



Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

September 2023

Hello Everyone,

It has been a difficult Spring and Summer for most of us. When was the last time our area saw minus ten degrees on the thermometer so late in the year? (Never...) And later when all the plants and fruit trees were in bloom we had a killing frost? Having monsoon type rains was no fun either. The fact that we have some beautiful gardens and fields is a testament to stubborn gardeners and Mother Nature trying to do her best.

For this letter I'm going to put in some of the bare bones basics of what we need to help our pollinators and wildlife.



Pollinator Pathways says that 'One Yard At a Time' can make a difference....And it can.

#1 We need to think about Native plants feeding native pollinators.

You can have beautiful gardens/ landscaping without all the work! Add a few Native plants each year when you are gardening. You will get more pollinators. You will also be helping to clean our climate. You will have fewer fumes from equipment and use less gas. Mow less. Mow High and DON'T use chemicals.

It's Fall now and it's the season of 'Leave the Leaves'. Leaves are such a great natural mulch and they also help our pollinators. Why buy mulch when it's provided by trees for free?

When the temperature starts to drop and flowers close up shop for the winter, it's normal to wonder where all the little creatures have gone. For most invertebrates, the answer is that they're still right next door.

Your garden's wild residents benefit immensely when you practice good neighbor relations, leaving things a little messy and wild with a variety of leaves, hollow stems, brush piles or dead wood, soil, and flower heads available for winter shelter.

National Wildlife Federation

<https://blog.nwf.org/2023/09/five-simple-ways-to-create-habitat-this-fall/>



#2 When you think 'plants' also think TREES. Most people don't go out to the garden center thinking 'Let's plant a tree for our grandchildren'. However, planting Native trees is probably one of the best things you can do for our climate and for our pollinators and for wildlife. It's a definite win-win for our world. If you have a small property look into having shrubs. There are beautiful flowering shrubs that grow 5-15 feet tall. There are

shrubs that provide nuts or berries. There are shrubs that are perfect for any yard.

Right now, in New Hampshire, many of our trees are under attack from bugs and fungi. It's mostly Hemlock Woolly Adelged and Emerald Ash Borer. We also have Red Oak Borer around us.

In doing some research about the bugs that are attacking our trees the phrase I read that popped up was 'ground that has been disturbed'. Well...that is everything from farming to housing developments to roads and shopping plazas. Trees need our help. In return trees help us. And trees help pollinators. Trees are amazing and good for the world. Pollinator caterpillars grow in them. Birds feed in them and build nests in them and we can hang a hammock under them when they are large. What else is so good?

In the category of bugs...Think about all the good bugs.

Caterpillars are protein for birds to feed their chicks. Doug Tallamy says caterpillars are sausages for birds.

1 caterpillar equals 2,000 aphids

Birds forage about 164 feet from their nest.

It takes 6-9000 caterpillars to support a nest of chickadees.

All the caterpillars are the moths and butterflies that we enjoy watching.

Diversity in landscape (bio diversity) creates stability in the food web.

Don't get excited if you see that some of your trees/plants have been nibbled on. You have a good diverse landscape.



I read this the other day: "Did you know? Windbreaks help honey bees forage when it's windy; they can't forage at wind speeds over 25 mph."

This must apply to butterflies and other invertebrates also. Windbreaks are usually trees.

PPNH Calendar

PPNH monthly meetings are the third Thurs. of each month.

This month is on the 28th

5:30 pm @ Kingston Community Library

We are looking for interested people who might want to join and help pollinators.

OCT. 14th

South East Land Trust TRAILFEST

Burley Farms, 247 N River Rd

Epping, NH

Free family event filled with outdoor fun

PPNH will be here

Nov. 11th

5th annual PPNH SEED SWAP

10-3pm Kingston Recreation

24 Main St Kingston, NH

COLLECTING SEEDS

If you are collecting seeds make sure they are completely ripe.

For Milkweed that means the pod is brown and either beginning to open or very easy to open. The seeds inside are brown.

Other flower seeds are brown and ready to drop. They come out easily into your hand.

Watch our PPNH FaceBook page. There is a great article about collecting seed on our page.



Fall is the time to plant seeds. If you need seeds go to your nearest seed library. Kingston has a terrific seed library. Go check it out!