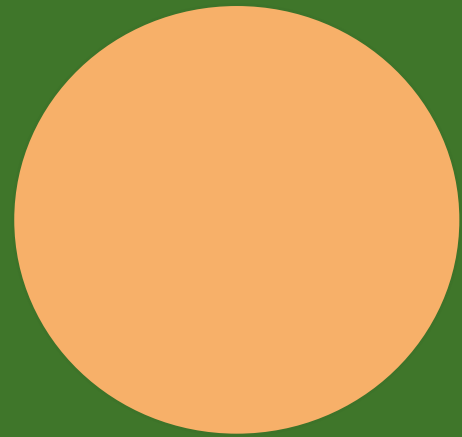
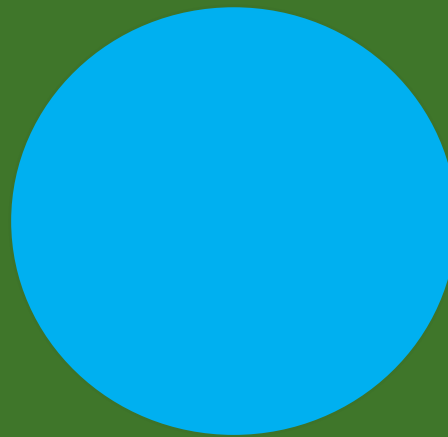
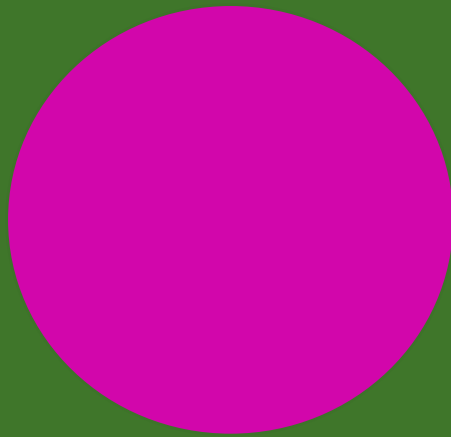
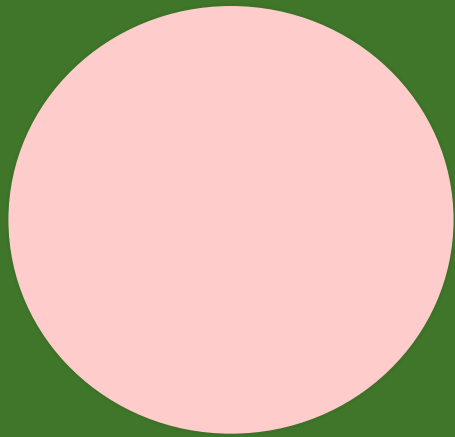


# GLENCARLYN LIBRARY COMMUNITY GARDEN NATIVE PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

Fun for all ages! Recommend parental supervision for kids under 10. Usually takes less than one hour.

See if you can find all 10 native plants included in this scavenger hunt and earn all 100 points!



If you want  
to play...

You must follow ONE big  
important garden rule...

# CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT IS?

(10 bonus points for a correct  
answer!)

HINT

If you follow this  
rule, the Master  
Gardeners who  
care for this garden  
will be MOST  
GRATEFUL!



THE BIG  
RULE  
IS

Stay on the  
paths and  
don't harm  
the plants!

GREAT  
JOB!

Collect 10 bonus points by  
saying out loud, in two different voices:

"I will stay on the paths and  
not harm the plants."

10  
bonus  
pts!

## A FEW TIPS

### Location

The garden has nine sections, focusing on: pollinators, herbs, dry sun, shade, natives, exotics, Asian plants, a memorial garden, and children's sensory garden.

### Plant ID

Not all plants are identified with a sign. You must compare leaf size and shape to the photos for each search activity.

### Answers

We provide answers as you go along (so if you skip ahead, you may see where plants are).

There is no time limit.

### Seasonal Differences

Not recommended for winter. Also, pay attention to clues about when plants bloom. A plant that blooms in the spring may have seed pods or berries by summer/fall. Some plants bloom in the fall.

### Natural Spread

You may find the plant in more than one place or other than where we identify.

### Scoring

Tally points yourself or just enjoy the fun. Check for bonus point opportunities!



Can you  
find me for  
10 points?

## Sweetgum

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

I am a tree with glossy star-shaped leaves that turn red and yellow in the fall. I am famous for my spikey, gum-ball size seed pods that litter the ground as they drop from autumn to spring.

My prickly seed balls provide food for songbirds and small mammals like squirrels.

Hint: I like to  
drop my seed  
pods on the  
parking lot  
pavement.

My twigs form scaly,  
corky wings, leading  
to my nickname  
"alligator tree."



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Mary Free



Photo © Mary Free

# Location of Sweetgum

Sweetgum – just on the other side of the fence from the parking lot.

10  
pts!

Second sweetgum – give yourself 10 bonus points if you found both trees!

10  
bonus  
pts!

Sweetgum trees are low maintenance and tolerate a variety of soil types, just watch out for those prickly balls when barefoot!



Can you  
find me for  
10 points?

Winterberry  
*Ilex verticillata*

I produce prodigious  
quantities of berry-like  
fruit, called drupes, that  
are green in the summer  
and scarlet red from  
September to spring.



My berries  
look beautiful,  
but please  
don't eat  
them!

Look for my  
greenish-white  
flowers in June  
and July.





# Location of Winterberry

Winterberry – not far from the archway.

10  
pts!

10  
bonus  
pts!

Bonus points if you found both locations!



'Red Sprite,' a female dwarf cultivar of Winterberry, needs the services of the male, 'Jim Dandy' to make fruit. Plant one male for up to 10 females.



Can you  
find me for  
10 points?



## **Hairy Alumroot**

*Heuchera villosa*

My five-inch-wide leaves  
stay green through most of  
the year.

I have airy plumes of small  
white flowers that bloom from  
June to October.

Look for my  
panicles of small  
white or pink  
flowers that leave  
lovely seedheads  
for the birds.

Hint: I  
make a  
nice  
border for  
the brick  
walkway.





# Location of Hairy Alumroot

The cultivar in this garden is "Autumn Bride," which is known for its showy and long-lasting flower clusters.



Hairy Alumroot

10  
pts!

The many cultivars of this species are excellent for edging walkways, en masse for shade gardens, or for erosion control.



Can you  
find me for  
10 points?

Horsemint, Spotted  
Beebalm  
*Monarda punctata*

Hint: I'm close to  
the Sweetgum  
tree with front row  
vehicular viewing.

I have yellow blooms with  
purple dots surrounded by  
lavender colored bracts  
that grow almost  
two feet tall.



Photo © Elaine Mills

I attract bees,  
butterflies, moths,  
beneficial wasps,  
and hummers to  
nectar and  
songbirds to my  
seeds.



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills



# Location of Spotted Beebalm



10  
pts!

Spotted Beebalm

Spotted Beebalm is located in the sunny hell strip bed along the parking lot.



Can you  
find me for  
10 points?



## Christmas Fern

*Polystichum acrostichoides*

I am evergreen year-round, with leathery lance-shaped fronds. Some say my pinnae are shaped like Christmas stockings.

Hint: I  
love  
shade.

I am native  
throughout  
the mid-  
Atlantic  
region.



My silvery, scaled  
fiddleheads emerge  
in spring.





# Location of Christmas Fern

10  
pts!

Christmas Fern



Christmas Fern is a forever plant, growing year after year in circular, cascading clumps.



Can you  
find me for  
10 points?

Cross-vine  
*Bignonia capreolata*

I can climb stone, brick,  
or wood without support  
but WATCH OUT, I  
spread by root suckers  
and can run rampant!

Look for fragrant,  
trumpet-like red,  
orange, or yellow  
flowers from May-  
June.

My flat green fruit  
capsules mature to  
brown from August  
to October.

I flower best  
in the sun but  
after I bloom,  
I need a  
prune!



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills

# Location of Cross-vine



10  
pts!

Cross-vine

I attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and small mammals.



Can you find  
me for 10  
points?

## Virginia Sweetspire *Itea virginica*

Look for fragrant, showy,  
four-inch spires of white  
blossoms on long arching  
stems from May-June.



I can grow 6-10  
feet high and wide  
and prefer partial  
shade and wet soil.

I attract bees,  
butterflies, wasps,  
and birds.

My foliage  
turns flaming  
red, orange,  
and burgundy  
in the fall.





# Location of Virginia Sweetspire

10  
pts!

Virginia Sweetspire –  
Henry's Garnet cultivar is  
just to the left of the bench


Bonus points if you found both  
locations! The taller, straight  
species is located just behind  
the partial chain link fence.

10  
bonus  
pts!



My green and red twigs and lingering  
fruit capsules are beautiful in the winter.





Can you  
find me for  
10 points?

My ripe fruit,  
seeds, and  
young pads  
are edible,  
but watch  
out, my  
barbs hurt!

## Eastern Prickly Pear

*Opuntia humifusa*

Fun facts: I have bright red fruit  
(berries called tunas!) that ripen  
from early spring to late fall.

My bright yellow flowers, 2-3  
inches wide, bloom throughout  
June and July, but each bloom  
lasts only one day!

Hint: I love  
dry, rocky  
soil and full  
sun.

I'm the most  
wide-ranging  
native cactus  
in the United  
States!

Photo © Elaine Mills

Photo © Elaine Mills



# Location of Eastern Prickly Pear


Eastern Prickly Pear

10  
pts!



My photosynthetic stems (pads) are dotted with tufts of barbed hairs (glochids). WATCH OUT - these glochids are hard to remove from skin and cause severe skin irritation!





Can you  
find me for  
10 points?

## Switchgrass *Panicum virgatum*

I once covered the tall-  
grass prairies of North  
America.

My arching green leaves  
turn yellow in the fall and  
tan in the winter.

My flowers are  
airy, pink-tinged  
panicles visible  
from July to  
February.

Hint: I grow 3-6  
feet tall and get  
cut back to  
eight inches in  
late winter.

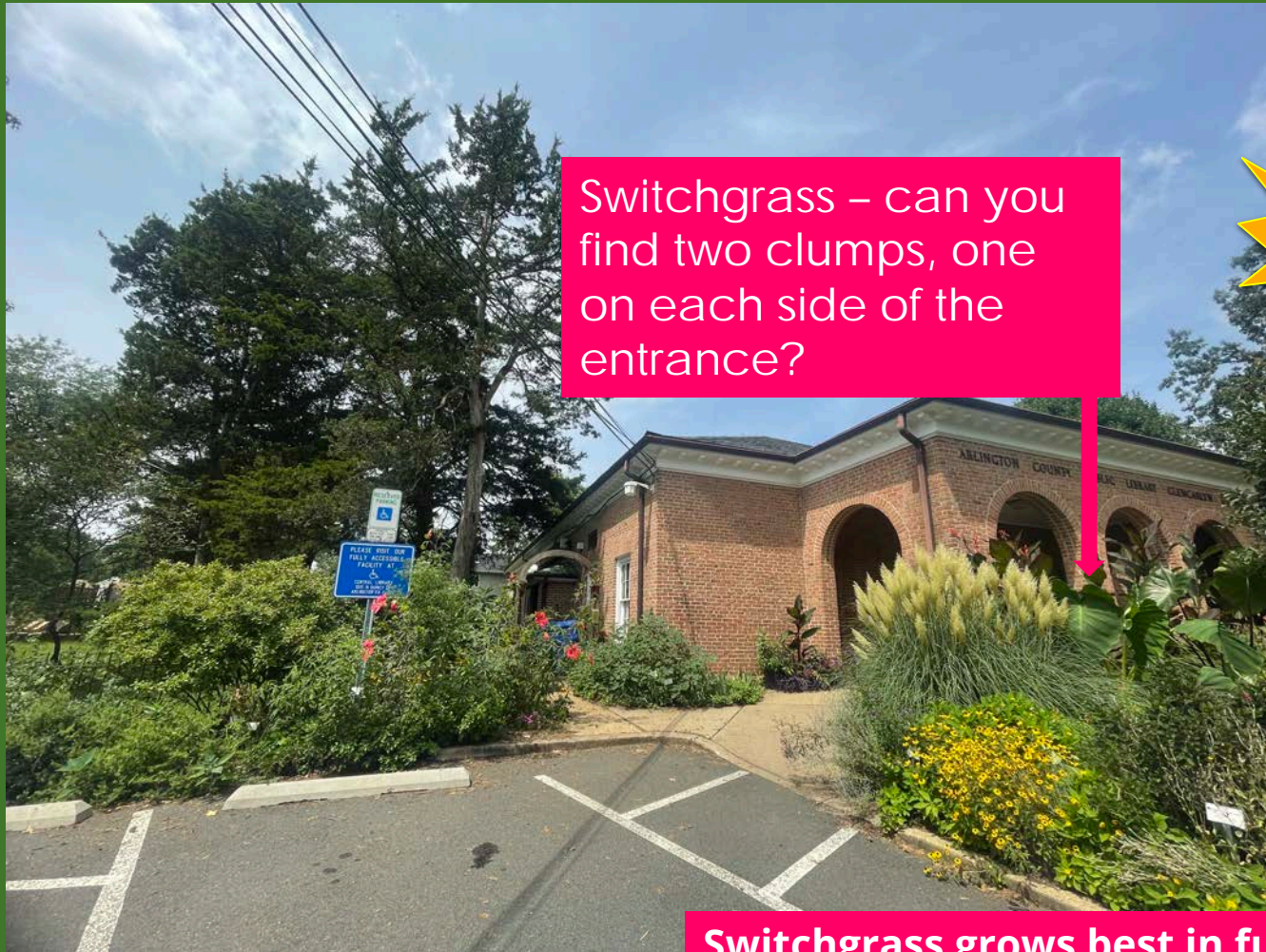
My roots grow  
up to 10 feet  
down, helping  
control erosion  
and stabilize  
the soil.



Photo © Elaine Mills



# Location of Switchgrass



Switchgrass – can you find two clumps, one on each side of the entrance?

10  
pts!

Switchgrass grows best in full sun and tolerates drought well.



Thank you for participating in our Glencarlyn Library Community Garden scavenger hunt!

Tally up your points (total of 140 points available) and let us know how you did and what you thought!

Email: [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com)

- Fun and educational?
- Ways to improve it?
- Other ideas for family-friendly fun?

