

# GCFM NATIVE PLANT CHALLENGE

Volume V | May 2021



*Weston Garden Club installed a native plant garden at the Weston Town Hall, 11 Townhouse Road, MA about 5 years ago. It is small, but everything is labeled. It includes native trees and shrubs as well as perennials.*

*Submitted by Beth Jakubowski, Weston Garden Club*

[Visit our CGFM Website](#)



Have you requested NPC supplies for your Plant Sale? Contact [Bonnie Rosenthal](#) for details.

Do you have a home or civic garden featuring native plants that you would like to share with the GCFM community at our virtual Annual Meeting on June 2nd?

The Native Plant Challenge has been asked to share the photos and stories of our progress and we need your input! Please send [Bonnie Rosenthal](#) a brief description of your garden, (including the top performing native plants), with 1-5 photos. We will compile all entries into a short presentation for everyone to see on their computer screens at our Annual Meeting.

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## MY FAVORITE NATIVE PLANT



I first saw this native perennial on a garden tour in East Longmeadow MA and I couldn't wait to get home and look it up. The plant is ***Spigelia marilandica***, commonly known as **Indian Pink** for its pink roots. Its tubular flowers are bright red on the outside with yellow inner portions of the petals curling outward, forming a five pointed star at the top. The flower clusters grow on stiff stems up to 18 inches tall and slowly form clumps 14-18 inches wide. It likes

moist sandy soil or humus and will happily grow in partial shade. It can be found growing, in the wild, along streambeds and in low moist woods as far north as New Jersey but is hardy to zone 5 and has been doing well in my garden for the past 6 years. The plants bloom in June but are slow to come up in the spring, so make sure you mark them. It is easy to propagate from cuttings early in the growing season. Hummingbirds love Spigelia, which makes it worth growing in your home garden.

Submitted by Janet Dolder, Springfield Garden Club

## BLOODROOT, A HARBINGER OF SPRING

**Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*)** is a charming wildflower native to the woodlands of eastern North America. A favorite of early pollinators, this rhizomatous perennial forms colonies in moisture-retentive, well-drained soils in partial shade. Blossoms emerge on 6-inch stems in mid to late April and while the blooms are fleeting, attractive clusters of scalloped leaves up to a foot tall often persist into August. Seeds are spread by ants.

Submitted by Suzanne Mahler  
Walnut Hill Garden Club



## GARDEN IN THE WOODS REOPENING



Garden in the Woods, located at 180 Hemenway Rd, Framingham, MA, will be open daily April 11-October 15 from 10 am to 5 pm (last timed ticket 4 pm). To maintain a safe environment for visitors and staff, the number of people in the Garden will be limited each day according to state requirements. For safety, there is no parking at the Garden or on Hemenway Road: parking is available on neighboring streets. Plant sales are by [appointment](#) only.

All visitors will need to purchase a timed ticket in advance of their visit through Native Plant Trust's [website](#). Admission is free for most of Native Plant Trust's members, who will still need to go online to reserve a time. Questions: phone 508-877-7630 x3601 or email [BoxOffice@NativePlantTrust.org](mailto:BoxOffice@NativePlantTrust.org).

## Grow Native Massachusetts - Evenings with Experts

Many Evenings with Experts lectures are available to you online. Their speakers are some of the best experts in the country. These recordings are professionally video-edited (so you can really see the speakers' slides). [Click here for past year's recordings.](#)

### **Managing an Urban Landscape for Biodiversity**

(This Evening with Experts 2021 presentation has not yet been recorded online)

The Garden Revolution encompasses more than using native plants. This is a wonderful, clear and beautiful presentation on the dynamics between plant and animal, and how to change gardening practices to attract more insects and feed more birds. Very detailed and delightfully in-depth. Hope you can see it (once it is recorded). Happy spring!

*Submitted by Ellen Schoenfeld-Beeks, Sharon Garden Club*

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### **MORE GARDENS TO VISIT THIS SUMMER**

Deborah Chud's Piet Oudolf-inspired garden  
112 Waban Hill Road, Chestnut Hill, MA  
(After July 10th)

All private garden tours should be arranged with the home/garden owner prior to your visit.  
Small Garden Club groups are welcome. Limit: 10 people.

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*Don't forget to visit the GCFM website often. You can find other NPC resources, as well as interesting events, webinars, GCFM programs, Schools, Workshops, Flower Shows and Awards.*

[Visit our GCFM Website](#)