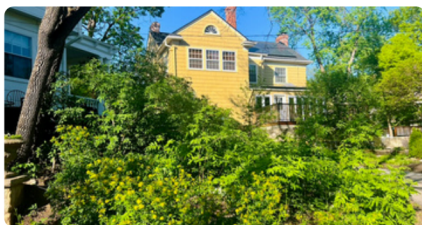


# FORMAL PROFUSION

Though this Georgian house sits on an equally proper block, the entire front yard (including the strip between sidewalk and curb) is filled with native plants. Thanks to thoughtful “cues to care,” this home is locally known for its lovely street presence.



## BUSINESS IN THE FRONT

Since plants along sidewalks and curbs must survive both dog and foot traffic, this area is planted with robust species like Pink Primrose, Canadian Anemone (*pic #2*) and several kinds of Asters. To ensure passersby never feel uncomfortable or crowded by plants that block the path or clear lines of sight, the asters are given frequent trims over the summer.

## PARTY IN THE BACK

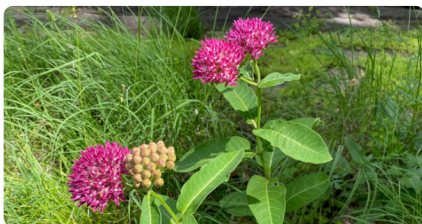
Behind the house, however, exuberant plants are given free rein, like the Elderberry that flowers and fruits prolifically (*left*) under a mature Persimmon tree. With the pillared side porch festooned with grapevine, the entire backyard is a feast for birds.

## LOOK FOR:

- Canadian Anemone (*Anemone canadense*) and Pink Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*) (*bottom*), enthusiastic bloomers perfect for curbs.
- The soaring, small-leaved Kentucky Coffee tree.
- The north-facing frontyard showcase of surprisingly shade-tolerant flowers, like Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Star Tickseed (*Coreopsis pubescens*) and Sweet Coneflower (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*).

# BUTTERFLY BUNGALOW

As soon as this couple moved into their Craftman bungalow, they ripped out the turf lawn and began planting natives. In the fifteen years since, they've learned a lot. Like which trees have a well-deserved reputation for the thirstiest, most competitive roots — Maple and Hackberry. Any guesses which large trees came with their house?



## LIFE ON THE SEDGE

Through trial and error they have hit upon mosaics of different native grasses and sedges for the front, with its ideal morning sun (*pic #2*), and the back, with its challenging morning shade/afternoon blast. (Not to mention those %@&! Hackberry roots.) For those of us just getting into sedges and grasses, this is a great opportunity to view mature specimens “on location” and learn which ones work where.

These green matrices create a soothing background for seasonal blooms like Phloxes, Coneflowers, Milkweeds and Blazing Stars that draw pollinators and butterflies all season long (*left*).

## LOOK FOR:

- A stunning combo of Bottlebrush Buckeye underplanted with Mayapple (*pic #4*). Look at that contrast in foliage!
- Spikenard in planters — a brilliantly full-bodied idea for container gardens, especially in shade.
- A bed of River Oats that holds the soil between house and driveway and perseveres in both downspout runoff and and southern sun.

# ST. FRANCIS SANCTUARY

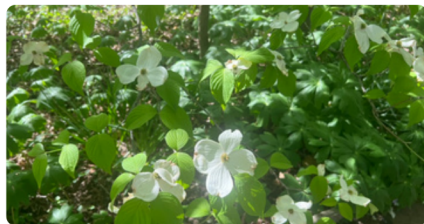
This garden host's first job out of college was with Barry Commoner, the "Paul Revere" of environmentalism and Earth Day. Little wonder that when she moved into this cottage, her first thought was how to turn it into a wildlife sanctuary:



"I have always wanted to be a naturalist and to live in the woods. So I said to myself, if I can't live in the woods, I'll bring the woods to me."

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Although this enchanted woodland looks as though it has always been here, at the start there was only a large Silver Maple and turf lawn. Both money and time were limited for this single mother, but her garden philosophy was simple: "This is all for the birds. The whole yard was designed for them."

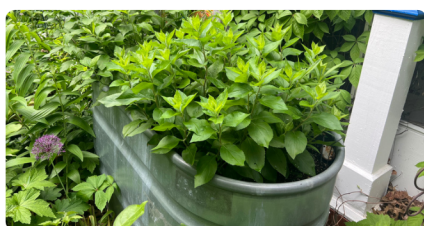


Birds nest in the shrubs and understory trees, shelter in the cool beds of Wild Geranium and Mayapple, and feast on Golden Currant, Gooseberry and Elderberry.



## LOOK FOR:

- The Virginia Creeper that provides shade and privacy for the screened porch and a perfect hiding place for birds' nests (*left*).
- Cliff Goldenrod grown in a trough, so it can cascade down as it begins to flower (*left*). Another great idea for container gardens!
- The tough, beautiful glade flowers that grow by the hot dry driveway: Sweet Coneflower, Gray-Headed Coneflower, and Aromatic Aster.



# SUNSET SURPRISE

We have all driven through grand neighborhoods of vast, pristine, emerald lawns — block after block, impressive and lifeless. And then there is this front yard, where big, bold, rambunctious native plants, including Common Milkweed, grow in plain sight.



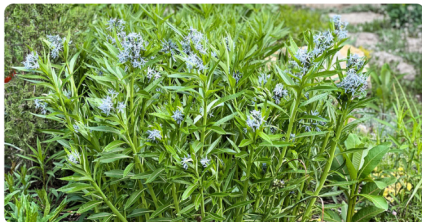
Begin with the driveway: in place of the usual turf, the narrow strip along the long driveway is filled with keystone plants like Asters, Goldenrods, Milkweeds and Rudbeckias, which give crucial support to wildlife.



The focus on keystones continues in the large beds in front of the house, as well as the entire back property line. Inspired by the “living wall” at Powell Gardens, the back wall is planted with dozens of Asters and Cliff Goldenrod, for an incredible cascade in autumn.



This garden is full of special, delicate beauties like Blue Stars and Carolina Allspice. But it also makes fearless use of plants many consider too big, “weedy” or “aggressive,” like Common Milkweed, Rigid Goldenrod, Rosinweed and Pink Primrose (*top photo*), making persuasive cases for their garden-worthiness. (*left: Common Milkweed with Blue Star*)



## LOOK FOR:

- Two large Buttonbushes, exquisitely shaped by the owner’s sculptor eye.
- Robin’s Plantain grown as ground cover, even between pavers — and beautiful in spring (*left*).
- A gloriously blooming Red Buckeye that is irresistible to hummingbirds (*left*).

