

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MOSAIC



Berkshire Natural
Resources Council

MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION

By September, monarchs in the Berkshires are fueling up on late-blooming wildflowers for their long migration to central Mexico. Look for them in meadows filled with asters and goldenrod.

FUN FACT

A single monarch may travel over 3,000 miles, but it's the grandchildren of the butterflies that left Mexico in spring who complete the journey south.

1



ASTERS BLOOM

Purple New England asters bring a pop of color to fields and roadsides as many summer flowers fade. Their bright yellow centers are magnets for pollinators stocking up before winter. Asters are part of the same plant family as sunflowers and daisies.

EXPLORE

Visit **CHP Loop Trail** (0.75 miles roundtrip) or **Threemile Hill Trail** (2 miles, one way) in Great Barrington for a mix of mature forest and open fields full of blooming aster.

2



ACORNS & OTHER SEED TREES

Oak, beech, and maple trees drop their seeds in September, feeding wildlife and setting the stage for next year's growth.

FUN FACT

A single oak tree can produce thousands of acorns in a "mast year," providing critical food for deer, chipmunks, squirrels, turkeys, and bears.

3



FALL BIRD MIGRATION

Cooler mornings signal big changes for birds, with many species beginning their journey south. You might hear the distinctive calls of warblers, thrushes, and geese on the move.

EXPLORE

Visit the **Jackson Pond Boardwalk** in Stockbridge for a scenic path through the woods that leads to a boardwalk overlooking a wetland offering great birding

4



All Photos: Gabrielle K. Murphy