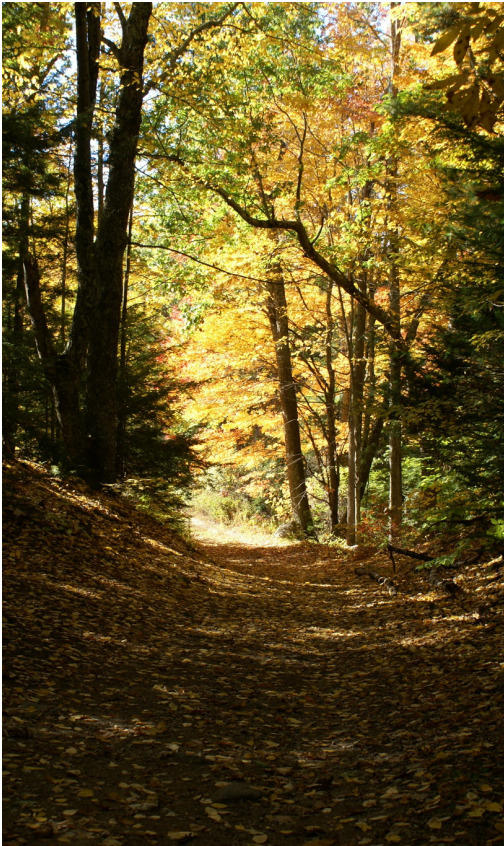


Pollinator PATHWAYS *New Hampshire*

Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

October, 2021



October is a great month. Late flowers enjoy the cool temps, unusual birds show up because they are migrating, and the leaves on the trees turn colors. It is cool and around here there are few mosquitoes and other biting bugs. It's a great time to walk and get outside. I live on the edge of conservation land with lots of trails. There have been a few bikers as well as walkers. It's a time of year when you can relax.

There is nothing to do except for the chores in the category of putting your gardens / house/ outbuildings to bed for the year. A short list can keep you running full tilt until snow—and then you need to shovel snow.

BUT...it's a time of year where the phrase 'lazy gardener' comes into its' own.

Be lazy. Leave the leaves for mulch that helps both plants and pollinators. Rake or blow the leaves (please don't chop them up) to the edge of your yard. Put leaves under trees in order to make a soft landing for the caterpillars that will hatch next year and fall to the ground. Keep a space around the tree. Mounding up mulch and leaves around a tree trunk will eventually weaken and kill the tree.

<https://xerces.org/blog/leave-leaves-to-benefit-wildlife>

Give your lawn a final cut but cut as high as you can.

Tidy your gardens. Don't cut things down to the ground and rake everything. All those leaves are mulch. Why buy mulch when Mother Nature provides mulch every Fall ?

All those garden stalks? It's OK to just tidy up the gardens. Make sure there are leaves for mulch and walk away to do something else. All those woody stalks are the winter home for many pollinators and beneficial insects. If you can't leave them as they are, cut the stalks down to one or two feet tall.



Coming up very soon is a Zoom event that we are hosting:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 AT 6 PM

Putting Your Garden to Bed

Patty Laughlin of Lorax Landscaping will discuss what to do - and what not to do - when preparing our gardens for winter. How can we help the pollinators we have tried so hard to attract? What's good for the ecosystem - for wildlife, and what's not? This is a free Zoom event sponsored by Pollinator Pathways NH. Q&A will be encouraged! Message this FB page to get the Zoom link.

**Patty Laughlin has been practicing ecological landscaping since 1994. She is a New Hampshire Certified Landscape Professional (NHCLP), is an Accredited Organic Land Care Professional (AOLCP), has a certificate in Permaculture Design, is a New Hampshire Natural Resources Steward, is a Certified Wildlife Landscaping Professional and holds a degree in Horticulture, with a concentration in Landscape Operations, from the University of New Hampshire Thompson School of Applied Science.*

**Message us through the event listing on our Facebook page for the zoom link
or email: evynathan@comcast.net**



Don't wait for Spring to plant wild flowers. Many of our native wildflowers can be planted in the Fall right into Winter. They need the cold of winter to 'scarify' the seeds. Don't expect gorgeous flowers in May and June though. You might get some but some of these seeds take two or three years to grow and become flowers. Once grown, these plants will continue to be part of your landscape. They are perennials. They come back each year. Some annually, some bi-annually but they come back.



The following is the announcement for our upcoming (in person) seed event.

3rd Annual Fall Seed Swap Event!

Pollinator Pathways NH will be hosting its third annual, very popular, seed swap event at Kingston Recreation on November 13, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

Seeds for at least 20 native species will be available for pollinator gardens and wildflower meadows. Read about the plants. Sort through species you would like to have in your yards, and collect a bag full of seed. We'll have lots of hand-outs about attracting pollinators. If you have seed to share, bring it with you, labeled, or just come to get freebies. There's no charge, and no requirement for swapping seed.

Native plants are necessary in our NH landscapes - our fauna have evolved with them and can't survive without them. Many pollinators specialize, laying their eggs on one plant species alone, and so including these "host plants" in our yards is the key to a healthy ecosystem. Start as small as a deck planter, or go LARGE and allow your lawn to re-wild! You'll be amazed by the variety of species you attract, and the wildflowers that have lain dormant beneath your lawn for decades.

None of us can save the planet alone, but together we can make a difference – "One Yard at a Time"!



I quite often mention UNH Extension and all the knowledge and help they offer. This is a great Fall to Spring 'what to do' blog from UNH this month.

https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2021/10/october-gardening-tips?utm_source=AdaptiveMailer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Granite%20State%20Gardening&org=785&lvl=100&ite=18033&lea=2149404&ctr=0&par=1&trk=a0W6f00000WSKh6EAH

In the next few months dreaming about spring is what gardeners do. For a list of pollinator plants and how to manage color in your garden throughout the coming year here is a good resource:

https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated_unmanaged_files/Resource005973_Rep8387.pdf

Wishing you all a great lazy Fall

Marghi Bean
Founder/Chairman
Pollinator Pathways NH