



Restoring Habitat. One Yard at a Time

December 2023

Hello Everyone,

We seemed to have had a couple of days of Fall and now it's Dec. Wow...where did Autumn go? Where did this past year go?

Pollinator Pathways NH was busy in 2023. We were invited to give a number of PPNH presentations. We met new people and made new friends in the conservation/pollinator groups. We've gained two new town conservation commissions as our partners. Atkinson and Hampton Falls have joined us. This past Spring Evy Nathan and Kristen Murphy put together a grant and managed the amazing Stepping Stones Grant project. This Spring/Summer was, perhaps, one of the worst planting seasons that NH has ever seen. The rain that we got damaged almost every crop and garden in the state.



Stepping Stones Grant report

Kristen Murphy

In spring of 2023 PPNH received a \$1000 grant from The Pollination Project to fund a "Stepping Stone" program, providing native seeds for volunteer gardeners to build a 4'x6' native wildflower garden on their property. We reached home gardeners through their respective Conservation Commissions. Our goal was to increase the number of native plant gardens, to empower individuals to support pollinators, and to establish local conservation commissions as a resource.

Our grant funded the purchase of native flower seed from Vermont Wildflower Farm. We were able to offer 65 kits, and to supplement that to 4 seed libraries. Our partner towns experienced some problems so we expanded our reach to include their local garden clubs. This also proved very difficult with even more limited responses. Of the few responses we received, the garden photos reflected the very, very wet and rainy season that we had this past year. Most gardens had limited growth and/or very limited flowering plants.

As a final effort, we purchased additional native seed to distribute at the Pollinator Pathways annual seed swap program. Through this we were able to give away dozens of additional seed kits.

We consider this program to be a success because we were able to connect with and expand awareness of the need for native plants to support pollinators. We also recognize that native seeds often take a period of over wintering to cold-harden and bloom, so we are hopeful that these gardens will see more growth in the upcoming year.

If you did not receive a native wildflower kit and would like to have one, please contact us at ppnh18@gmail.com.

We held our annual Seed Swap/Giveaway in November, a great success. About 80 people came and got a lot of free native seeds to plant and all the information to go with them. After spending hours collecting native seed it is a good feeling to know that native seeds they will grow and enlarge the local ecosystem for pollinators

Bringing the Stepping Stones seed kits to the seed swap and giving folks another chance to create a pollinator garden was one of the activities that got a lot of attention. The Stepping Stone Gardens will have another chance to bloom.

This year we were contacted by the Connecticut Pollinator Pathways. After talking with them and discussing what we do in NH we decided to join forces. We are now affiliated with CTPP and the national Pollinator Pathways group.

This year we were excited to present programs about pollinator conservation to two elementary schools. We covered kindergarten to fifth grade and enlisted many mini pollinator warriors.

When I started PPNH I didn't have a clue that there were other people doing what I wanted to do. So, I Googled pollinator pathways for information. CTPP's very nice webpage was what appeared. Being aware and reaching out to others is important. It's how work gets done. It's great to know that people all over are trying their best to save pollinators. Pollinator Pathways NH started as one person's idea. It has grown in the last five years more than I ever would have thought. It is nice to know, however, that other people are out there doing the same work. We all are 'Restoring habitat, One yard at a time'.

Look into Doug Tallamy's 'Homegrown National Park'. It is a national effort to do what PPNH is doing at a town level. All of us are working together.

Our winter of 2024 event line-up will hopefully include: a Plan Your Pollinator Garden with an Expert, Medicine and Culinary (and pollinator) Herbs of the Abenaki, and a series of butterfly ID trainings.

2023 has been a very interesting year. PPNH is looking forward to 2024.

Happy Holidays!

Marghi Bean
PPNH founder and Chair

