



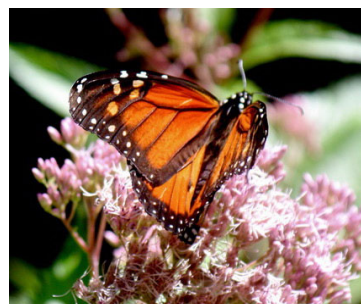
Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

March 2023

Hello Everyone,

It's a snowy day as I write this. At this point in winter, we are all dreaming of Spring. Amazingly the birds are beginning to think about spring too. In the mornings you sometimes hear some spring songs from early birds in the trees.

In Mexico the Monarch butterflies are just a few weeks away from starting their migration north. As they journey north they will lay the eggs that will become the first new generation of butterflies. We are going to see the fourth generation here.



A reminder--It's not too late in the next couple of weeks to plant native seeds outside. They need the cold before they warm up and begin to germinate.



Pollinators need our help. So, when people ask what can one person do? It's easy to answer. One person joining with many people makes an effort that works and succeeds. Native plants are the easiest to grow. They don't need fancy soil mixes or constant coddling. They are natives and like it here. They are perennials or bi-annuals and keep coming back. You can be a lazy gardener with native plants.

In that vein our 'mantra' for easy gardening is:

- 1) Plant native plants. Pollinators are very specific about what they need and native plants sustain native pollinators. That doesn't mean tear up everything and start over. It just means that if you are adding plants, please plant native.
- 2) Mow less lawn and mow grass areas less often. Mow as high as you are able. The grass will be healthier and the pollinators will start showing up more.
- 3) Use no pesticides. They kill more than one type of bug. Spraying a pesticide will kill generations of many pollinators at one fell swoop.

When you are planning for gardens remember that helping to build a Pollinator Pathway can include flower pots on a deck, gardens around a building or a field that is full of native grasses and blooms. All of these native plantings

provide what pollinators need. I remember hearing a lecturer who said that a flower pot hanging on a balcony in the middle of a city might be the salvation for the pollinator trying to fly through.



Another part of easy gardening is to wait in the spring before raking out the gardens. There are many little creatures still sleeping in the mulch and in the woody stems of last year's plants. Climate warming is playing a big part in changing our seasonal temperatures. In 2022 we had March days that were 70 degrees and later in

April it went back into the 40s. Wait until there have been 4-5 days of above 50 degree days before you rake. Your pollinators will love you.

Looking at seed company websites and catalogs is one of the joys of late winter. An excellent place to get native seeds is the Kingston Community Library. The KCL Seed Library will have its 2023 reopening celebration on March 22nd. This seed library was started in 2022 by members of Pollinator Pathways, with the help of KCL Director, Melissa Mannon and the staff at the library. Dozens of packets of seed were given out last year to both library patrons and guests. For more information about KCL and seed libraries go to: (copy & paste)

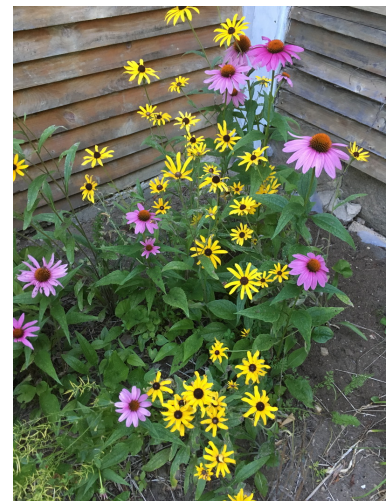
<https://www.facebook.com/KingstonNHLibrary/>



There are many seed companies who specialize in native seeds. Wild Seed Project is one of them. It is in York, Maine. Right now they have a "two-for" going on. It is for Black Eyed Susans. This site also has a lot of seed information and "how-to" information:

(copy & paste)

https://shop.wildseedproject.net/products/black-eyed-coneflower-rudbeckia-hirta-pulcherrima-seeds?variant=1046014845&mc_cid=45dbe79139&mc_eid=1a7c240eb7



Some nurseries have shrubs and plants that are deer resistant. It is frustrating to have your plants and shrubs eaten by hungry deer. Deer resistant plants and shrubs are not 'bomb proof' but if the deer are not having a hard winter finding food they will browse something other than the deer resistant plants. Daffodils are a good example. They are definitely on the deer's don't eat me list. Tulips are like sweet salad to deer.

One of the ways pollinators are being helped is by people talking to people about what they are doing with native plants. If you would like to show off your pollinator plants and want to show your neighbors what you are doing.... Put out a sign!

FAST SIGNS, Rt. 125, Plaistow, NH (877)636-9527 Cost is \$14



PPNH/CALENDAR is in the works but upcoming events are:
April 15- Atkinson PPNH has their annual Milkweed Seed Giveaway
Fresh Water Farms, Rt. 111, Atkinson
May 6 - Spring Ephemeral Walk - Epping (rain date-13th)
July & August - Wildflower walks TBA

Enjoy the planning and the dreaming!

Marghi Bean, Founder & Co-Chair
Pollinator Pathways NH