Summer is a colorful time in Wisconsin! Flower color is one important way plants get the attention of pollinators. Butterflies are attracted to red, orange, yellow, pink, and purple blossoms, while bees like white, blue, and violet colors. Hummingbirds look for dark pink or red. With so many different types of pollinators, you can find a rainbow of color just outside your door.

On your next hike, collect petals that attract your attention. Which flower colors did you collect?

“During every week from April to September there are, on the average, ten wild plants coming into first bloom.”

-Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

MAKE YOUR OWN FLOWER PETAL ART

Materials: Wildflowers, glue, scissors, butterfly/rainbow printout (next page) or blank piece of paper

Directions:

1. Collect a few flowers in a variety of colors. If you’re making a rainbow you can try to get all seven colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Leaves, seeds, and sand can also be used.
2. Pick the petals off the flowers, cutting any large ones up into smaller pieces. Do the same for the leaves, if using.
3. Working one section at a time, apply glue and sprinkle petals (or leaves, seeds, or sand) onto glue.
4. Let dry for a few minutes, then gently shake off excess petals.