

# The Norman Bird Flyer

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## PEST FREE! WILL GROW ANYWHERE!

by Lisa Lofland Gould

Rhode Island is blessed with an interesting and diverse flora. Our native plants flourish in salt marshes, woodlands, meadows, coastal dunes, freshwater ponds and streams, and many other habitats. Growing along with the natives are many introduced species, comprising about 20 to 25% of the approximately 2000 species of flowering plants in the state.

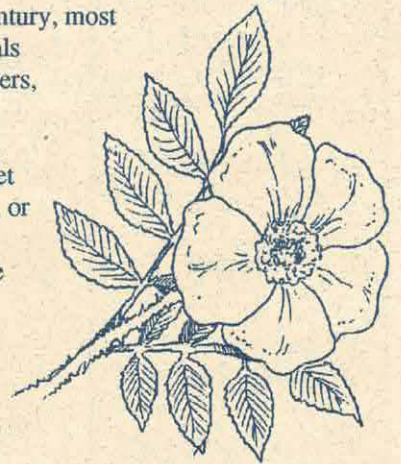
Many plants introduced in New England were brought in deliberately as food, medicine, or ornamentals. Native Americans introduced corn, squashes, and beans; the earliest European settlers brought grains, forage plants for livestock, and a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and garden flowers. In this century, most introduced plants have been yard and garden ornamentals or species perceived to be of use to people such as farmers, homeowners, and highway planners.

Other plants sneaked in, and continue to arrive, in myriad accidental ways: seeds embedded in mud on feet or shoes, in livestock manure and soil with other plants, or emptied in ships' ballast, are just a few of the possible routes for seeds to travel. The flow of plants around the world never stops.

Most introductions, deliberate or accidental, do not thrive, or survive only in gardens and yards where they receive special attention. Some species are able, however, to spread from their original point of introduction; these are the naturalized plants that make up nearly a quarter of our flora. They include many familiar and often beloved species, such as Queen Anne's Lace, Ox-eye Daisy, Common St. John's Wort, Yarrow, Tansy, Common Dandelion, Bouncing Bet, Butter 'n' Eggs, Red Cover, Watercress, and Timothy.

A few plants not only survive and naturalize, they out-compete the natives. Biologists call these "exotic invasives" and characterize their spread as one of the most serious threats to maintaining biodiversity throughout the world. In Rhode Island, the spread of exotic invasives has coincided with the decline of farming, the development of the state's highways, and the growth of the nursery industry which provides landscape plants for the state's increasing population. Oriental Bittersweet, Purple Loosestrife, Autumn Olive, Japanese Barberry, Multiflora Rose, Winged Euonymus/Burning Bush, Japanese Honeysuckle, Tartarian and Morrow Honeysuckle, and Japanese Knotweed are among our most serious invasives.

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) is a typical case. It was introduced from Japan in 1866 as an understock for grafting ornamental roses. During the 1930's the U.S. Soil Conservation Service recommended its use to farmers as a "living fence" for livestock".



### Look Inside to Find Out More About....

Children's  
Programs.....pg. 4-5

Kid's Activity  
Page.....pg. 10

Adult Programs.....pg. 6-7

The Sanctuary &  
the CFC.....pg. 3

20th Annual  
Harvest Fair.....pg. 8

How to Become  
a NBS Member.....pg. 11

*New*  
NBS Mail Order Catalogue  
(See Insert)

Continued on pg 2



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Conservation organizations also recommended it to farmers and homeowners as food and shelter for wildlife. As the interstate system developed, Multiflora Rose was widely planted on medians as a crash barrier and to reduce headlight glare.

Even with all the human help, however, Multiflora Rose would not have naturalized without its own capabilities. It is able to set seed because it can be pollinated by the insects which live here (many plants which fail to naturalize lack appropriate pollinators). Its fruit is eaten by many birds and mammals and the seeds dispersed in their droppings; it is also able to root at the tips of the canes. It leafs out early in the spring, beginning to use soil nutrients before many natives, and creating shade which can inhibit other plants' growth (look around in mid to late April; almost every woody plant which has leaves at that time is an exotic). Finally, Multiflora Rose appears to lack herbivores and diseases which might keep it in check ("*Pest Free—Will Grow Anywhere!*") is how many exotic shrubs are advertised in the nursery trade).

Farmers were probably the first to realize the pesky nature of this plant, as it invaded fields and proved very difficult to eradicate. In many of the farm states of the Midwest, Multiflora Rose is now classified as a noxious weed and its importation illegal. Here in Rhode Island, just as Multiflora Rose was gaining a foothold, farming was declining and there were fewer vigilant farmers to keep the plant from spreading.

Similar tales could be told about other exotic invasives in the state. For people concerned with land stewardship and the protection of native plants and animals, the control of exotic species is a very serious issue. As long as human beings continue to change the landscape by disturbance, habitat fragmentation, and the introduction of exotic plants and animals, protected lands will need to be managed. "Letting Nature take care of itself" is a short-sighted and rather lop-sided view.

Fortunately, much research is focusing on the eradication of exotics and the implementation of better land management practices. Scientists have learned that some of the exotics advertised as good wildlife plants are frequently of less value than their native counterparts, and sometimes completely replace important native wildlife plants. The public, including public agencies such as highway departments, is being educated in the use of native trees and shrubs for landscaping and attracting wildlife, and the nursery industry is responding by offering a greater variety of native plants.

We will probably never see the last of Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, and other exotic plants in the state, but hopefully we will learn how to control their spread, and not be so quick to jump on the *Pest Free—Will Grow Anywhere—Great For Wildlife* bandwagon again.



*Honeysuckle*

## Scientific Names for Species Mentioned

Queen Anne's Lace	Daucus carota
Ox-eye Daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
Common St. John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium
Common Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale
Bouncing Bet	Saponaria officinalis
Butter 'n' Eggs	Linaria vulgaris
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense
Watercress	Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum
Timothy	Phleum pratense
Oriental Bittersweet	Celastrus orbiculatus
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
Autumn Olive*	Elaeagnus umbellata
Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergii
Multiflora Rose	Rosa multiflora
Japanese Knotweed	Polygonum

\*sometimes called "Russian Olive" (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) in Rhode Island and is not a problem here, although it is in the midwest.



*New*  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING  
FAMILY PROGRAMS**  
**7:00 pm**

*Cost: Included with entrance fee!*

**JULY 20th  
Small Mammals**

Meet, up close and personal, the small furry mammals that share living space with us here on Aquidneck Island and learn about their special adaptations to the changing seasons here in New England. (Live animals will be on hand for observation).

**JULY 27th or AUGUST 3rd  
or AUGUST 10th  
Explore the Seashore**

Discover the fascinating organisms which live in the salt marsh and the rocky and sandy shoreline of Aquidneck Island. Wear shoes you can get wet! Meet at the Third Beach Club.

**AUGUST 17th  
Evening Bird Walk**

Enjoy one of the best times of the day to birdwatch. Listen and look for warblers, swallows, herons, and perhaps maybe an owl! Bring binoculars and field guides.

**AUGUST 24th  
Moths**

Learn about the moth lifecycle and habits then head out to the Sanctuary's fields to draw in nighttime's alternative to the butterfly. **PLEASE NOTE:** This program begins at 8:00 pm

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

Join Amy Bartlett Wright for...

**GETTING TO KNOW  
THE BUTTERFLIES**  
with Amy Wright  
Wednesday, August 17th  
10:00 - 11:30 am

Join artist/naturalist Amy Wright on a walk around the Sanctuary looking for the regal monarchs and viceroys, beautiful swallowtails and delicate admirals. What's Summer without butterflies and the Norman Bird Sanctuary!

**WILD FLOWER NA-  
TURE DRAWING**  
Wednesday, August 10th  
10:00 - 11:30 am

Indoor drawing techniques will be taught as well as the drawing of wildflowers in their habitats will turn anyone into a nature artist! Participants may purchase sketch pad and colored pencils For ages 8 and up.

Program Fee: \$15.00  
(\$10.00 NBS member)  
Material Fee: \$10.00  
(OPTIONAL)

**INTRODUCTION TO  
BEES & BEEKEEPING**  
August 14, 1:00 pm.  
Raindate Aug. 21

Join Mike Mitchel, the official Sanctuary beekeeper, as he takes you into the fascinating world of the bee. Learn about the bee dance and other mysteries

**SUNDAY MORNING  
BIRD WALKS** 8 am.  
will continue through the season. Free!!

**Amy Bartlett Wright** is our local expert on the subject of moths, butterflies and caterpillars. A talented scientific illustrator, she has just completed the Peterson's First Guide to Butterflies and Moths!



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY  
583 Third Beach Road  
Middletown, RI 02842

Non-Profit  
Organization  
PAID  
Newport, RI 02840  
Permit No. 43

To Current Resident or

Hold onto your squash! Whether you are growing the world's largest pumpkin or cultivating a perfect dahlia, the Sanctuary wants your winning produce entered in its Home & Garden competition at this year's Harvest Fair, October 1 & 2. Gardeners may enter in a variety of produce and flower categories, while amateur bakers may serve up their best apple pies for judging. Special categories for those 14 and under are also included. All entries must be grown or cooked by the contestant. For guidelines and a complete list of categories, watch for the Home & Garden brochure in the next newsletter.



# Harvest Fair

## Home and Garden Competition

For great family fun, don't forget to enter our Scarecrow competition.  
Straw is available through the Sanctuary.





## REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return with payment for program registration. If you need more space for additional registrants, please copy this form.

■ We can now accept payment for  
■ programs and membership by  
■ cash, check or MASTERCARD/  
■ VISA  
■

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Grade : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Age : (if child) \_\_\_\_\_  
Town : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home : \_\_\_\_\_ Work : \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Title	Date(s)	Program Fee
1.	_____	_____	\$ _____
2.	_____	_____	\$ _____
3.	_____	_____	\$ _____

TOTAL PROGRAM FEES:

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED:

## PARENT EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION

(Needed for programs lasting 3 hours or more)

Child's name : \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number(s) where we can reach you during program hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ne. or Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies/Medications/Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver: In the event that I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give my permission to the Norman Bird Sanctuary's staff or medical personnel to take emergency measures as necessary.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE JOIN US ! NBS Membership Form

To become a Sanctuary member, or to renew a membership, please check the appropriate category and include membership dues in with your program registration check. Thanks for your support !

<input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$20)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing (\$35)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Institution (\$100)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100)	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$250)
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$500)			

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to: Norman Bird Sanctuary  
Send to: 583 Third Beach Road, Middletown, R.I. 02842

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



**Our Mission:** To preserve the 450 acre Norman Bird Sanctuary for the protection of animals and birds and for the enjoyment of the public; to assist the Trustee in the overall management and development of the Sanctuary; to conduct programs for children and adults in environmental education and natural sciences; to work with individuals and groups in the region in the preservation of natural habitats and open space.

The *Norman Bird Flyer* is published quarterly by the Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit corporation organized to support the mission of the trusts established under the Will of Mable Norman Cerio.

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### FALL HOURS

OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY  
9 am to 5 pm

for more information call  
**846-2577**

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