

Gillespie Creek Journal

This week the meadow has changed color again. It has become mostly green with accents of amber colored Daisies and many, many lavender Bergamot (Bee Balm) blooms. Clusters of Queen Anne's Lace either surround or give height to Nature's mid-July bouquet.

You probably have the scarlet colored "Bee Balm" in your garden. It is quite an invasive perennial. As with the domesticated variety, the plant has a mint flavor. Colonial Americans used two drops of its extracted oils, added to a sweetened glass of water to alleviate gas pains. Lakota Indians found that the herb could be used as a nasal stimulant when a tribe member fainted.

Looking closely at my photo, a stunningly colored moth is sipping nectar from the Bergamot flower. Called a "Wasp moth" (technically a Virginia Ctenucha.) Wikipedia tells me its territory has expanded



Most days I wear a "head net" when I'm out hiking. A few weeks ago my son and I were walking our ditches picking up litter. My net caught this pretty detailed spider drifting in the air and held on to it. Robb quickly snapped this photo. Notice the spider's intricate antenna. Perhaps you can tell me if it's a Common Brown or a dangerous Brown Recluse.



This small bird that I introduced in an earlier newsletter is a **Yellow Winged Warbler**. My daughter Nancy discovered that Cornell Ornithologists just determined that 1/2 of its entire population nest in Wisconsin. Their habitat is threatened by our persistent drought.



Fireflies in the Garden by Robert Frost. Here come real stars to fill the upper skies, And here on earth come emulating flies, That though they never equal stars in size, (And they were never really stars at heart) Achieve at times a very star-like start. Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.