



Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

April – May 2023

Hello Everyone,

It is finally warm! We have daffodils!

We have had a different and strange winter. Not much snow in our southern NH area and lots of rain. There was a Mourning Cloak in the woods yesterday. Ducks are checking out nesting areas. Birds are back.

I read an article about being careful to check on any spring ephemerals that you're aware of. Check to see that they aren't being overrun by invasive plants. Ephemerals are beautiful, small spring plants that only bloom for a very short time in the early spring. They are easily overrun by bigger plants.

This is the best time of year to check on invasive plants. Invasives grow faster and turn green sooner than our native plants. Because of this, the native plants get pushed out as they lose the sunlight and the moisture they need. UNH has a good list of invasive plants and plant identification.



<https://extension.unh.edu/natural-resources/forests-trees/invasive-species>

If the warming climate throws another drought at us this summer think of using soaker hoses. Native plants are very resilient but even our Black Eyed Susan's dried up early last year! Soaker hoses save water and plants will get what they need. The crazy upside down soda bottles next to each plant work well too. Reduce the size of your lawn. Let native grasses grow around the edges of mowed areas. Wild grasses have longer root systems and hold water better than turf grass. We all need to find ways to reduce the affect of climate change.



We have been working on PPNH projects for almost five years now. It has been quite a journey for me. I have learned so much. One of the things that I now understand is that some groups of plants get less attention than others. Along with beautiful flowering perennials, think about vines, shrubs and trees. These groups are unique and can be used to create a landscape that supports wildlife. All these blooming plants provide flowers to us to enjoy and nectar for pollinators. Some

have berries for the birds. Definitely a win-win.

Vines: This is a great list of some native vines to choose- courtesy of Wild Seed Project.

<https://wildseedproject.net/2016/12/growing-vertical-native-vines-climbing-plants-fences-trellis->

Trees are listed in an extensive UNH list

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/list-new-hampshire-native-trees-0>

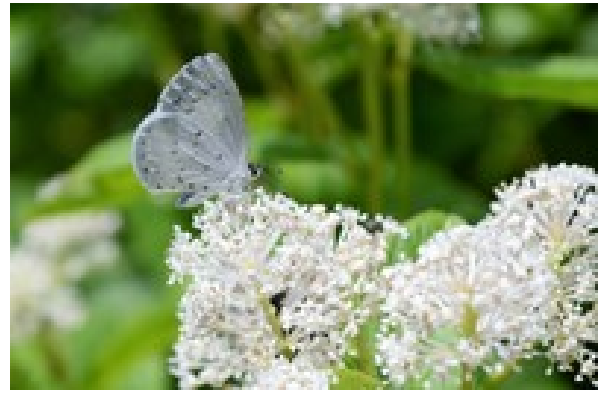
Shrubs : Shrubs grow from 4 feet to 15 feet tall. Bagley Pond Perennials lists 31 different shrubs for sale.

<https://bagleypondperennials.com/search?q=shrubs>

For an interesting website try out Homestead and Chill

This is a great website for gardening. Whether you are planting flowers or veggies there is something here for you. You can sign up for emails and get a great garden planting toolkit. This website is based in mid coast California but it is mostly common sense organic farming and native plants. I plan to use it and will customize it for the Northeast and Northeast native plants. This site is too much fun to ignore.

[Homestead and Chill <Deanna@homesteadandchill.com>](mailto:Deanna@homesteadandchill.com)



Partner Happenings

Stepping Stones Mini-grants

Pollinator Stepping Stones Mini-Grants

**DO YOU WANT TO DO MORE TO SUPPORT POLLINATORS?
WE ARE BUILDING A MOVEMENT TO CONVERT LAWNS TO HABITAT.**

Our Community is awarding 5 Pollinator Stepping Stone Kits containing instructions and enough native seed to convert a 4'x6' patch of lawn to a thriving pollinator habitat.

To participate, send a completed application to
[contact info XXXXX].

We will draw 5 names at our [insert month]
Conservation Commission Meeting.
Kits will be delivered in early May, 2023

Kristen Murphy and Ginny Raub, Exeter partner liaisons, came up with a great idea last fall. If we engaged all of our partner towns and awarded five native wildflower seed kits per town, we could add 65 pollinator gardens to our area! The grant, from The Pollination Project, was approved, and Kristen is in the process of helping partners advertise the mini-grants within their communities. Kristen says she has had a tremendous response from Exeter. (If only we had a few hundred more kits to give out!)

Funding generously provided by:





Epping's Barbara Willis' and the **Epping Conservation Commission** are in the process of building a **pollinator garden/Monarch Waystation** at the **Miriam Jackson Park**. They still need flagstones for the pathway and gravel to set them in. If you can help, contact Barbara through the Epping CC. They need lots of loam for the top layer of the garden. The basic design is known as "hügelkultur", a centuries-old, traditional style of raised garden bed. We are excited to see Barbara's project come together.

Upcoming events

May 1st, 6pm: PPNH program on pollinators at the Kingston Community Library Garden Club. Come join us in the Morse Room. Everyone is welcome.

May 6th, 10am: 4th annual Spring Ephemeral Walk: Epping NH - Led by Kevin Talbot. Meet at the Lamprey River Floodplain off of Route 125: Head east on 87 (Hedding Road); in about 1.2 miles, make a left on the paved road just past the bridge.

May 20th, 9-11am Dover Open Lands Committee and PPNH: Leslie Herd of Riverside Gardens, will offer an on-site demonstration: "Reimagining Your Lawn and Revisioning Your Landscape to Support Biodiversity" Riverside Gardens, 201 Tolend Road, Dover: May 20, 9-11am

May 20th, 9am-12pm - Coastal Resilience and Resource Fair, SHEA (Seacoast and Hampton Estuary Alliance) will offer a Coastal Resilience and Resource Fair. PPNH will be an exhibitor. 53 Winnacunnet Road, Hampton, Hampton Center School - an array of topics related to supporting our coastal natural resources and building property and community-level resiliency in the face of sea-level rise and climate change.

Plant Sales

Massabesic Garden Club's spring Plant Sale will be on May 20, 8am-3pm at the Griffin Free Library.

Mondanock Garden Club will hold a plant sale in May with lots of native plants, due to increased demand for them! May 20 at the Wyman Tavern in Keene at 9 - 11am.

Atkinson Garden Club: To kick off National Gardening Week, AGC will host their annual plant sale on Saturday, June 3, 9am - 2 pm, at the Atkinson Community Center's parking lot, 4 Main Street, Atkinson.

Friends of Kingston Library will hold its annual plant sale on May 20, 9-11am. There are always native plant tables.

Please send an email to Evy or Marghi about any upcoming events, so that we can add them to our Partner Happenings. Our next newsletter will be our July issue. Have a great Spring!

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