

# Pollinator PATHWAYS New Hampshire

*Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time*

January 2021

Hello Everyone,

January is here. It's a great time to relax and start dreaming about Spring and what to do outside in the spring with gardens and plants and general planning.



There is so much information available about pollinators and gardens to help restore pollinator habitat that I thought it would be a good time to share interesting and informative sources that can keep us inspired.

On the top of my list for thoughtful reading is **Bringing Nature Home** by Doug Tallamy. It's not a fast read but it is fascinating and informative about what the 'average' person can do about the loss of native habitat and native populations of wildlife. It is not a gardening handbook. It is the story of the massive loss of wildlife habitat all over our world and what we can do. In his book he talks about needing to think about a Homegrown National Park system and Ecosystem stewardship.

***Bringing Nature Home**, by Doug Tallamy awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives. .( google books)*

PPNH gets asked a lot "what is a native plant and why are they important?"

A native plant is one that has evolved over the millennium in a certain spot. The pollinators of that certain spot also evolved with those plants. The pollinators cannot exist without those certain plants or trees. They need them as a host plant, (where they lay their eggs.) and as a nectar plant (where the hatched caterpillars get sustenance) Without all that pollinators cannot survive..

By joining in with Pollinator Pathways NH you are part of this initiative. You are part of 'Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time'. Planning your own property's habitat this winter can be more than a job or something that needs doing. It is fun, challenging and a great stress reducer.

'Your property' can be the area on your deck that you want to design with pots of native flowers and vines that pollinators like.

It can be your large lawn that you'll make smaller and wait to see what grows in it.

It can be changing your Springtime gardening from buying plants at the big box stores to buying native plants from local nurseries or on line.

It can be knowing what to do with 'that weedy wet spot at the bottom of the hill', or the hill itself for that matter. Hills are hard to mow. Plant it with native plants! Don't mow it.

Gardening for pollinators is lazy gardening at its best. Mow less, plant native plants and use no chemicals.

Trying to change your entire property in a short time would be crazy. Make a good plan of what you want to see in one, two, five years. The old phrase about gardeners being the ones with patience and faith is true. Gardeners know that the seed in the ground will become a plant with time. They plan and are patient. Remember, any native plants on your property, deck, lawn or garden are a good step towards our pollinator pathway.

So with planning in mind I am putting out a bunch of sources from planning information to general fun prowling the internet looking for 'plant things'

One thing that is fun is to google 'Native plants NH' (or New England) – 'native plants of the Northeast'. All sorts of things will come up. (good for a snowy day)



[https://blog.nature.org/science/2017/12/19/five-surprising-ways-your-christmas-tree-give-back-after-holidays-recycle/?src=s\\_fbo.ch\\_nh.x.x.&sf134310767=1&fbclid=IwAR1rXcT56xEdH0FPiLRRjogAv-TTmHiDIoh9GdnPKizfKBeaC6RDeL7eI8c](https://blog.nature.org/science/2017/12/19/five-surprising-ways-your-christmas-tree-give-back-after-holidays-recycle/?src=s_fbo.ch_nh.x.x.&sf134310767=1&fbclid=IwAR1rXcT56xEdH0FPiLRRjogAv-TTmHiDIoh9GdnPKizfKBeaC6RDeL7eI8c)

<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/january-gardening-tips>

UNH Extension is a wonderful source for everything from signing up for classes (in everything ecology & habitat) - blogs about gardening – to the Info line for questions from home gardeners (1-877-398-4769)



<http://www.realgardensgrownatives.com/?p=779>

Ten New Year's Resolutions For Your Eco-Garden

[Wild Seed Project.net](http://www.wildseedproject.net) A great resource and a great website.

[Butterfly-lady.com](http://www.butterfly-lady.com) seeds for butterfly plants

Have you ever thought of planting a plant you never heard of before?

An interesting thought from *Doug Tallamy* " we should interview our plants before we hire them to do a particular job and see how they do. A probationary period, if you will, before we invest in appropriate numbers of the species in question."

Plant one or five...do they work for you? Do they thrive?

*If you buy a packet of seed labeled for Hummingbirds or Butterflies check the flower/seed names that are in it. Some packets are better choices than others.*

<https://www.humanegardener.com/10-favorite-plants-for-hummingbirds/>

[www.humanegardener.com](http://www.humanegardener.com) a great website to get lost in

[www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org) – a national organization in Oregon that is a good information source and people friendly. Information on all things invertebrate.

[https://monarchjoint venture.org](https://monarchjointventure.org) information about monarchs

Thinking about bees...?

Some thoughts say instead of adding hives, which may further increase competition for floral resources and transmit disease, add habitat. Hmmm....

UNH Planting and flowering calendar for Southern NH (we are always put into Northern New England if you are looking for something specific)

[https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource005973\\_Rep8387.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource005973_Rep8387.pdf)

NH Co operative extension has many pamphlets and brochures on all subjects that they will send to you if asked. <https://extension.unh.edu>

**NH State Forest Nursery** Boscawen, NH– a wonderful resource! Plants are usually sold out by the middle of May. Good variety, very inexpensive and native grown. Good website This source is one of the best kept secrets of NH.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

New Hampshire

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nh/homeowner/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_015853](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nh/homeowner/?cid=nrcs144p2_015853) lots of information here

For milkweed and many other native wildflowers it's necessary for the seeds to have a period of stratification. Stratification is simply exposing the seeds to a period of cold treatment before planting them in the spring. The following milk bottle method works well.

<http://butterfly-lady.com/winter-sowing-milkweed-seeds/>



## **THINGS COMING UP**

With seeds in mind:

Kensington CC is kicking off the season in late April or early May with a seed event. Location and date to be announced..

Atkinson is starting the Spring with a seed event to be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Freshwater Farms, Rt. 111, Atkinson  
Both are open to the public

Gardens for pollinators and Wildlife presented by Vicki Brown  
Sponsored by the Kingston Library and Friends of the Library  
February --TBA – ZOOM





How to Prepare Your Garden for The Coming Season  
presented by Patti Laughlin  
March --TBA - Kingston -ZOOM

Spring Ephemerals - In Person outdoor walk- Kingston  
April -TBA

So, good luck with all your dreaming and planning. There's been a drought for the past few summers. Hopefully this summer will be 'normal' and easy. I'm looking forward to it.

Best wishes for a Happy better New Year  
Stay safe.

Marghi Bean  
Pollinator Pathways NH