



*Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time*

## February 2-23

Hello Everyone,

Writing to you this week is a great way to get me to think of Spring and forget the mind-numbing cold we just experienced.

Remembering the fun and sun of a successful year certainly cheers up the landscape. In that spirit we would like to give a shout-out to all the people who have helped PPNH be as successful as we have been.



We have 13 town Conservation Commission partners!

Epping, East Kingston, Fremont, Kensington, Exeter, Chester, Hampton, South Hampton, Atkinson, Newton, Newmarket, Rye, and of course, Kingston.

We have been invited to give our presentations by several garden clubs:  
Monadnock, Massabesic, Rochester, Atkinson and New Hampton,  
whose membership rosters span 12 NH towns.

And speaking of Massabesic Garden Club, Marghi and I are headed over there this month, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 PM. The garden club is throwing a grand opening bash for the new Seed Library at the Griffin Free Library. Come over and visit us (and them) if you live in that neck of the woods and pick up some free seed.



Because Tracey Noonan, club president, was kind enough to invite us to their party, we thought we'd do a **SPOTLIGHT** on her.

Tracey wrote:

*"I'd been an avid vegetable and flower gardener for a long time. I started to notice a lack of bees on some of the nursery purchased plants, also fireflies, bats and butterflies. I began to study about all of this. I read Bringing Nature Home (Doug Tallamy) and joined native plant groups on social media. I read everything I could online. I could not believe what a simple, but so important, concept using native plants was. During the pandemic I studied even more and felt an overwhelming urge to share that knowledge with others. I looked into starting a "wild ones" chapter, but decided to go with a community garden club for Auburn and surrounding towns instead, to appeal to a greater membership with a not-so-hidden agenda of educating folks about the value of native plants. Founded in 2021, the Massabesic garden club now has over 65 members.*

*I have been adding native plants and shrubs to my yard over the past several years. I was up to 415 at last count, with at least 80 different types custom selected plants, shrubs and trees for a variety of*

*pollinators throughout the seasons. The percentage in my yard is now between 85- 90% native plantings. I use all organic methods, and the increase of native pollinators has been phenomenal!*

*I have been working in the mental health field for 32 years. Organic gardening with native plants has been my most therapeutic practice and helps me keep my own wellness in balance. I'm giving back to the earth and to myself at the same time.*

*Many of the native plants in my gardens have been winter sown. I collect seeds, and this year and will be donating seed packs to our new seed library in Auburn."*

I think most of us can ditto Tracey's statements, especially the one about the amazing increase in pollinators once the native plants go in.



2023

### **Now for our Spring 2023 calendar... so far!**

- **January: we posted a new cover photo every day!**
- Feb 21 6:30 PM: **Rochester Garden Club** at Rochester Public Library, in-person PPNH program
- Feb 22 and March 8, PPNH will host the first two of four **Butterfly survey training** sessions presented by Heidi Holman of NH Fish and Game.
- Feb: 25 : in-person program for **Massabesic Garden Club**, Seed library opening at Griffin Free Library 12:00 PM
- March 25: 2023 Grand Opening: **Kingston Community Library Seed Library**. Patty Laughlin of Lorax Landscaping will be on hand to answer pollinator gardening questions.
- April, 2023: **Atkinson Garden Club** Kimball Public Library 6:00, in-person program "Saving monarch habitat one yard at a time."
- April 15: **Atkinson Conservation Commission**'s annual milkweed seed giveaway at **Freshwater Farms**
- May 13: Third annual **spring ephemeral walk** at the Tilton Conservation Area, Epping, led by Kevin Talbot



### **Remembering so many events from 2022...**

\*A Huge thanks to the crew who helped us hold a successful 4<sup>th</sup> annual Seed Swap in November! **Paul Butler** -for the use of the Kingston Recreation building- **Sydnee Goddard** of Kensington, **Barbara Willis** of Epping and her daughter **Emily**, **Michael Seekamp** of Seekamp Environmental, beekeeper **Dorinda Priebe**, **Suzie Newman** of Atkinson, **Leslie Randlett** of Deerfield....and all the folks who brought seed to swap. It was a great event.

### Additional thanks go...

- \* To **Kristen Murphy** of Exeter - for all the IT help and partner help
- \* To **Cheryl Keim** of Hampstead - who invited us to her yard to talk about re-wilding.
- \* To **Vicki Brown** who hosted events for us in East Kingston and at the SELT Trailfest
- \* To **Greg Jordan**, our county forester, for an informative invasive plant walk.
- \* To **Leslie Herd** for the informative teaching session at her gardens
- \* To **Barbara Richter**, President of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, who welcomed our popular information table at the annual conference.
- \* To **Cris Blackstone** for inviting PPNH to Newmarket.
- \* To **Jane Kowalski** of Atkinson Garden Club for including PPNH in the ongoing project of planning and planting Pollinator Gardens at the Timberlane Middle School, Plaistow
- \* To **Kelsey Curley** for inviting us to speak to her fourth graders at Kensington Elementary
- \* To **Kevin Talbot** for a fabulous ephemeral walk
- \* To **Melissa Mannon** for supporting the idea of a seed library at the Kingston Community Library, and for making it happen.
- \* To **Bagley Pond Perennials** for donating a wonderful native plant "kit" native for our Seed Library raffle.
- \* To **Matt McElroy** at Newton Greenhouse for generous plant donations.
- \* To **Kingston Conservation** members who pitched in when needed, especially Geof Harris.
- \* To **NH Fish and Game, Xerces Society** and **UNH Cooperative Extension**, for producing our go-to printed materials.

There are so many people who have supported us – from attending events, to joining the PPNH Facebook page. A **Huge Thank You** to you all.

### A few February notes from Marghi....

This is the last (optimal) month to plant native wildflower seeds out of doors. Whether in flowerpots, milk bottles, or sown on the snow and scuffed in, native seeds need the warm/cold fluctuations of winter to be ready to sprout in spring. You can also keep seeds in your refrigerator to plant in spring.

I've found an interesting seed company, **Hancockseed.com**. Hancock sells by the pound and has a deer resistant wildflower mix. I may have to buy some... it's tempting... as our new house will be in the woods and there'll be lots of deer.

Also in the seed department: I purchased some sunflower seed last year. After planting them, I read the package. They were pollen-less - hybrids developed for wedding bouquets! The mice wouldn't even eat them. Read the fine print before you purchase seed!

PPNH meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 at the Kingston Community Library. Come by and visit us and find out what new ideas we're working on.

This cold spell is a good time to research seed and native plant information. Happy hunting and planning!

Marghi Bean- chair PPNH  
Evy Nathan – co chair PPNH

*An American goldfinch still picking seeds from Evy's monarda fistulosa patch...even in February! Be a lazy gardener! Don't cut flower stalks in fall, they're critical winter food for wildlife.*

