

July – August 2021

Hello Everyone,

Well to say the least it has been a different kind of growing season this summer. The weather has fluctuated from drought to floods. Cold followed by jungle heat and humidity. Some of my plants grew like crazy ...some couldn't handle it. Are we the only place in the country that can go from high nineties during the day to fifties at night? I wonder how all the creatures fare.

This spring I made a wonderful discovery. I went out to walk the dog in the late evening and the fireflies were out. There were more of them than I've seen in years. It was wonderful. A small explanation is necessary. For 14 years our Three Maples Farm was the site for the NH Renaissance Faire. It was exciting and fun (It is a successful charity event). The grounds for the faire looked a like a golf course with all the short mowed grass.. Then we ran out of parking space and the faire had to move. So for the past four years our farm is again a farm and the landscape has been recovering. In this time we have tried to support the ecology of our property. This year it was magical seeing increased numbers of lightning bugs. I think it's working.

Seeing butterflies and pollinators in the summer is always fun. This year has been a challenge and frustrating because of the heavy rains. Do butterflies survive the heavy rains? They are so fragile. Hopefully they did. I have found that the more I learn about pollinators the more of them I see. Education is a wonderful thing.



I threw a lot of milkweed seed out in several places around our house last Fall. I also tried the milk bottle method of growing milkweed seeds for the spring. Both were successful. This year I have many more milkweed plants. I also have some Mexican Sunflowers in my veggie garden along with other flowers. Monarchs going south will, hopefully, be getting nectar to fuel their trip. The veggie garden is always the spot where we have the most pollinators. Vegetables have wonderful blossoms. Next to the veggie garden is the horse barn. There are always happy dragon flies hanging around the barn door. The snack food (flies) is good for them there and they love to sit on the warm stones of the steps near the barn.

PPNH has been busy this summer. In July there were two wildflower walks and a visit to Camp Kent in Amesbury, MA.



Aug 7th PPNH was at Kingston Days. It was fun sharing information about native plants and pollinators with adults and making seed bombs with the children. It was a great day.

Aug 25th – 2nd Annual Fairgrounds Wildflower Walk - Meet at the Live Free and Run Dog Park, Green Rd. – Kingston

Sept. 8 there will be the Annual Tour of the Kingston Community Library Gardens. These gardens are always beautiful and this year they are particularly outstanding.

Keep an eye out for event announcements in Carriage Towne News and on the PPNH FB page.

There is so much good information on the internet about pollinators. The following is from Shamrock Acres blog site. Catherine Carney-Feldman is a thoughtful writer with a lot of information.

<http://shamrockenvironmental.weebly.com/>

Copy and paste this link and then go to the blog section. You will find many fascinating articles about the environment and gardening. Look for *The Importance of Native Plants*- it is outstanding.

For information on everything plants and beyond... the following are always good:

Wild Seed Project www.wildseedproject.org A great resource for seeds and information.

Native Plant Trust www.nativeplanttrust.org
Garden In the Woods is part of the Native Plant Trust in Framingham, Mass.

Well worth a day trip.

National Wildlife Federation <https://www.nwf.org/>
NWF is all about biodiversity and all of nature.

I hope that the rest of the summer finds you all healthy and happy.

Marghi Bean
Founder, Pollinator Pathways NH

