



The Second Half of 2024 AND Big News for the Future...

Wow! I can scarcely believe it's already the year's end. We had a busy year and we're still not done. We grew local- and state-rare plants like *Itea virginica* (Virginia sweetspire) and *Ripariosida hermaphrodita* (Virginia mallow), expanded our plant donations to programs like Fairfax County's Invasives Management Area (IMA) and our own Plant Grant, and continued restoration work at **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** and **Mason District Park**. Abroad, we've purchased a "tri-motor" for our **Tree Bank** colleagues in the **Dominican Republic**, allowing them to more efficiently haul native trees for planting across rough terrain, and completed our *casa de vigilancia* in the **Naso Comarca in Panama** to discourage poaching and protect extant high-quality rainforest habitat. See inside for more updates on our work!

Above: Earth Sangha staff and Sangha Stewards, Heidi and Ling, with FCPA Ecologist David Alexander at **Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve**. We are providing seeds from this meadow to FCPA's Landscape Legacy & Sustainability Program to support ongoing restoration of high-quality grasslands on park property. Photo by Rita Peralta.

Wild Plant Nursery Expansion!

We're also on the cusp of some big changes here at home – and we need your help to realize them. **Partnering with our colleagues in Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services - Urban Forestry Management Division (DPWES-UFMD)** we are at the very final stages of an agreement to relocate and expand our nursery. We aren't quite ready to share every detail – including the site location, other than that we will be remaining in Fairfax County! – but we need your support to get ready for this next phase of the Earth Sangha's Wild Plant Nursery's growth. To better explain our project and, hopefully, to preempt questions you all may have, we've put together an FAQ on page 2.

THEY'LL MATCH YOUR DONATION!

see the back page



A tree frog relaxing in a sunny spot on a *Veronica noveboracensis* (New York ironweed) leaf. Photo by Maddie Bright.



Clearly *Helianthus angustifolius* (narrow-leaved sunflower) makes us and wildlife happy! Photo by Katherine Isaacson.



Monarch chrysalis dangling from an *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry) purchased at our Fall Open House. Photo by Maddie Bright.

New Wild Plant Nursery Site FAQ

Why are you moving the Wild Plant Nursery?

While the current site at **Grove Point Park** has served us well for over 20 years, we have been operating at the very limits of capacity at the site for several years now. We routinely run out of space for repotting which is limiting our ability to grow for large-scale restoration projects. Our watering needs (especially during drought years!) have grown and we share that need for water with our Community Garden Plot neighbors. We also need to consolidate our growing efforts, which include the greenhouse that our Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) colleagues have been enormously generous with in Chantilly. Both sites have been absolutely essential to our operation, but in order to better support habitat restoration and plant conservation across Northern Virginia, we need to increase the scale and efficiency of our operation.

The new site will offer significant expansion opportunities, and we intend to take advantage to the fullest. Our intentions are to expand our growing operation to both offer more total plants and more biodiversity. Crucially, we also want to be able to grow out our trees and shrubs to larger sizes for plantings that may require 3 gallon or even 5+ gallon pots. Because it takes time for these plants to reach that size, these larger plants will require a substantial investment in space.

When will you be moving?

We don't have a firm timeline yet. We're still finalizing details with our colleagues at DPWES - UFMD, but once we have a final agreement and critical infrastructure in place (i.e. water, deer fencing) we will begin moving our plants and equipment. Don't worry! You won't miss the announcement – we'll need help hauling stuff! – and there will definitely be an overlap period as we get everything set up.

What does this mean for your work with Fairfax County Park Authority?

We want to be especially clear on this point: while the Fairfax County Park Authority won't be hosting our nursery, they remain absolutely essential partners in our work. Indeed, we expect this move to allow us to expand our support for vital FCPA programs including the IMA program, Helping our Lands Heal, and the newly created Landscape Legacy and Sustainability Program. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our friends at FCPA for all their help over the years at Grove Point Park and it is our firm intention to continue to work closely with park staff and volunteers and continue to supply them with the local-ecotype plants they need.

How will the Wild Plant Nursery operation change at the new site?

In addition to growing the scale of the operation and locating our greenhouse(s) near our container yard, we're planning a few changes to make our nursery easier to browse and work more efficiently for us. Here are some of the changes we're considering:

1. *A separate sales yard for plants that are ready to go.* No more



Above: Woven shade fabric at our current nursery lasts a long time, but requires constant maintenance, is expensive to purchase, and ultimately becomes plastic waste. Our new nursery plan eliminates almost all shade fabric in favor of “conservation hedge rows” that will provide natural shade for our growing areas and beneficial habitat for wildlife.

Photo by Katherine Isaacson.

walking by plants that are roped off, have signs saying they were freshly repotted, etc. Instead, if you see it, you're welcome to it! This also makes it easier for us to make the area more accessible with raised benches, more signage, and wider walkways.

2. *Significant conservation and restoration on-site.* We're planning our site from the very get-go to include habitat conservation within the space – and a very significant conservation buffer too. To this end, we will use very little shade cloth and instead rely on “conservation hedge rows” of native trees between our growing rows to break up the wind and provide shade. Where the site doesn't already have trees and shrubs, we'll add them. We anticipate having a substantial portion of the site in conservation – some of it demonstration areas with trails while others may be in need of invasives removal and restoration.

3. *More creature comforts for volunteers.* We hope to have access to electricity on-site (we're joining the 20th century!) so we can run fans on hot days, have heaters on cold mornings, offer cold (and hot!) water, and leave space for picnic benches and umbrellas. Having a space for outdoor education and just general relaxation is a top priority for us. We want our nursery to feel like a refuge for plants, wildlife, and us.

4. *A focus on sustainable practices.* For example: by using trees for shade rather than plastic shade cloth we reduce the amount of plastic on-site by an astonishing 12 tons and the amount of steel by over 50 tons. We will not use any geotextile fabrics, so as to not contribute to soil-borne microplastics. Our plan to use wood chips rather than gravel for most, but not all, walkways means burning less carbon-based fuels to haul around heavy material from quarries when we can use chip drops from local arborists. We will continue to totally eschew the use of pesticides in the growing of our plants, and minimize the use of fertilizers on an as-needed basis. And of course, we're planning for significant replanting on-site to maintain as much of the nursery as ecologically significant habitat as possible.

See back page for more...

Seed Collection and Sowing

We spent all year collecting seeds from various local sites. Once fall rolls around, sowing begins. We sow our seeds throughout the fall and winter in long propagation trays. Some species we germinate at our greenhouse, others can be sown directly outdoors. Depending on the species, we may have to do extra treatment to our seeds ranging from fermentation, hot water treatment, cold stratification, or scarification.

In addition to our regular seed collection, we are experimenting with a new bulk collection strategy. This October we ventured to local meadows at **Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve** and **Poplar Ford Park** to harvest large batches of seed. We are creating a mix of common meadow species for our partners in FCPA's Landscape Legacy & Sustainability Program to use in their long-term management of previously restored areas. The idea is that these mixes can be used to quickly spot-treat after removing invasives on previously restored sites and because they represent 100% local ecotypes, are preferable to commercially available mixes.



Above: Lisa Bright, Director Emerita & Co-Founder, sowing *Fraxinus profunda* (pumpkin ash) seeds. These seeds were collected by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, with permission from the National Park Service, and any resulting trees will go to **Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve**. Photo by Michaelanne Makuch.



Above: Conservation Coordinator Michaelanne harvesting native seed with a scythe. Photo taken at Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve by Maddie Bright in October.

They'll match your donation!

Starting on December 1st, our very generous benefactors will match the first \$100 dollars of all donations up to \$30,000! You give at least \$100, we get at least \$200 – and you can designate the full amount for either our DC-area work or the Tree Bank projects. See the enclosed reply envelope or donate online at earthsangha.org/donate.

Restoration Site Update

Restoration isn't a one-and-done effort or a one-size-fits-all formula. For many sites we work on, the landowners or park ecologists do the long-term maintenance, but for a few sites we like to dig in (pun intended!), monitor, and continue restoring for the long haul. We have learned a lot from both our successes and failures at sites like **Rutherford Park** and the **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** and are applying those lessons to our most recently acquired long-term site, **Mason District Park!**

We began working in Mason District Park in the summer of 2023 and immediately noticed that the oak canopy appeared to be in decline and that there was a distinct lack of canopy and understory regeneration. With all of the adult oaks (especially *Quercus montana* - chestnut oak) there should be seedlings and saplings coming up too! This is a common problem in our forests and it is largely due to the overabundance of deer. Between the deer browsing on tasty young stems and rubbing their antlers on sapling trunks, the emerging trees and shrubs don't stand a chance. However, we also noticed that along with a ton of invasive species, there were many outstanding pockets of native plants like *Vaccinium stamineum* and *V. pallidum* (blueberries)!

We started our work with two goals: protect the native regeneration and stop the spread of invasive species. With the help of volunteers and students from the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, we created habitat refuges by putting up fencing around patches of *Vaccinium* and began pulling loads of invasive vines. Once we cleared a few spots we added planting to our focus. We worked with Scout groups to start planting some trees inside the fencing to begin restoring the canopy and understory layers. So far we have installed 7 habitat refuges to protect both natural regeneration and newly planted native plants and have made immense progress removing invasive plants. As we continue to monitor the site we will be circling back to remove more invasives, add more natives, and expand our footprint on the park.



Above: Triumphant Sangha staff and volunteers at Mason District Park, showing off their monstrous pile of removed invasive species. Photo by Michaelanne Makuch.

Fall Nursery Propagation Spotlight

Our staff and volunteers have been hard at work resizing a variety of woody and herbaceous species. This fall, our main focus was on transplanting our oak and hickory seedlings, which have been growing safe from pesky squirrels in the oak/hickory exclosures we've been building with the help of our Sangha Stewards. Below, you will see volunteers potting *Quercus montana* (chestnut oak) seedlings into tree tubes. (Photo by Maddie Bright.) The tree tubes are deep and narrow, which trains the young taproots to grow straight. We let these "tubelings" establish for about a year before they are sized up to gallons. We are prioritizing oaks and hickories for this extra step in propagation because a strong taproot improves the establishment and long-term survival of these slower-growing but very high-value and long-lived canopy trees.



Meanwhile, in September we repotted nearly 300 *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive ferns) into gallons. This is just one of the several fern species we grow, which have proven to be very popular among gardeners. The below photo shows their size after about three years of growth, so you can see why keeping up with the high demand has been challenging! (Photo by Kayla Hubbell.)

Propagating ferns is a slow, but worthwhile, process. Spores are collected from mature leaves and sown indoors in large trays. Before the leaves grow, small heart-shaped structures called prothalli form, which resemble moss or lichen. This stage lasts anywhere from a few weeks to a month. Slowly, tiny fronds begin to emerge, eventually unfurling into beautiful leaves. Among the species we are cultivating are *Osmunda cinnamomeum* (cinnamon fern), *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern), and *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern).

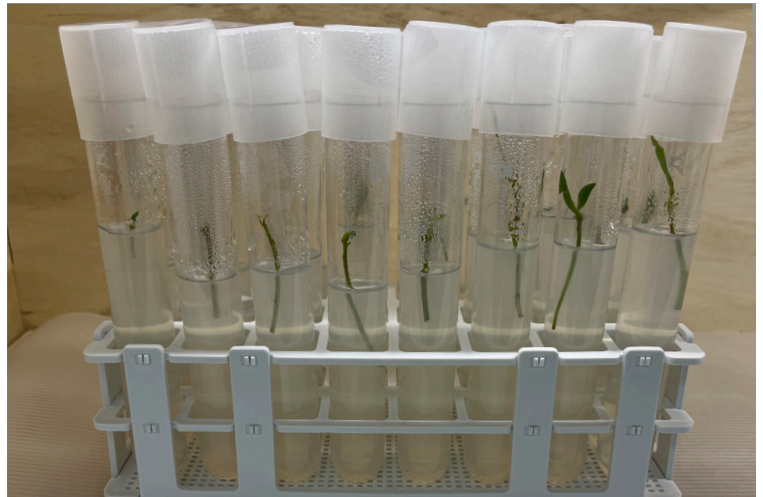


Tissue Culture: More to Learn

This spring, our interns started a very special project: tissue culture propagation. Tissue culture is a method of micro-propagation in which many small cuttings of a plant are taken and started in a sterile environment. When done successfully, the result is a high yield of small rooted plants. We began this venture to devise a procedure to reproduce plants that take a very long time to grow from seed, or are from parent plants that are producing little or no seed at all. For decades, we have started all of our plants from seed, spore, or easy-to-grow cuttings (such as *Salix nigra* and *Lonicera sempervirens*) taken from local stands. However, valuable native plants such as *Rhododendron* spp. and *Kalmia latifolia* have been challenging for us to grow. These species and others that have been eluding us are important to the local ecosystem and we are determined to find a way to efficiently and sustainably cultivate them.

The tissue culture process starts with making an agar-based medium, which is a jelly-like base that will hold the plants. The agar is mixed in a beaker with water, rooting hormones, and other nutrients. Once the concoction reaches 100° C, it is poured into tubes, which have been sterilized in an auto-clave machine. The cuttings, or explants, are also cleaned in a sequence of washes to remove any bacteria or fungi. Once the tubes have cooled enough so that the media is firm, the explants are carefully nestled into the media using forceps, covering about 2/3 of the stems. The tubes are then sealed up and left in a laminar flow hood as we nervously wait for roots to grow.

So far we have yet to see positive results from our cultures. The explants tend to develop mold, which is fatal in such a small and enclosed environment. The main obstacle is space - usually, this procedure is performed in a sterile lab, and we've been working in our office's conference room (which doubles as our breakroom, indoor fern propagation space, and seed cleaning room). Our best efforts to keep our tools and cultivation space as sanitary as possible haven't been enough to prevent contamination. As the fall rush at the nursery rolled around, we put this project on the backburner. At the new nursery site, we plan to devote some of the additional space to create a more sterile lab environment to pursue the results we are looking for!



Above: Watching for roots (or mold?) to develop on explants of *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel) sealed in the laminar flow hood. Photo by Kayla Hubbell.

Why Use Common Native Plants?

As the Sangha has grown, we find ourselves reaching new audiences who may just be beginning their journey into local plant ecology. To that end (and at the request of several staff members), I've written a piece here summarizing why local-ecotype native plants are so critical to environmental conservation, and some of the species you may wish to include at your site.

A diverse selection of native plants is crucial to fostering wildlife. Native plants provide food for wildlife with their leaves, dry seeds, fruits and berries, and nuts. Habitat needs are also met by native plants with nesting habitat for birds in native understory shrubs and leaf litter for wood frogs and salamanders. Native insects eating our native plants are essential to ecological function. Creatures such as small mammals, nesting birds, reptiles, all manner of amphibians, arthropods like spiders, and even fish depend on the food webs and habitats that begin with our native plants.

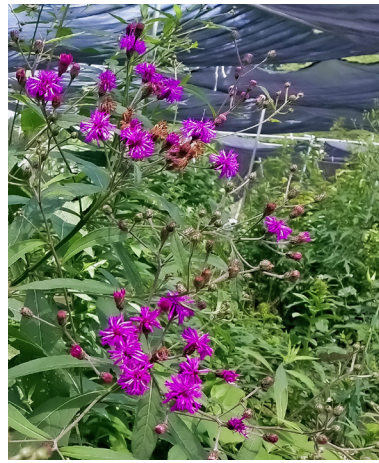
So what should you plant? It depends on the site conditions! We recommend beginning with robust, resilient generalist plants to form the basis of most of our natural and successional plant communities. For forested areas, that could mean *Prunus serotina* (black cherry) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.), among our most productive trees. *Carpinus caroliniana* (ironwood) and *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood viburnum) are great understory tree and shrub options for a variety of forest interiors and edges.

Meadows, wet or dry, have been under-conserved historically, but are just as important as our forests and are now recognized as crucial habitats. In wet areas, sedges and rushes dominate, and in dry meadows, various grasses may be the dominant species. Essential for grassland-nesting birds, meadows also contribute to plant species conservation and diversity. We encourage people to consider meadow establishment with the same care and patience as forest establishment. No one plants a few tree seedlings and expects a forest to pop up within a year! Research suggests that our most diverse meadows have been around for a long time, too, and that it takes just as long to recreate high-quality examples.

That's not to discourage folks from replanting their own meadow analogs at home – far from it! Getting common forbs like goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), bonesets (*Eupatorium* spp.) and mountain mints (*Pycnanthemum* spp.) will do a lot to begin to create the foundation of your meadow and attract pollinators and other wildlife. **Check out Kayla's suggestions to the right!** Research by Sam Droege and Jarrod Fowler suggests that our most common forbs are not just great for common pollinators, but also favored by rare, specialist bees. Over time, filling in niches with other species improves ecological value and diversity in these spaces.

Regardless of what kind of habitat you're preparing to cook up, remember that human management of the site can be a make-or-break ingredient. Removing invasive species, thinning stands of the most aggressive species, be they tree seedlings or rhizomatous forbs, replanting after severe drought and timing mowing (late winter to early spring is best!) all have a big impact on the long-term health of a site. Humans have interacted, often positively, with the natural landscape here in Virginia for thousands of years. Getting the management right is a return to normalcy for the landscape and for us as stewards of the land.

For more: see the Earth Sangha Native Plant Compendium at earthsangha.org/compendium.



There's nothing *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York ironweed) can do to make us not love it. This plant gets up to 6 ft. tall, towering with its vibrant purple blooms which persist through the summer and into early fall. It is very low-maintenance and prefers moist soils, making it an attractive choice for a rain garden or wet meadow!

Having trouble with invasive grasses? *Andropogon virginicus* (broomsedge) is a low-maintenance, perennial grass that will defend your garden. This grass is extremely hardy and loves full sun and dry soil. Growing to about 4 ft., it sports a coppery color and beautiful fluffy plumes in the fall. This is a great choice for disturbed areas that are prone to erosion or invasives.



Late bloomers are vital for creating seasonal interest in a garden and supporting late-season pollinators. *Symphyotrichum prenanthoides* (crooked-stem aster) blooms from late summer through the fall. This perennial can handle a bit of shade and a range of soils. Plant crooked-stem aster in hard-to-grow places in your garden for a cluster of long-lasting fall color.

Looking for a problem solver? *Zizia aurea* (golden Alexander) is a quick-growing perennial that will fill in empty spots in your garden with its handsome foliage and golden blooms in the late spring. It prefers moist soil and part shade, but also happens to be exceptionally drought-tolerant, and can thrive in almost any location.





Above left: Our new “tri-motor” was purchased in October for work on rough sites that can’t be reached by pickup or *burro*. We’ve done two sites with it already. Dense planting will stop the erosion on both.



Above right: In our Panamanian rainforest site in September, our crew installed a traditional Naso roof on our *casa de vigilancia*. The activity has already spooked the local poachers, and some wildlife is returning.

The Tree Bank: Another Solid Year!

The Tree Bank is the Sangha’s tropical agroforestry effort. We have two project areas: a little community called **Los Cerezos** in the **Dominican Republic**, along the border with Haiti, and a 160-acre swath of old-growth rainforest that lies within the traditional homeland of the Naso indigenous people in **Bocas del Toro, Panama**. The DR project was founded in 2006; the Panamanian project began in 2023. In both cases, the goal is to boost the income of small-scale farmers through native-forest conservation on their lands.

This year has seen progress in both regions, but tempered with some declines in the DR. Our Dominican Forest Credit loan program lent about \$34,700 to 54 smallholder families in return for conserving some 353 acres of clean (not much invaded) and mature forest on their lands. Our Tree Bank Nursery produced some 5,450 locally native tree seedlings and planted them on local farms. We also produced 9,065 coffee trees and 7,691 cacao trees for those farms. (Numbers are estimates to year-end.) Together, these plantings form a growing system in which the eventual shade of the tall native trees enables understory production of coffee and cocoa, which are high-value forest crops.

This year saw a 4 percent decline in native tree production at our Tree Bank Nursery. We think a “seed drought” caused the decline. The loans were also down – by about 8 percent. This is probably weather-related too, since the loans are mostly used for planting conventional crops. This year our Tree Bank Nursery grew eight native tree species; that’s up from seven in 2023! We hope to do better next year in terms of both volume and variety.

We also “graduated” several acres of replanted land where the system is now mostly big enough to take care of itself. At last count we had 22 areas under active management. (In these areas,

we chop out weeds and replace trees that die.) And finally, we bought a “tri-motor” – a sort of big motorized tricycle with a cargo bed in back – to move materials and our crew into and out of difficult spaces.

In Panama, we worked with a group of Naso to take down a local poaching network. This poaching was illegal and indiscriminate: the poachers took every bird or mammal that they could catch. To scare them off, we built an eco-friendly *casa de vigilancia* (above right) right in a forest clearing. The result is a 30-foot-by-40-foot, 2-story roofed observation platform built according to the norms of Naso architecture, and constructed almost exclusively from storm-downed timber. No big trees were cut. So far the *casa* has worked but we expect challenges.

According to a report released in October by WWF, wildlife has disappeared at a “catastrophic” rate over the course of the previous half-century, with the worst declines occurring in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Tree Bank is our attempt to help slow and eventually reverse this loss.

No question about it: wildlife losses have been enormous, but there’s reason for optimism. During several consecutive days of roofing at our *casa*, a jaguar would emerge from the forest and step into our clearing. It would plop down on a pile of scrap lumber a little ways off and watch our team work. We probably weren’t all that interesting so it would eventually vanish back into the forest. The jaguar is emblematic of the kind of wildlife that thoughtful habitat conservation – whether that’s in Panama, the Dominican Republic, or back home – can protect. We like to think that the jaguar is out there now, playing its role in the forest, and waiting for us to learn how our own role is changing.

Ongoing Support for IMA Projects

We were thrilled to be able to directly support Fairfax County's Invasive Management Area program with another round of plant donations. In September, we invited 10 IMA Site Leaders to the Wild Plant Nursery to pick up local ecotype, native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants for their public parks. The IMA Volunteer Program is a community-based project designed to reduce invasive plants in our parklands.

We're also very excited to have been approved for funding from the Fairfax County Tree Preservation and Planting Fund to expand our support of the FCPA IMA program. This fall and in the spring of 2025, we are holding a series of workshops for IMA Site Leaders focused on restoration replantings including: species selection, planting techniques, restoration techniques, after care and invasive species management, deer protection, and other topics relevant to restoring and protecting native tree canopy on public lands. Our goal is to supply 800 trees and shrubs to IMA sites on Fairfax County parks through this effort. If you're an IMA Site Leader and would like trees and shrubs for your park, email Michaelanne at mmakuch@earthsangha.org!



Above: Development Coordinator Katie Barbuschak with two wheelbarrows of plant donations headed to **Laurel Hill Park** with IMA Site Leaders Susan and Susan! Photo by Katherine Isaacson.

They'll match your donation!

Starting on December 1st, our very generous benefactors will match the first \$100 dollars of all donations up to \$30,000! You give at least \$100, we get at least \$200 – and you can designate the full amount for either our DC-area work or the Tree Bank projects. See the enclosed reply envelope or donate online at earthsangha.org/donate.

Plant Grants: A Focus on Equity

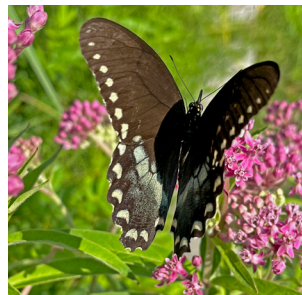
We donated nearly 400 local ecotype, native plants to another 12 restoration projects through the Earth Sangha Plant Grant program in September! Just like in the spring, we received a ton of amazing, worthwhile applications and we wish we could've picked them all. Our staff evaluated each application based on which projects had the greatest social and ecological value.

The Earth Sangha Plant Grant program supports small-scale, grassroots restoration projects at local schools, parks, places of worship, and HOA/Civic Associations. Our goal is to bring local ecotype, native plants to both public and community-owned lands to support wildlife corridors to connect disparate parcels of wild areas. Reconnecting habitat parcels is an effective strategy to protect wildlife habitat and foster resiliency of native plant populations. In addition to the ecological benefits, increased native plant cover, especially tree cover, reduces stormwater runoff, provides shade, and reduces urban heat islands.

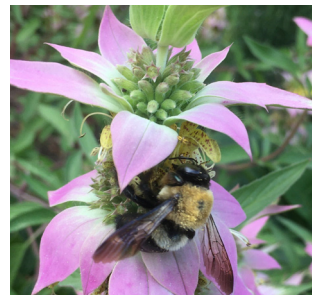
While Northern Virginia as a region has a relatively high degree of tree canopy (approx. 50%), there are many pockets that are falling behind. For our 2025 Plant Grants, we will use environmental screening tools (CEJST/EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities) and local tree canopy data to identify disadvantaged communities with less than 40% tree canopy or are experiencing a decline in tree canopy. Replanting these areas with common, robust, and high-ecological-value native species helps to ensure our urban forests' health in the long term.

Critter Corner!

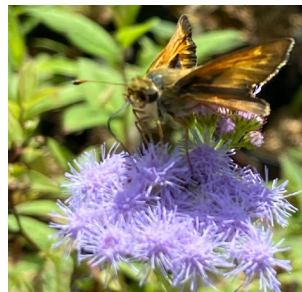
Here's a look at some of the critters that visited the Wild Plant Nursery this year! They play a key role in the ecosystem, and giving them plenty of habitat to feed, breed, and pollinate is one of our main goals.



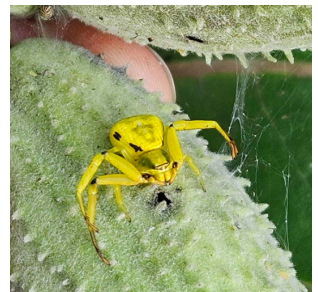
Black tiger swallowtail on *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed).



American bumblebee on *Monarda punctata* (spotted beebalm).



Skipper butterfly on *Conoclinium coelestinum* (blue mistflower).



Crab spider on *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed) seed pod.



Above: A huge “thank you” to everyone who donated to our summer match for improvements to the Wild Plant Nursery! Everything we purchased with your support, from new sign stands to improved irrigation to lumber for additional oak/hickory propagation enclosures & elevated plant stands, is all transferrable to the new nursery site. Photo by Katherine Isaacson

New Nursery Site FAQ Continued...

What will happen to the current Wild Plant Nursery site?

We will of course defer to FCPA on this point – it’s their park after all! – but we’re committed to cleaning up after ourselves and should they want to restore the space (there are a lot of native seeds in the soil there from 23 years of growing!) we’re more than happy to help in that regard.

That sounds great! How can I help?

Okay, maybe this question is a bit of wishful thinking... but we do absolutely need your help! This nursery expansion will come with significant expenses. We will need to do some land clearing, dig trenches for water lines, build greenhouses, and spread mulch and gravel. We’ll have to extend electric utilities and purchase many, many more pots, pot tags, and hoses/irrigation equipment. We’ll also need to buy some larger equipment to make this happen including a sub-compact tractor and some kind of electric utility vehicle (think a golf cart with a bed). We’ll also need plenty of help on the volunteering side – helping us load and unload our trailer when the time comes to move the plants, getting all sorts of things set up, and of course all the regular horticultural work that operating a nursery entails.

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Right: In September, Earth Sangha staff and volunteers joined FCPA staff to install over 1,000 native herbaceous plants in a meadow at **Riverbend Park!** This project is in partnership with Fairfax County’s Landscape Legacy and Sustainability Program, which is a team dedicated to the long-term management of preserved and restored natural areas on parkland. Photo by Michaelanne Makuch.



The Earth Sangha is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity based in the Washington, DC, area. We are devoted to the restoration and conservation of native plant communities.

Donate: Donations are tax-deductible. You can mail us a check (made out to “Earth Sangha”) or donate on our website at earthsangha.org/donate.

Volunteer: We work with volunteers at our Wild Plant Nursery and our field sites in Northern Virginia. Sign up to volunteer at earthsangha.org/volunteer.

Contact Us: info@earthsangha.org | 5101i Backlick Road, Annandale, VA 22003 | (703) 333-3022 | earthsangha.org.

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One of the best: The Earth Sangha is recognized by Spur Local (formerly the Catalogue for Philanthropy) as “one of the best small charities in the Washington, DC, region.”

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