



August 2107

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Did you get to see the fireworks this past Fourth of July? We hope you did because it's always a spectacular show. If you didn't, fear not, because the Evergreen campus is having an extended fireworks show of it's own. It's happening just outside your windows. Out amongst the gardens and woods, you'll find an array of floral explosions occurring on a daily basis including every color of the rainbow without all the noise.

Yes, it's a quiet celebration of summer with the "explosions" actually lasting for days on end. If you can imagine with your eyes shut several panoramic views of flowers of every size, shape and combination, you'll have a pretty good vision of what's already out in the gardens for you now. All you have to do now is open your eyes and look towards your windows. We hope what's before you in the gardens is a satisfactory match of what you imagined. What's nice is there still is more to come and we invite you to enjoy the show as often as you wish.

For those of you not acquainted with a particular flower and its common name, that are featured in some of our gardens at Evergreen, here are a few of the headliners that are volunarily showing themselves off as part of the fireworks show. Of course, there are many other players in the collage of color and for those who may wonder what they may be called, just ask a Grounds person nearby. We can probably help.



Oriental Lilly



Gayfeather



Asiatic Lilly



Here's a few more from the ongoing celebration of colors...



Coneflower



Bee Balm



Daisy



Zinnia



Asiatic Lilly



Hydrangea

In other developments around the campus, we have the new courtyard taking shape rather quickly. As mentioned in a previous issue of the Gazette, we have a whole array of plant stock staged and ready to be incorporated into the landscape in which, weather permitting, planting should begin in early August. Just picture yourself being able to sit in various locations in the spacious walk-around patio area and observe brand new floral sights and arrangements. Not only that, but also think about enjoying a massive four sided waterfall at the same time. These images were once awaiting possibilities, but as the progress clearly demonstrates, they soon will be an Evergreen resident's reality pretty soon.



Of course, the new courtyard development is not the only talk around the Grounds department. Thanks to the abundance of rain and warm temperatures, the large population of mosquitoes has been another subject of consideration. Did you know that Wisconsin is home to over 40 to 50 varieties of mosquitoes and there are about 500 varieties in the world? That means that we have approximately 10% of these critters right here in our state. That is a rather impressive percentage that could qualify these home grown insects as tiny “cheese heads”. Actually, there is no disputing that this year has been a challenge for anyone who has had to spend long periods of time outdoors, but there is some good news to be had here. We all have had some great helpers in the natural world to keep some of them in check.

Besides the great number of birds who make the mosquito a large part of their diet, the dynamic duo of bats and dragonflies do their fair share of keeping the biting insects under 24 hour control. Because of the appreciation of the job these additional “mosquito hawks” have contributed (this season in particular), we will focus for a moment on the daytime portion of the mighty double tandem - the dragonfly.

So what do we know about these beneficial insects? Here’s a brief listing of some useful facts you can use to impress your neighbors with, the next time you see a dragonfly hovering about the campus:

- Dragonflies will not harm you. They do not bite, but they do have an enormous appetite for flying insects. Mosquitoes are their number one choice, but they can devour flies, horseflies and deerflies equally as well.



- Dragonflies have two large eyes. Each one has 20,000 sight units which enable them to spot a mosquito from any direction from as far away as 50 yards.
- Dragonflies are expert fliers and have the ability to hover, fly backwards and sideways thanks to two separate pairs of wings.
- Dragonflies spend most of their lives underwater as a nymph, (the in- between stage from a larva to an adult), which is about a period of two years. Once they emerge from the water and develop wings, their adult lifespan ranges from a few months to a year depending if they are a migrating type.
- Dragonflies only catch their meals while in flight and can eat literally hundreds of mosquitos every single day.
- There are approximately 130 types that live (and dine on mosquitos) in Wisconsin.

Here are a few you may recognize:



Our bird of the month is actually not a bird at all. We are going to switch it up a bit this issue and shine a spotlight on another friend from the insect world. In the past we have featured the Monarch butterfly, and rightly so, but this time we'd like to share some information about another great butterfly species, which is also fairly prominent in our Evergreen environment. This butterfly is none other than the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

Most of these large butterflies are predominately yellow with 4 dark tiger stripes on each wing. Males and females are distinguishable with the males all yellow and the females also yellow, but showing an area of blue near the tail. It's a bit odd, but the females can also be a dark variety with the same blue pattern at the tail. See the photos on the next page to see the three versions.



Female (light version)



Male



Female (dark version)

Other fun facts find that most of these gracious butterflies take 30 days to go from an egg to an adult and only live about 30 additional days as an adult. However, thanks to the warm weather season there can be up to 3 generations produced. Most of their eggs are found in willows and their food of choice nectar, from the butterfly bush, milkweed, phlox, lilac, dianthus, petunias, ironweed and coneflowers to name a few. Armed with these facts, perhaps you will have the delight of sighting one of these butterflies on your own. Good luck!



Our star plant of the immediate season has to be the zinnia. Not just any zinnia, however. We are talking about the State Fair variety. No other annual seems to stand up to this flower variety. That's because it's tall and strong, comes in a wide span of colors and is a great cutting flower. "The more you cut, the more it will replace" is a noble plus factor. Here at Evergreen, we generally plant about 8,000 of these flowers every year, which are grown exclusively for us by Fernau's Greenhouse located on Bowen Street here in Oshkosh. The co-owners, Bob and Dick Fernau, do a spectacular job getting the seedlings started for us,

which we transplant directly into our various show beds throughout the campus. This year the volume is a little less due to the construction activities here, but the show is still quite impressive. The State Fair type generally is about 30 to 36' tall and the flower is usually 4 to 5" wide. These flowers definitely exemplify the old saying, "Mother Nature has the best box of crayons." Wouldn't you agree? A star is born every day here...





In closing, we are happy to present this Gazette to you and as usual will close with these parting thoughts...

“Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience.” Ralph W. Emerson

“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” Henry Thoreau

Finally, as a little bonus we will also leave you with a seldom used nature word...

The word is “Petrichor”, pronounced pe, trikor:

It is defined as the pleasant, distinctive smell of earth after a first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather.

So go ahead and crack your window just a bit after the rain and check it out.

You might be glad you did.

