

## 2019 July Pollinator Pathway letter

Hello,

Summer is the time that gardens grow and flourish. In my own gardens I have always tried to balance the 'weeds' with the perennials. I love wild flowers. Unfortunately for the tidy minded person they usually grow where they want to. Seeds do have a habit of blowing in the wind.

It is frustrating at times. Sometimes it is sad. I have spent years 'encouraging' wild chicory to grow in my gardens. I love it and the Finches in the Fall love it too. This past winter wiped all my chicory out. Just like the people's rhododendrons and azaleas that were damaged. I'll just find some more and start over.

The other side of this for me is that I have lots of Milkweed where it has never been and lots of wildflowers where the lawn was. I saw three different kinds of butterflies today. It's exciting to watch.

Summer is a time to conserve water. Water is becoming a precious commodity on our planet. We all need to keep this in mind. Before pulling out the hose or running the sprinkler, check to make sure the garden does indeed need water. Measure natural rainfall with a rain gauge and check the soil for moisture. When water is necessary, irrigate in the morning to limit evaporative losses and plant disease issues. Use soaker hoses. I'm lazy. They work! They save water.

Summer is also the time New Englanders get to play and do things. There are so many interesting things to do that it's hard sometimes to choose. I've listed a few of them:

### July 19<sup>th</sup> – Invasive Plant Workshop

Burley Farms - 245 N. River Rd. Epping , NH  
9–11 am - \$5 donation per person \$10-family

GPS Address – 245 N. River Rd., Epping, NH  
Driving – on Rt.125N. in Epping -- turn right onto N. River Rd.  
after the Fire House Stove Shoppe

Invasive plants always start small but if let go they quickly become a very big problem. They push out native plants and plants that pollinators and others need for survival. Knowing what to look for is important. This workshop should help anyone who is outdoors and caring for gardens, woodlots, or meadows.

## **July 27<sup>th</sup> – Kingston Days**

Kingston Conservation Commission will have a tent at Kingston Days. It will be situated in the Flea Market area of the Plains. Come and see what the pollinator project is doing. Come meet Kingston Conservation Commission members. We will have information and things to do. There will be seed bombs to make and take home and native plants for sale. There will be informative booklets to take home. We have an interactive map that shows how the Pollinator Pathway is becoming a reality. Put your house on our map! We are building up a library of reference books and will have some to look at in the booth. You can look at ours and see if you'd like to buy one for your own library. Sign up for our monthly letter/ blog and be registered for a drawing to win a great Pollinator book.

There will be a number of Town organizations showing what Kingston does in the areas of conservation and stewardship for the town. Come and visit and see what we all are doing

One of the goals of the Kingston Pollinator Pathways project is to get surrounding towns to also do a Pollinator Pathway. It's a great thing that East Kingston is working with us on this project. Hats off to Vicky Brown for all she is doing to help us.

## **Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> - Nature Photography workshop**

Southeast Land Trust Burley Farms – Epping, NH  
5pm – 6:30 pm

Take better pictures of your outdoor adventures! Join Cris Blackstone at Burley Farms in Epping for a summer evening workshop.

Learn to tell a story through photographs – no fancy cameras necessary – bring any type of camera, including your smartphone!

Choose your favorite photo and get a beautiful canvas of your work to keep forever. There is a \$20 fee for this workshop to cover the cost of materials. Sign up at <http://seltnh.org/event/nature-photography-workshop/>

A last fun thought.

Summer nights are wonderful. Load up on bug spray/cream and go out and enjoy your yard. Look for Lightning Bugs and Moths. If grasses and wild flowers are more abundant you'll find that the lightning bugs are too. Moths are interesting at night and range in size from tiny to the big Luna Moth size. Amazing when you see them.

Globally, there are about nine moth species for every one butterfly species and yet butterflies seem to get all of the attention. While there is a lot more research to be done on these mostly nocturnal animals, we know that many of them are important pollinators of the wild plants with which they co-evolved. Equally important, scientists are beginning to learn about their value to crop pollination. Many plants intentionally release their nectar at night to entice moths, their preferred pollinator, to visit.

Moths are worth getting to know, If for no other reason, for their stunning feathery antennae--the most flamboyant in the pollinator world. One way to distinguish butterflies from moths is that butterfly antennae are not feathery and tend to have clubs on the end. ( credit-Xerces Bee City)

If you have photos of what your gardens and would like to share them send them to me at: [marghi3maples@gmail.com](mailto:marghi3maples@gmail.com) We can share them with Kingston on our FB page and on the KCC website that's on [www.kingstonnh.org](http://www.kingstonnh.org) (the town)site. If you have any questions send them to me and I'll try to find an answer.

With permission of the writer I have attached an article to this letter that is interesting and informative: 'Enhance your Property for Pollinators'

Have a fun summer  
Marghi Bean