

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month

APRIL 2015

NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

REEDY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE



Worm-eating
Warbler



Photos by Will Stuart

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 best
- 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 kinds.



Relatives include Creeping Phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), a variety that can be used as a ground cover in the shade

garden. Carolina Phlox (*Phlox*

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)

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