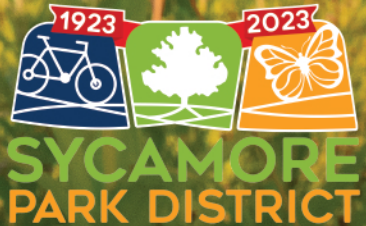


NATURE NEWSLETTER

Vol 1. Issue 3 July, 2023

THIS MONTH:

Not Your Average
Garden Plants;
Native Flowers &
Pollinators



**SYCAMORE
PARK DISTRICT**

Natural Beauty

1. Fuzzy Friends

Bumble Bees may be large and scary at first, but they're some of the least likely bugs to sting. You're more likely to get stung by a honeybee than one of these fuzzy fellas.

1

2. What's the Buzz?

Native flowers, like Bee Balm, create more beneficial stopovers for pollinators than cultivated non-native gardens.

3. How High Can you Count?

With more than 500 species of bee present in Illinois, you can find a lot of specialists. Having more species of native flowers helps these effective pollinators continue to thrive and keep our crops pollinated so we can continue to have food on our tables.

2



3



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

NORTHERN WATERSNAKE

Nerodia sipedon sipedon

Exceptionally common throughout Illinois, the Northern Watersnake is often confused for the venomous Cottonmouth. Although both species inhabit freshwater ecosystems and can have similar color patterns, the Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin only occurs in the extreme southern part of Illinois.

The Watersnake is harmless, but prone to biting. Though their other defensive strategy, which involves spraying a foul smelling musk over potential predators, is probably a much better reason to leave these snakes alone.

