

May-June 2021



Hello Everyone,

This spring has been an interesting one. May was a strange month. It went from cold to hot to cold again and then finally decided to be 'real' spring and stayed warm. My veggie garden went in very late because it was so cold I figured the seeds wouldn't germinate. Memorial Day weekend there was frost!

However, there were advantages to the cold weather. I have many narcissus and daffodils in my gardens. I've been lazy over the years and I've just let them spread. There are many different types and colors. Because it was cool (cold) this year they were gorgeous! They just kept blooming and blooming. But I have an old fashioned rose plant that got totally knocked away with the heat and rain in June. They smelled wonderful but the blossoms didn't last at all. Gardens are like that. You win some and you lose some depending on the weather.



One of my most favorite blogs is The Humane Gardener. One of her blogs is about letting plants choose their destiny. I love this blog because that is what happens at my house.



My milkweed is in a spot I call my 'jungle'. It's an awkward place that's too difficult to mow...so I don't. Milkweed likes it there so I dump lots of seeds in the Fall and they grow...where they want to, of course. Where they want to this year is out in the lawn. Last year it was the Heal All. The Heal All decided the front

lawn was the best spot to grow although it has always grown in a different place. Now, this year, I can't find any Heal All in the lawn at all. Wild flowers/weeds are wonderful things that always surprise me.

Go to:

<https://www.humanegardener.com/let-plants-choose-their-destinies/>

it's very enjoyable.



It's Pollinator Week this week.

Many events have been posted on line. Locally PPNH has put together Grab N Go bags for the kids at the Kingston Library. We are also doing a free raffle for a Butterfly plant and there are free seeds in our new Seed Bank at the library. You don't need to be a Kingston Library card member to come in and use the seed bank. Come and see.



If you go to our Face Book page there are Scavenger Hunts for kids and adults. <https://www.facebook.com/pollinatorpathwaysnh/?epa>

It's almost time for the Monarch butterflies to be showing up in this area. If you go to the following link there is a wonderful article about the Monarchs in the blog. <http://shamrockenvironmental.weebly.com/blog>



I read something that interested me recently. Out in the Midwest they are trying to help pollinators by building Hedgerows between the roads and fields. It is described as 'hedgerows of native shrub and forbs'. So...I looked it up. What is a forb? This is the definition I found online. "*Once it has been determined the plant in question is not a grass-like or woody species, it is probably a forb. Forbs are described as plants that are not grass-like and do not become woody, referred to as herbaceous (Diggs et al. 1999). Generally, forbs are considered broad-leaf, "flowering" plants, and although this is not always the case or may not be apparent, it is a good rule of thumb to follow.*"

The article made me think that instead of fencing that needs to be painted every year why not build hedgerows between properties? Shrubs and trees and 'forbs'. It would be beautiful. The pollinators would love it.

Trees that would make good Hedgerow trees are in this Wild Seed Project article. https://wildseedproject.net/2017/05/small-flowering-trees/?mc_cid=73552f80a6&mc_eid=1a7c240eb7

The following is another version of a pollinator garden 'recipe card'. It provides names for the native plants that would be perfect for the Northeast and shows how they look. <https://www.pollinator.org/gardencards>

Don't forget the Native Plant Finder. You can find a plant to fit any garden or situation.
All you need to put in is your zip code.
<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

PPNH Neighborhood Events calendar~~~~~

June 30: wildflower/bird/butterfly walk for/with
Brentwood Library and Garden Club at Brentwood
County Fields 9:00 AM (not totally set in stone yet)
July 3 : Wildflower walk behind the Fremont Library
with Fremont CC, Open space group, and garden
club
July 23 Camp Kent, Amesbury, nature walk
August 3 presentation to New Hampton Garden
Club
August 6-8 Kingston Days
Wildflower Walk at Kingston Fairgrounds,
September date TBA
Kingston Library Garden tour-- No date yet



*Come take a walk with our local nature enthusiasts -
*Doug Tallamy is online with fascinating webinars about helping pollinators –
*Audubon has webinars and information on their website that has things for kids and adults and
just interesting information
*The UNH Cooperative Extension is a resource that is endless with the areas that they can help
you with.
<https://extension.unh.edu>

Have a good summer and enjoy nature and all it offers us.

Marghi Bean, founder
Pollinator Pathways NH

