Pollinator PATHWAYS New Hampshire

Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

February – March, 2022

See bottom of newsletter for additional upcoming events!



Please don't tease your butterflies as these mischievous elves are doing! Instead, keep a lookout for very small, flitting blue specks in April. They are our spring azures, some of the first flyers of the season.

If butterflies are among your pollinator interests, then Zoom in to PPNH's presentation by NH Fish and Game biologist, Heidi Holman, on April 8 at 5:30.


Heidi Holman

There are over 100 species of butterflies in NH. How many have you seen in your lifetime? Do you observe butterflies in your yard or when you're out for walks on your local conservation lands? Heidi will discuss the opportunities available for you to report your sightings and contribute to the long-term data that we have for butterflies in New Hampshire.

Just ***when*** butterflies arrive is tied in to the science of "Phenology": the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena in relation to climate, and plant and animal life. On April 11 at 6:00 PM. Megan Glenn of UNH Extension has graciously invited PPNH followers to join this online stem docent event: https://extension.unh.edu/event/2022/04/stem-connection-series-tracking-signs-season-exploring-phenology



Speaking of cyclical events, we've seen ground-nesting bees, aka "tickle bees" emerge at Kingston State Park field as early as March 27! Creating good pollinator habitat for ground-nesting bees means allowing dandelions and violets to provide early pollen and nectar sources for the bees' survival until trees are in bloom. Since 70% of our native bees are ground nesting, they also need access to bare soil, and are negatively impacted by tilling.

Thick mulch and paved surfaces limit the availability of nesting habitat, and so consider mulching with compost instead of wood bark mulch. It has many of the same aesthetic, weed suppression and water retention properties as mulch, but allows for nesting, and improves your soil.



The goldfinches in my yard are still working on the leftover seeds of my monarda fistulosa (purple bee balm). Such a great reason not to clean up your garden or cut down old stalks in fall. Three seasons of delight!



For my 2022 garden I have set up a few pots for "cold stratification", but sowed many more seeds right on the snow. Have you tried winter-sowing? Seeds can be sown on snow as late as April. The snow should be fluffy, damp, and packable so that the seed can sink down. It's best not to sow on icy, crusty snow as the seed can blow around in the wind.

Pollinator Pathways NH is excited to announce a new partnership/friendship!

Bagley Pond Perennials : located in Warner, New Hampshire.



According to Linda Lecasse and Denise Dalaker:

"Our goal is to provide home gardeners with pollinator safe native plants and shrubs that are not only beautiful and garden worthy but also support wildlife, are well adapted to the local environment and are low maintenance. We follow organic practices, and our native perennials are true natives and not cultivars. We will be open to visitors in the spring, days and hours to be posted soon on our website: Bagleypondperennials.com.

We also offer several garden kits for various light and soil conditions for butterflies, hummingbirds and pollinators. Each garden kit comes with a design template to make it even easier to plant your chosen garden.

…. did you hear that? Kits with garden designs and everything you need! We've been asked for this so often!



Bagley Pond has also generously offered to donate plants for a raffle for PPNH's new Seed Library, scheduled to kick off in April at the Kingston Community Library. Our pilot program last year for pollinator week went so well that the library's new director, Melissa Mannon, invited us to install the seed bank as a permanent fixture. A seed bank is a free exchange of seed – take some seed - and bring some seed back when your crop matures.

Upcoming Local Events and Programs

A GARDEN FOR POLLINATORS AND WILDLIFE
MARCH 15



Your yard can provide critical habitat for birds, bees and other wildlife. Learn some simple ways to bring nature home in "A Garden for Pollinators and Wildlife," on Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm. You'll learn how to:

- **Increase the variety of pollinators, birds and other wildlife in your yard**
- **Decrease time spent on mowing and other yard chores**
- **Reduce or eliminate watering**

Register for the zoom link at 603-642-3355 or director@brentwoodlibrarynh.org. Or attend in person at the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library in Brentwood. At this time, and subject to change, masks are required for in-person attendance. This Speaking for Wildlife program, hosted by Brentwood Gardeners and Pollinator Pathways NH, will be presented by Vicki J. Brown, a NH Natural Resources Steward and co-founder of Pollinator Pathways NH.

Save the Date: April 9th, Saturday
Atkinson Conservation's 2nd Annual
Pollinator Plant Seed Event at Freshwater Farms



Free pollinator seeds, fun activities, and prizes .... you'll leave with the feeling that you are doing something good! Because you are! 🥰

Thank you, Freshwater Farms, for hosting this event again!

Save the Date: April 23, rain date April 24

10:00 AM- 11:30 AM

Kevin Talbot, who led the Spring Ephemeral Walk in Kingston last year, will be leading a walk again in Epping at Tilton Conservation Area along the Lamprey River. This beautiful spot abounds with the short-lived flowers true to the name "ephemeral". The area is full of spring beauty, wood anemone, trout lily, nodding trillium, as well as many different species of fern (and yes, poison ivy).
Good footwear and long pants are essential!
Hope to see you there!



"Aldo Leopold had a dream. He dreamt of a time when people accepted their roles as citizens of the natural world rather than its conquerors."
Doug Tallamy: Nature's Best Hope

Our founder, Marghi Bean, will be returning to the north country in March to write the rest of this year's newsletters

¡Hola, Marghi! Bienvenidos a casa!