



The Tuneful Warbler

A Dunwoody Village Wildlife Committee Publication, Spring 2021



All you need is a bird bath to invite birds into your garden. Even a shallow bowl will do.

Bird Watch

Flying by Night

The birds are coming back. Most migratory birds return in April and May. And most fly at night, using the stars for navigation.

Ornithologist Scott Weidensaul estimates that hundreds of millions of birds make the trip. Some stop along the way to feed and gain weight before continuing to their destinations. Others fly nonstop. The bar-tailed godwit, for example, flies 11 days over water from New Zealand to Alaska without stopping.

Darkness prevents us from seeing the migration. To appreciate its scale, Weidensaul suggests using binoculars or a telescope to watch as the birds fly across the face of the full moon.

Lights Out, Philly

Dozens of center city skyscrapers go dark for the two months of the northern migration. Artificial light disorients the birds, causing them to strike a building and die. Philadelphia joins 33 other cities in the "Lights Out" program. Lights will go out again in the fall for the southern migration.

What's So Special about Native Plants?

Native plants sustain life and the birds and bees love them.

Animals and insects evolved with native plants in a particular region or ecosystem and depend on them for sustenance. Plants imported from other ecosystems generally aren't good sources of food for native wildlife and in some instances can be poisonous.

Take the oak tree, for example. It can support over 500 species of moths, butterflies and other insects. The non-native Bradford Pear hosts less than 100.

While non-native plants might provide food for adult birds, their babies may not be able to digest it. Native plants are better suited to

our climates and are more resistant to diseases. They tolerate drought better and provide food and shelter for wildlife, especially birds and the insects they depend upon.

And, they are beautiful. Consider adding them to your garden. The birds and butterflies will come in droves.



Monarch butterflies need milkweed to survive, particularly after long migratory flights.

Add Native Plants to Your Patio or Balcony

Add a few native plants to your garden plot or your balcony pots and your garden will flourish. Their flowers add color and attract butterflies and birds. Even a small space can accommodate several of your

favorite varieties and still leave plenty of room for you to sit out and enjoy Dunwoody's beautiful grounds.

Turn to pages 2 and 3 for pictures of some of our favorite native

plants, suitable for containers or patios, along with ideas for arranging balcony and patio plantings. Also on page 3 is a list of garden centers within easy driving distance of Dunwoody.



Black-eyed Susan, milkweed and phlox predominate in this small garden plot in front of a Penrose house.



Goldenrod



Aster



Jack in the Pulpit



Black-eyed Susan



Cardinal Flower



Viola



Pink Tickseed



Phlox

**My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.
Claude Monet**

Design Ideas for Native Plants on Patios and Balconies

By Jorie Nailor

Getting started

Figure out your sun orientation. Is your patio or balcony facing north, south, east or west? This will determine how much sun or shade you have. Select plants accordingly. Also consider the height of the plants and the color of the foliage and flowers. Juxtapose shorter plants with taller ones and arrange complementary colors.

Weatherproof Containers: The larger the pot the more water it can hold, so watering is less frequent. Elevated gardens provide less bending over but need some assembly. Dunwoody Maintenance is available to help. Hammacher Schlemmer, Lowe's and Home Depot are good sources for materials and advice.

Soil: Use organic potting soil. The medium that you use in containers should crumble easily, retain moisture without becoming waterlogged, but permit free drainage and circulation of air, since the roots need oxygen. Do not use peat. I use Container Blend Potting Soil from Organic Mechanics from Primex in Glenside.

Native Plant Nurseries Near Dunwoody

Red Bud Native Plant Nursery

904 N Providence Road
Media, PA 19063
610-892-2833
Redbudnative.com

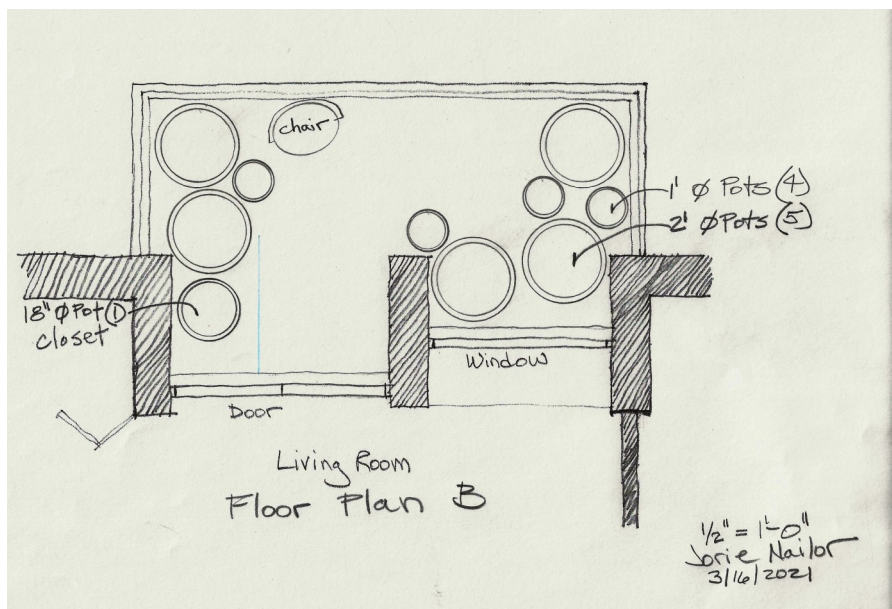
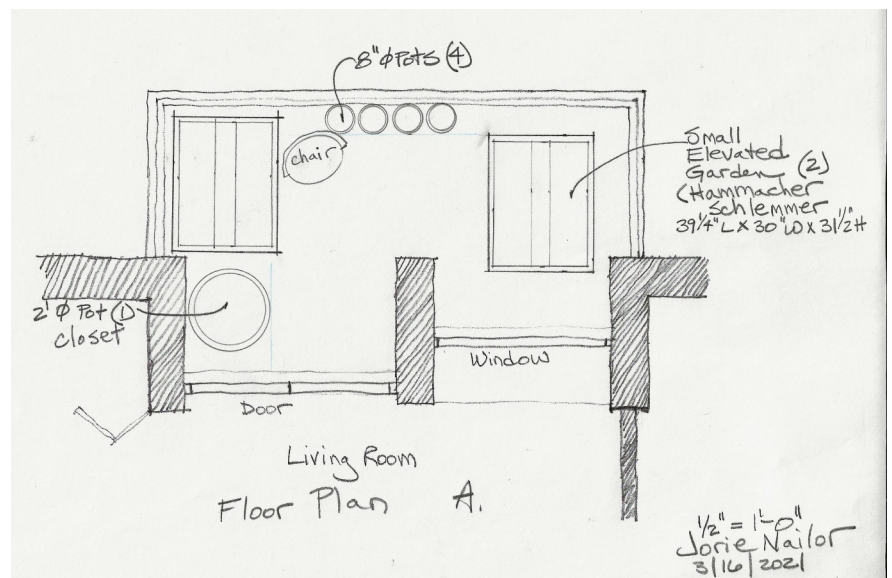
Jenkins Arboretum

631 Berwyn Baptist Road
Devon, PA 19333
610-647-8870
Jenkinsarboretum.org

Yellow Springs Farm

1165 Yellow Springs Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425
610-827-2014
info@yellowspringsfarm.com
Order online or call for appointment

In the spring,
at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt.
Margaret Atwood



Meet the Neighbors: The Cardinal Family

In the dim days of winter, the cardinal family brings a burst of color in the otherwise gray landscape. Fortunately for us, they do not join the annual migration south.

People say the cardinals are among the most romantic of birds. They work together to build their nest as they court and they remain monogamous for a year's nesting season and possibly beyond.



Their nests are an open construction built of twigs, grasses and other materials. You'll find them in dense shrubbery, bushes or low branches usually 10 feet off the ground. They never reuse their nests.

Cardinals usually have two broods of three to five chicks, starting in March. Once the eggs hatch, the male often takes care of feeding them. After a month

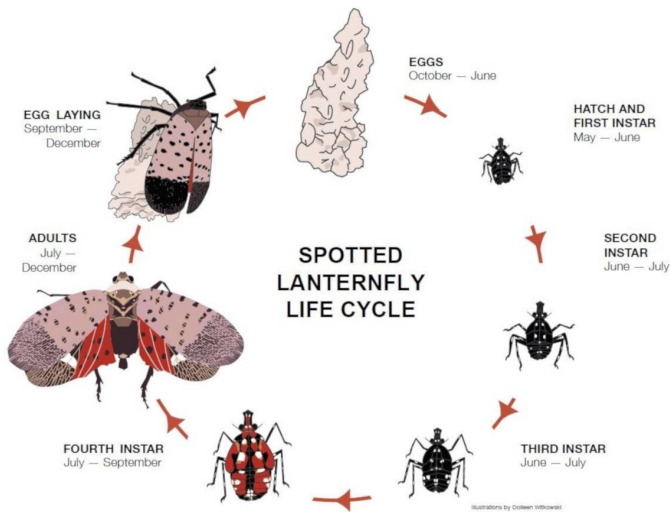
or so the newbies will join a flock of juveniles for a year before they are ready to find a mate.

These herbivores feast on seeds of grasses and corn, grapes and berries, flower buds and seeds, and sometimes insects. At our feeders they love black oiled sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, cracked corn, peanut pieces, berries and some fresh fruits.

The male cardinal is very territorial in protecting his mate and feeding area, especially in the evenings as the female sits on her eggs, The male will be high in the trees surrounding his area, sounding his familiar whistle as a warning to competitors to stay away. Listen carefully in the evenings just after sunset. Can you hear him?



Be On the Lookout for Nymphs: Lanternflies Are Emerging Every Day Now



For seven years, we have been on high alert for the invasive spotted lanternfly, which hitched a ride to Pennsylvania on a shipment of stone from China.

Last year lanternflies did \$43 million damage across Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, New York, and Connecticut. They feast on the sap of many species. Unfortunately, here in the Northeast they have no natural predators.

Bill Holfield and his crew are doing their best and soon will

be wrapping yellow sticky tape around our trees to catch the nymphs as they climb toward top branches.

Residents can help eliminate them:

- Scrape egg sacs on trees and other surfaces into a container of rubbing alcohol or deposit them in a bag for disposal.
- Squash, stomp or karate-kick nymphs and adults.
- Spray with vinegar or soap and water. Be careful. Both soap and vinegar can damage plants and flowers.

The Tuneful Warbler is published quarterly by and for Dunwoody Village residents.

Please send ideas and comments to Dee Owen, dorie.owen@gmail.com.

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