



November 2019

Hello Pollinator Pathways !

I apologize for the late Nov. P. P. letter. I have been in Mexico visiting family.

I have to admit I was hoping to do a letter on the pollinators where my family lives and how people work with them. Well... going to live in a desert area (even though urban) is stretching the point of finding pollinators. I never saw any. Well... I saw two butterflies. Hey! I'm from New England! I am supposing that pollinators in the desert climates are the small flies and bugs that you have to get on your knees to find in the grasses and plants and I am not expert enough to do this.

But a wonderful surprise happened when visiting friends in Escondido, CA. Our host starting telling me how they were going to plant their front lawn area with native plants and needed milkweed seed because the monarchs migrated right over their house. They had been talking with my family who had told them about our project here in NH. They were excited to start helping the pollinators.

It brought home to me how our project is really helping and how it is really 'working'. Don't ever feel like "It's only me...what can I do?" All of you who have signed up for this letter are pollinator helpers. You making a better habitat on your property and talking to other people and educating them about the crisis the pollinators are having. Who would have thought that someone in southern CA would take off with this project just because of a conversation with someone in my family?

Coming home to almost Winter made me realize how important "tucking in your garden" is. Leave the 'duff' for the pollinators that need it: like the woolly bears who are the only moth caterpillar that truly hibernates.. Leaves, clippings and old plants that are bent over all supply shelter. Cutting things down when it is Spring and over 50 degrees is better timing. By then our little creatures will have survived the Winter and crawled out into the sun. Leaves are the best mulch in the world as they supply nutrients to the soil as well as cover and shelter.

Cold weather is also a great time to look at websites and information that can be used next spring and summer. Here are a few references that you might find interesting.

- The Xerces Society – [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)
- National Audubon Society – they do way more than birds! [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)
- Look for native seeds. There are several companies that specialize in seeds for the North East.
- Sign up for Wendy Scribner's blog. [Wendy.scribner@unh.edu](mailto:Wendy.scribner@unh.edu). Wendy is a Natural Resources Field Specialist for UNH Cooperative Extension (603) 447-3834
- Ask questions about gardening – [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,

*Marghi Bear*

Kingston Conservation/Pollinator Pathways