



# BCT Stewardship Journal: September 2024

## September BCT Wildlife Sightings

While tramping around BCT properties, I am often able to snag a photo or two of some captivating flora and fauna. This past month I spotted some particularly beautiful little critters, all native, that I would like to share. Enjoy!



Praying mantis spotted hanging out on the Eddy Sisters Community Garden fence.

**Fun Fact:** This critter has five eyes, one ear, and can rotate their heads 180 degrees!

Monarch caterpillar spotted munching on some Butterflyweed at the Hay Conservation Center.

**Fun Fact:** Monarch caterpillars are able to devour an entire milkweed leaf in under five minutes!



Eastern black widow spider spotted hiding in an old pot next to the Hay House shed

**Fun Fact:** Although they have a poison 15 times stronger than rattlesnake venom, black widows are not considered aggressive unless threatened.



Giant leopard moth caterpillar spotted crawling along the floor of the Hay House shed (inset photo shows adult moth)

**Fun Fact:** Unlike most "hairy" caterpillars, the giant leopard moth caterpillar bristles are not urticant, meaning they do not break off and cause irritation when touched.



Yellow garden spider spotted in a beautiful web at the Dalgarn property.

**Fun Fact:** Despite their intimidating size, garden spiders are not aggressive and beneficial to gardeners by limiting the amount of pests in the garden.