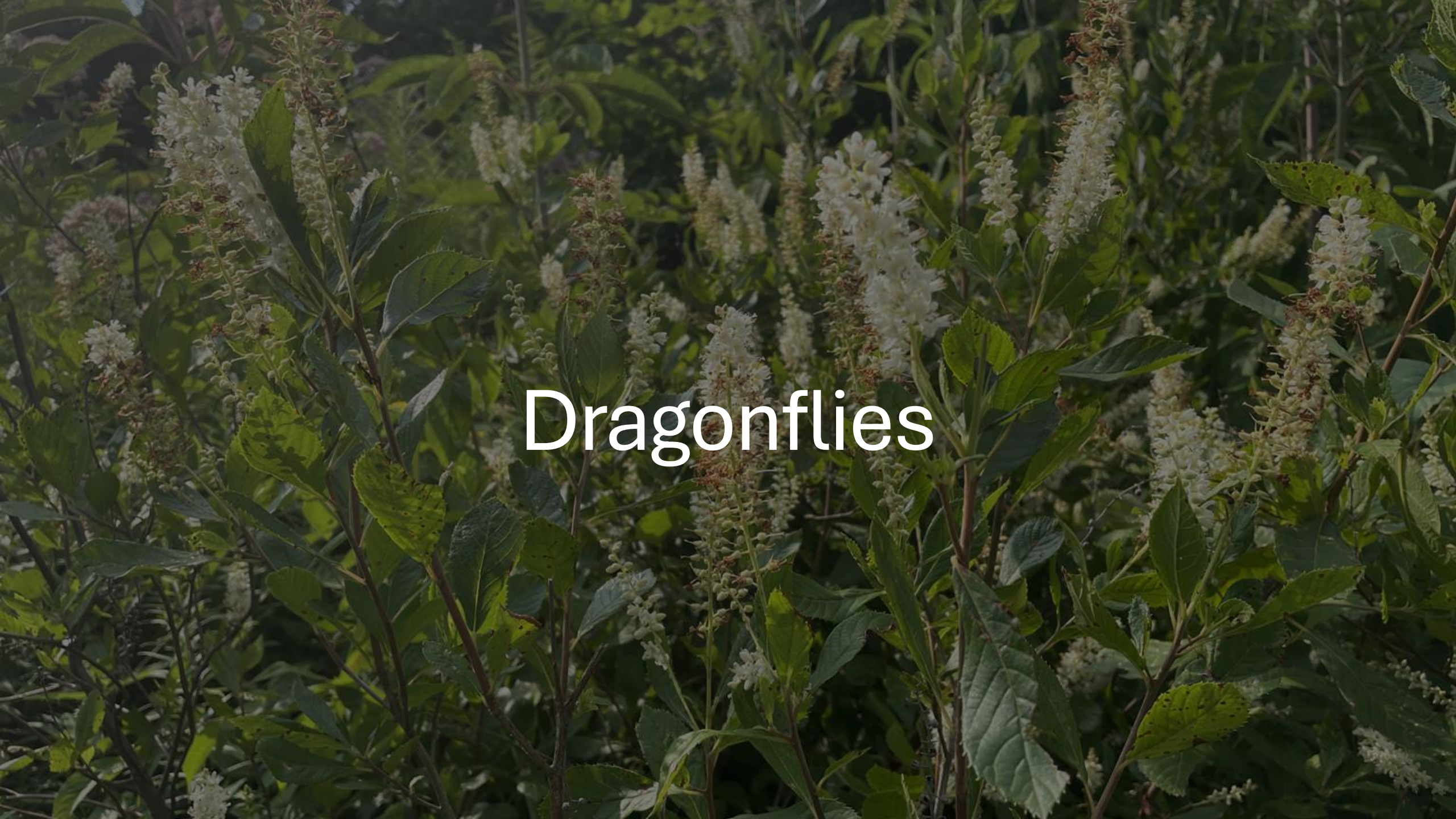
A common moth which frequents flowers during the daytime, noted for its resemblance to hummingbirds. It differs from the snowberry clearwing with its red markings.

Caterpillars are known to host on Honeysuckle(Lonicera sp.), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*).

Pictured feeding on Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://www.massaudubon.org/nature-wildlife/insects-arachnids/hummingbird-moth




Dragonflies

Common whitetail
(Plathemis lydia)

A common species of dragonfly that is named after the white abdomen of the males. Usually found around bodies of water like marshes and ponds but also can venture far beyond.

Like other dragonflies they feed on any insect they can catch, often ambushing them in flight.

Pictured in the demonstration gardens resting on Wild bleeding heart *(Dicentra exima)*.

Learn more:

https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/common-whitetail

Widow skimmer

Libellula luctuosa

A dark brown speedster with yellow stripes running along the sides and dark inner wings.

The dark coloration of the basal parts of the wings are said to resemble a widow's shawl; this is a possible source of its name.

Pictured resting on Steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*) in demonstration gardens.

Learn more:
https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/wildaboutpages/wildaboutinvertebrates/wildaboutdragonflies/family-libellulidae/wadfwidowskimmer.html

Blue dasher

Pachydiplax longipennis

A common species of dragonfly expressing an example of sexual dimorphism. Males are blue in color with yellow stripes, while females are brown with yellow stripes.

The nymphs of Blue dashers are said to tolerate very low oxygen levels and are used as indicators of water quality.

Pictured resting among Goldenrods(*Solidago* sp.) in the demonstration gardens.

Learn more: https://portroyalsoundfoundation.org/field-guide-post/blue-dasher/

Common name

Genus species

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