

Late Summer and Fall Wildflowers

With late summer comes a burst of wildflowers. Pollinators are busier than ever getting the last bits of nectar and pollen before cold weather sets in.

Roadsides are at their most beautiful this time of year. Look for bright yellow Goldenrod and Sunflowers, the largest of which is Jerusalem Artichoke. One of the tallest this time of year is Joe-Pye -Weed, which is topped off with many tiny pink flowers. Guess which insects love Butterflyweed? I wonder why.

Reservoir edges and streambanks are good places to look for red, white, and blue: Cardinal Flower, Turtlehead, and Bottle Gentian.

Last, this plant grows in what I'd have to call neglected places. Pokeweed has tiny white flowers and plump purple fruits. They are poisonous to humans, but I wonder what eats them?



Canada Goldenrod, *Solidago canadensis*



Jerusalem Artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*



Joe-Pye-Weed, *Eutrochium*



Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*



Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*



Turtlehead, *Chelone glabra*



Gentian, *Gentiana saponaria*



Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*