

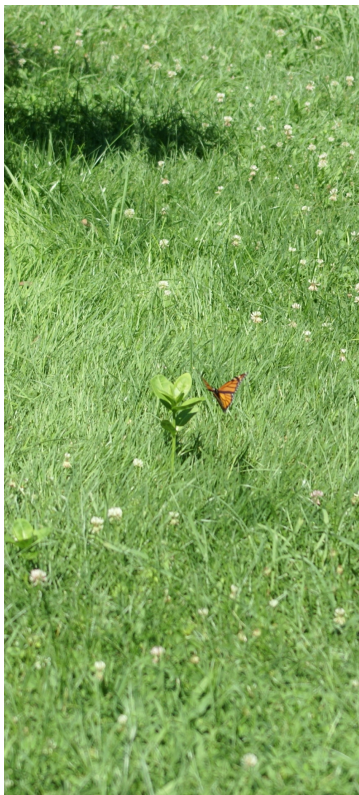
Pollinator PATHWAYS

May 2020

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds all of you safe and healthy. Remember gardening doesn't need a crowd. It's perfect for now.

Right now is a terribly stressful time but it is a wonderful time to go outside. It's a good time to plan gardens, pots, window boxes and whatever you can imagine. Right now with the leaves coming out and flowers in bloom it's the best time to survey what needs to be done or what needs to be changed. For example I am always fighting the growth of unwanted trees in amongst my old lilacs. This spring is no different. I looked out from the porch and couldn't believe what I saw. This year it's a sugar maple and it's 10' tall. Where did that come from! Well, last year with my head down clipping away at the bittersweet that big stalk was just another lilac. Well, it's not. It's a tree and this year is big enough for my husband's chainsaw.



I have found digging in my garden is my quiet, comforting time. Ripping out weeds feels good. Planting things is faith in the future. And I have long since discovered that I'm a lazy gardener. I just keep chipping away at what needs to be done and don't worry. Learning about pollinators has shown me that less work is usually better. The mantra for helping the pollinators is mow less – no pesticides – and plant native. Kingston and surrounding towns have lots of ponds and lakes (Think about this) When replacing some of your lawn with native ground covers, shrubs and trees you will minimize the amount of run off water generated on your property and add great habitat for insects, birds and other animals. (and it is a lot less work!)

There are so many things to do in the spring. Some gardening uses comfortable habits and some gardening is new unknown territory. In the spirit of finding resources I've put together a list of places that you can tap for information. Cut and paste to the address bar.

Top of the list is UNH Extension Services.

Emma Erler has a monthly newsletter that overflows with information. This month bundles the 'how to plant' things with on-line live talks and the UNH Farm Products Map. (Yes, there is a lot of local food available) If you wander on the Extension website there is fascinating information about lots of things.

<https://unhoutreach.tfaforms.net/217751?CID=701G0000000Fc5p>

For all the parents who are running out of things to keep their kids actively learning this is a great site. Try it out-it's good
<https://www.pollinator.org/parents-and-kids>

This is a family activity The early flowers in the wetlands and forests are particularly beautiful. When you take a walk during this time of year it is like winning the lottery finding them.

northernwoodlands.org/this-week/article/fourth-week-of-april?enews

And of course our 'state bird' the mosquito! This Xerces article about mosquito control is one of the best.

<https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/20-006.pdf>

If you have ever wondered about what climate change means to NH this link is part of the puzzle. It is from Audubon and talks about birds. Their survival and the survival of pollinators are tied together.

For us in New England (Southern NH) Spring snow has happened twice in the past three weeks after days of temps in the 60s and 70s. Will the fruit trees produce after nights at 30 degrees? Will the birds who migrate from the south survive? Certainly the mosquitoes are not hatching to feed said birds.

<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees#climate2-survival-search>

Just for fun... <https://birdcast.info> This is a live time map of the US showing birds migrating. Did you know that the biggest migrations are at night?



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If you need a back yard project, This is it ! It's called Phrenology...curious people asking questions about the world around them and looking for answers through observation and experimentation. This is citizen science. Today, scientists are rediscovering the benefits of public participation in scientific research. This website is a perfect place to start.

<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/science-needs-you>

I hope that in these websites you can find information that will help you with your projects. Keep in mind that 'projects' can range from two acres behind the house to a 6" pot on the deck. Both can provide habitat.

DON'T FORGET -if you live in Kingston- Enter the Dandelion Contest. The lawn with the most dandelions wins a prize. You have until Memorial Day. Email a photo of your dandelions to Evy Nathan - evynathan@comcast.net Include your name, phone and address. Dandelions are one of the first flowers for pollinators .

The sun is out and temperatures are (mostly) nice. Enjoy

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Kingston Conservation Commission

Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

