# Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month

**APRIL 2015** 

NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

REEDY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE



## Phlox divaricata Eastern Blue Phlox

### Eastern Blue Phlox - a star in the woodland wildflower bed

Eastern Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) is native over much of the East Coast. It is considered to be a woodland plant and is generally easy to grow:

- Part sun or shade, morning sun is
- Moist rich soil
- · Blooms are fragrant and violet or lavender appearing in spring
- Typically 12-14 inches tall

Drifts of Eastern Blue Phlox will often self sow, and blend well with other plants in the border. Ideal companion plants include Spotted Cranesbill (Geranium maculatum), Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum biflorum), Allegheny Spurge (Pachysandra procumbens), Indian Pink (Spigelia marilandica), Wild Red Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis), Scarlet Sage (Salvia coccinea), asters and ferns as noted by Sally Wasowski. Clumps can be divided in the spring as new growth begins to appear.

There are many cultivars available including 'Dirigio Ice,' 'Fuller's White,' 'Louisiana,' 'Clouds of Perfume,' and 'London Grove Blue'.

Eastern Blue Phlox provides a nectar source for hummingbirds, the hummingbird sphinx moth, and spring ground nesting bees in the Colletidae and Andrenidae families. It is also useful in the landscape as food for caterpillars (keeping baby birds happy) and shelter for wildlife of all

Relatives include Creeping Phlox (Phlox stolonifera), a variety that can be

used as a ground cover in the shade garden. Carolina Phlox (*Phlox* 

**Blrd Friendly** 

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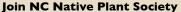
carolina) is a border species with similar flowers reaching 2-4 ft. tall, and is typically magenta colored.

## Make your yard bird friendly:

- Provide water source
- Provide diverse shelter
- Provide diverse nectar, berry and seed sources
- Provide larval hosts plants

#### Find out More!

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month is a joint effort of the NC Native Plant Society (ncwildflower.org) and the NC Audubon Society ncaudubonblog.org



Visit <u>ncwildflower.org</u> to join and learn more about the benefits of adding native plants to your landscape.

