



# Discovering Olbrich's Insects Walk

Enjoy a casual evening stroll through the gardens with horticulturists Sam & Katey as they identify fascinating insects in the garden. We will learn what plants attract beneficial insects, as well as our top 10 favorite insect-friendly plants. You might also be lucky enough to spot garden spiders, active native bees & wasps, beetles, and more!

## Top 10 Favorite Plants for Beneficial Insects (but there's so many more!!)

1. *Asclepias tuberosa*, Butterflyweed & *Asclepias incarnata* 'Ice Ballet', Swamp Milkweed
2. *Agastache* 'Blue Fortune'
3. *Monarda*, Bee Balm
4. *Angelica gigas*, Purple Parsnip/Giant Angelica
5. *Calamintha nepeta subsp. nepeta*, Calamint
6. *Allium* 'Millenium', Ornamental Onion
7. *Foeniculum vulgare*, Common or Bronze Fennel
8. *Helianthus spp.*, Sunflowers (annual or perennial)
9. *Eryngium yuccifolium*, Rattlesnake Master
10. *Pycnanthemum muticum*, Mountain Mint

## Tips for Insect Observation in Your Own Garden

- Be Patient!
  - o Go into your garden and sit still for 5 minutes!
  - o When you are motionless the bugs won't see you as a threat
  - o You are more likely to notice movement when you are not moving
- Look closely!
  - o You can find insects almost anywhere but you have to have a keen eye
  - o Check under rocks or logs, undersides of leaves, or flower buds
- Choose a nice weather day!
  - o Try observing in all types of environments from sun to shade, dry to wet sites
  - o Wind and rain is not ideal for most insects
- Track what you find!
  - o Record your findings in a notebook, on iNaturalist or through photos
  - o Make note of what plant you found the insect on, often times knowing the plant species will aid in your identification process
- Think about insect lifestyle
  - o Does it have a specific host plant?
  - o What type of flower shape does it prefer based on size & feeding