

# GUIDED TOUR

## MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

Friday, August 9, 2024  
"Garden Plants for Birds"



### Common Name: Yaupon Holly

Botanical Name: *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana'

This evergreen shrub is the dwarf cultivar of the much larger yaupon holly; it will stay under five feet in all its dimensions. It's common to find this shrub trimmed into hedges or shaped into topiary spheres in the landscape. The small white flowers in the spring are somewhat striking. The red drupe berries that are common with Yaupon Holly are not as noticeable with this dwarf cultivar. The berries will stay on during the winter, attracting birds and other wildlife as a food source.



### Common Name: Western Soapberry

Botanical Name: *Sapindus saponaria* subsp. *drummondii*

This Oklahoma native tree can grow very large, up to 50 feet tall. The mature bark heaves and peels very distinctively. Soapberry has a peculiar yellow-orange translucent berry in the late summer that persists into the winter. Birds will eat the fruit. The flesh of the berries makes a soap-like froth when mixed with water. The autumn foliage is often an attractive yellow.



### Common Name: Viburnum

Botanical Name: *Viburnum nudum* 'Bulk' Brandywine™

This species of viburnum is native to much North America. White flat-topped clusters of flowers appear in the late spring and early summer. Later in the year, clusters of blue berries form, feeding a number of bird species. The Brandywine™ cultivar is relatively compact and stays under six feet tall, and has an abundance of berries in pink and blue colors. The autumn foliage is often red to dark-burgundy.

GUIDED TOUR  MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

Myriad Botanical Gardens Guided Tours are every second Friday, 1pm and last Saturday, 10am, monthly.



### **Common Name: Four-O' Clocks**

Botanical Name: *Mirabilis jalapa*

This garden annual comes in a variety of colors, including pink, red, white, yellow and variegated colors. Its long tubular flowers are attractive to hummingbirds. Their flowers open in the mid to late afternoon, hence the common name "Four-o'clocks." This self-sow and come back each year, if not deadheaded. The seeds have an interesting shape; they look like a king's crown. Plants grow thick, carrot-like roots that can be dug up and overwintered indoors.



### **Common Name: Elderberry**

Botanical Name: *Sambucus nigra*

The elderberry is a large multi-stemmed shrub noted for its dynamic display as well as edible berries. In early summer, lacy flat-topped clusters of white flowers cover the tree. The flowers give way to glossy purple-black berries that last into fall. The fruit can be left for birds and other wildlife or used to make juice, wine, jams and jellies. Elderberries are full of vitamins and antioxidants and have been shown to be effective in treating the flu. If not pruned, elderberries can grow up to 20 feet tall.



### **Common Name: Strawberry Bush**

Botanical Name: *Euonymus americanus*

This Oklahoma native shrub is rather unassuming to the eye until autumn rolls around. Its bountiful crop of fruit starts rough textured and light pink. Over the course of a month they deepen to a nearly ruby color then burst open to reveal bright orange seeds. Birds will eat these seeds. The autumn foliage can often turn a mix of light pink and creamy white. In the winter, all the stems are a deep green, which provides some color and interest.



### **Common Name: Cup Plant**

Botanical Name: *Sylphium perfoliatum*

This tall garden perennial is native to Oklahoma and can grow five to eight feet. The yellow flowers grow on the top the sturdy, square stems in July. The leaves have a rough sandy texture and have a curious formation to them. The leaves are arranged opposite along the stem and each pair is fused together in a way that forms a small receptacle for rain water. Small birds and insects may drink from these little cup, hence its common name Cup Plant. The seed are matured by early autumn and can be eaten by birds.

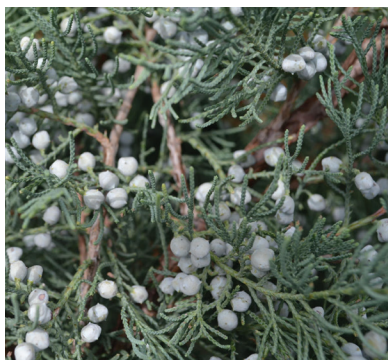
**GUIDED TOUR**



**MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Myriad Botanical Gardens Guided Tours are every second Friday, 1pm and last Saturday, 10am, monthly.





### **Common Name: Juniper**

Botanical Name: *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Monam' Blue Creeper™

Junipers can form the bones of a garden design and provide year-round structure for the landscape. The Blue Creeper™ variety, has a deep gray-blue color. It produced an abundance of juniper berries in an attractive chalky gray. These will stay on the shrub a very long time and are a food source for local birds. Many junipers are widely adaptable garden plants, able to withstand heat, drought and tough clay soils.



### **Common Name: Chickasaw Plum**

Botanical Name: *Prunus angustifolia*

This Oklahoma native tree produces an abundance of very tasty fruit. The red-orange plums are about an inch across and ripen in the late summer. Birds, squirrels and other wildlife eat this fruit. And it can be made into jams and preserves. This tree can grow suckering stems and form a thicket. Its branches are covered in short, pointy side branches that are thorn-like. An early spring display of white flowers really wakes up the landscape for the growing year.



### **Common Name: Chokeberry**

Botanical Name: *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima'

This red chokeberry cultivar is a slow-growing deciduous shrub that is perhaps most noted for its attractive glossy red berries and red fall foliage color. Clusters of white to pinkish flowers appear in spring. Flowers are followed by glossy red fruits which appear in dense clusters along the branches. Fruits ripen in late summer and persist throughout fall and well into winter. The berries are attractive to wildlife.



### **Common Name: Buttonbush**

Botanical Name: *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

This large shrub is native to Oklahoma and much of the United States. It can quickly grow to 12 feet high. The white globe shaped flowers appear in summer and are attractive to many pollinators. The seed heads are also globe-shaped and stay on the plant through-out the winter. Birds may eat these seeds. Buttonbush prefers to grow in shade to part-shade and moist soils.



### **Common Name: Eastern Red Columbine**

Botanical Name: *Aquilegia canadensis*

Columbine is an Oklahoma native woodland perennial that adds grace and charm to any shade garden. The gray-green leaves have a soft texture. In late spring, showy bell-like flowers appear with unique spurred tubes that point up. This plant is attractive to hummingbirds and long-tongued insects. In the garden it will spread quickly by self-seeding.

# Oklahoma Birds



**American Kestrel**  
*Falco sparverius*

- Also known as sparrow hawk. It's the smallest falcon in North America (nine inches tall)
- Diet includes large insects, small rodents and lizards.
- Often found in less forested areas, preferring open spaces.



**House Finch**

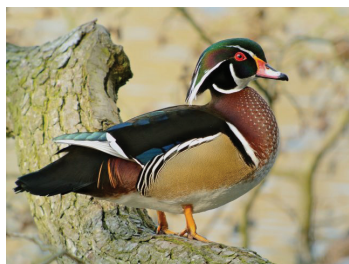
*Haemorhouse mexicanus*

- Both male and female are grayish-brown, but males have a red breast, throat and forehead.
- Size is small like all sparrows, at about five and a half inches long.
- Second highest population of finches, after the goldfinch.
- Originally only found in Mexico and the southwestern United States, it has been introduced and has large populations in the Eastern US and Hawaii.



**Chuck-Will's-Widow**  
*Caprimulgus carolinensis*

- Part of the Nightjar family, a group of birds that nest on the ground and hunt insects while in flight.
- Extremely well camouflaged, with brown, black and buff patterned feathers. They have a large, flat head and long tail and wings.
- Commonly found in dense woodlands along creeks and streams.
- Diet is diverse, includes moths and beetles, but occasionally small birds (primarily migrating warblers) and even bats and frogs!



**Wood Duck - *Aix sponsa***

- Males have a brightly colored head with the top and crest being an iridescent green. They have white streaks on their cheeks and bright red eyes.
- Wood ducks nest in trees, an uncommon trait. Often resort to nest parasitism – meaning females will often lay their eggs in the nests of other female wood ducks.
- Nearly extinct in the 1800s. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 helped protect populations.
- Primary food source is plant material (about 80 percent) but also eat small fish, insects and snails.



**Red-Winged Blackbird**  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*

- Males are all black with a red and yellow patch on the shoulders. Females are a mottled brown.
- Will be found in meadows, ditches and croplands.
- They will eat seeds on the ground and small insects.



**Belted Kingfisher**  
*Megasceryie alcyon*

- The female belted kingfishers are more brightly colored than the males (not common amongst bird sexes). They are a blue-gray color on their backs with white spots on their wings, a stout body with a large head and a distinct crest.
- Their food of choice is fish, and they will also eat crayfish and other crustaceans, mollusks, insects, amphibians, reptiles, young birds, small mammals and some berries.
- They are found along streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and estuaries; they prefer water that has minimal amounts of vegetation



[myriadgardens.org](http://myriadgardens.org)

Myriad Botanical Gardens Guided Tours are every second Friday, 1pm and last Saturday, 10am, monthly.