

By Dick Harlow

## **JOE PYE WEED**



**Joe-pye Weed, *Eupatorium purpureum*,**

© Dick Harlow

Do you need a tall plant that will flower in the Fall? Would you like it to attract butterflies? If so, Joe-Pye Weed is just the plant for you. It is a sturdy, tall, (6-7 feet in good soil), plant that does not need staking. Its flower heads are full, but will not disrupt the stability of the plant. And, since its flowers come out in late Summer and continue into Fall, (July to September), butterflies are attracted to its nectar source. Besides its strong and tall appearance in the garden, its mauve pink to reddish pink flowers are a treat during the latter part of summer when many flowers are yellow and orange.

Because there has been a great deal of interest in this plant, horticulturists have developed several varieties. The most sought after are Purple Joe-Pye Weed, Baby Joe-Pye Weed and Spotted Joe-Pye Weed. Baby Joe is a shorter version of Purple Joe, growing around 4-5 feet instead of 6-7 feet. Baby Joe has the same characteristic flower heads as Purple Joe.

Cautionary note, unless you want to see birds feeding off the seed heads during early winter, these plants are quite virile and produce seed prolifically. Therefore, you might want to at least cut off the seed heads in late fall. If not, they will eventually overtake your garden if you allow them too. Of course, you can have your cake and eat it too, if you are willing to pull-up the many young Joe-Pye Weed plants in the spring!

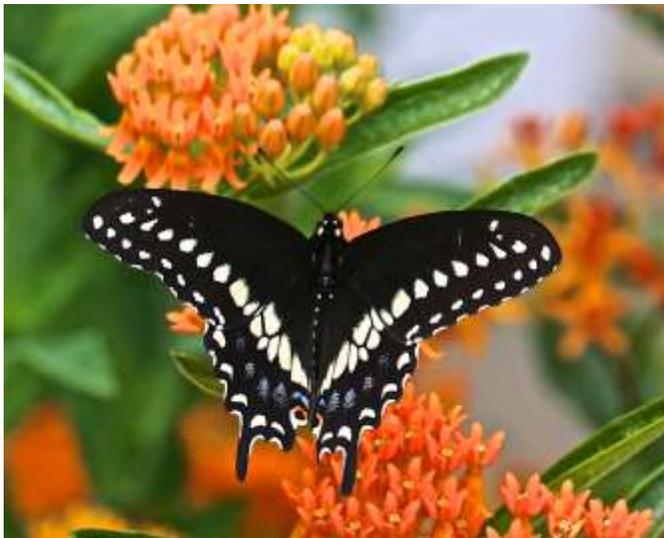
SEPTEMBER 1 – 14, 2017 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR EASTVIEW  
By Dick Harlow



**Joe Pye Weed**, *Eupatorium purpureum*,  
© Dick Harlow

As an example, the above picture of Joe-Pye Weed is over 7 feet tall.

**SEXING BLACK SWALLOWTAILS**



**(1) Black Swallowtail**, *Papilio polyxenes*, Male,  
on Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, © Dick Harlow

**Picture #1** is a new (recently emerged from its chrysalis) male Black Swallowtail. The reason I say recent is because there isn't a mark on this butterfly. Usually it doesn't take long for butterflies to have tears in their wings, or for swallowtails to have a broken tail and a general dullness to their color due to wear and tear as they mature. This one doesn't even come close to having had any such conflict.

**SEPTEMBER 1 – 14, 2017 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR EASTVIEW**  
**By Dick Harlow**



**(2) Black Swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes*, Female,**  
on Red Monarda, *Monarda didyma*, © Dick Harlow

Males, picture #1, will have bright dark yellow double row of spots with the spots widening as they get closer to the abdomen. Whereas the female in picture #2, even though it has a double row of spots like the male, the female's spots are single and don't widen as they progress toward the abdomen. Also, the color of the female is duller and the yellow spots are lighter. She generally has a less distinctive appearance! They are both attractive, but I think most people would say that the male stands out more with its bright yellow spots and stark black and colorful hindwing quarter!

## **GREEN FROG**

We think of the toad as the usual garden amphibian; but if you have dense vegetation in your garden you might very well see a Green Frog, *Lithobates clamitans*, as I did the other day! While I was watering some transplanted plants, out popped a Green Frog. Although Green Frogs are known to live in water, when the weather is wet (as it has been this year) they will venture out and about for food. Local gardens near water are very beneficial for amphibians to find food and temporary shelter.

The Green Frog is considered a True Frog. True Frogs have moist smooth skin and web feet. The tympanic membrane, that flat membrane behind the eye that picks up sound and transmits it to the brain, is twice the size of the eye in the males; whereas the female's tympanum is about equal to the size of its eye. The yellow throat of the male is another sex telltale. However, don't get confused by the significantly larger American Bullfrog that also has a deep yellow throat. If you are still concerned about the Green Frog looking similar to the Bull Frog, the Bull Frog does not have dorsolateral ridges that come down the sides of the back. You can see these ridges in the picture below.



**Green Frog, *Lithobates clamitans*, Female, On grass.**  
© Dick Harlow

Any shallow freshwater space is living space for a Green Frog. It doesn't matter whether it is a ditch alongside a road, a swamp, lake, stream or brook. By resting on the shore of these aquatic

## SEPTEMBER 1 – 14, 2017 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR EASTVIEW

By Dick Harlow

environments they have the ability with their strong hind legs to leap to the safety of the water if they are threatened by a predator.

Except for the American Toad that frequents gardens, I am still amazed at how far away from its normal aquatic habitat I can find the Green Frog. Maybe they are out looking for other spaces to occupy, looking for food or might be a species that has wanderlust. Whatever the case, don't be surprised if you see this fellow in your garden or on your lawn during a cloudy wet day.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

#### **MAMMALS**

White-tailed Deer

Eastern Chipmunk – individuals

#### **AMPHIBIANS**

Green Frog

American Bullfrog

#### **BUTTERFLIES**

Cabbage White

Monarch

#### **Weather Tidbits**

Month of **SEPTEMBER 1-14, 2017**

*[All Measurements taken at solar noon \(1230 EST\).](#)*

#### **PRECIPITATION**

**Total Precipitation: 68.8 mm or 2.7 inches**

**Overcast Days: 4**