

2019 May/June letter Pollinator Pathway

*Insect conservation is not something that happens only in distant wildernesses or dedicated nature reserves. These animals populate our backyards and our local parks, roadsides, and creeks. In a time of growing environmental threats, what we do in our home towns and neighborhoods is increasingly important. * From Wings Spring 2019 – Xerces Society*

Hello Everyone,

I thought this quote was a great way to start the May/June Pollinator Letter.

Say “insects” to someone and they’ll probably say ‘oh yuk’. But insects are what make this world tick over. If you say “honey bees” people brighten up and say “oh yeah, I understand they are in trouble”. If you say “Butterflies” everyone says how beautiful they are and smile. We love pretty things.

The idea of a Pollinator Pathway in Kingston is to help all pollinators have what they need so they can do what they do: pollinate plants. With flowering plants, fruit trees, berry bushes, grains, vegetables, grasses, farmer’s crops, and home gardens an ecosystem becomes whole. When this Pathway becomes reality what we will have is beautiful things to look at and beautiful things happening for the ecosystems in our town.

I and the Kingston Conservation Commission are getting wonderful feedback from people who are working on a Pathway project of their own. If you have any photos of what you are doing and would like to share them, send them to me: marghi3maples@gmail.com and I’ll put them in the next letter. We can also put them on the Kingston Conservation FB page.

In the process of trying to see what will help with everyone’s different needs I have been looking around and gathering information that I want to share with you all.

HABITAT NEEDS OF NATIVE POLLINATORS

Good pollinator habitat requires a diverse mix of native plants to bloom throughout the entire season especially during mid-summer to provide a food source of both pollen and nectar. In addition non-tilled bare ground, over grown fields and decaying trees provide great nesting sites. The type of pollinator determines the type of plants needed

Bees typically visit flowers that are purple, violet, yellow, white and blue. Butterflies visit a similarly wide range of colors, including red, whereas flies are primarily attracted to white and yellow flowers. By having several plant species flowering at once, and a sequence of plants flowering through spring, summer, and fall, habitat enhancements can support a wide range of pollinator species that fly at different times of the season.

General fabulous information

www.xerces.org – an organization in Oregon that promotes helping all pollinators
Xerces has a wonderful Northeast Plant List It is available from their site.

www.humanegardener.com - wonderful articles about gardening, pollinators, plants and gardeners

[UNH Cooperative Extension](#) – North Rd., Brentwood - 679-5616 Located in our backyard this is a group of dedicated people who will help answer questions and connect you to someone for help. Haley Andrezzi is a good butterfly point person but just ask and they will find the right person for your questions. haley.andrezzi@unh.edu

The NH Audubon has the McLane Center Pollinator Demonstration Garden and are currently running a series of talks and workshops. They are located at 84 Silk Farm Road in Concord For more info. call 603-224-9909.

Articles and List of Plants

(copy and paste these to the address bar)

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode=03848>

<https://www.humanegardener.com/10-favorite-plants-for-hummingbirds/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/15/opinion/nature-lawns-environment.html>

I'm ending this letter with the following for anyone who missed the first couple of letters.

WHAT IS A POLLINATOR PATHWAY ?

Here in NH we have an amazing variation in topography, soils, and climate which means that in NH there is a tremendous ecological diversity.

In Kingston we have wetlands, woodlands, meadows. Our soils range from humus to sand. We have a great diversity of plant communities and an equally remarkable range of pollinators. There are bumble bees, and thousands of other species of native bees, butterflies, hover flies, flower visiting beetles, wasps and moths. All of these combine to maintain healthy, productive plant communities and provide food that sustains wildlife and plays an essential role in crop production.

In the Northeast, pollinators are threatened by habitat loss resulting from dramatic loss in native plant communities needed to support them. In our area anyone who has lived here for any time can see that Rockingham County has a very high rate of commercial and housing development.

Pollinators have their 'territories' the same way that mammals have. It centers on the food that they need. When they have to travel a long distance for that food they can die in the effort.

When large natural areas are broken up by roads, housing developments, shopping centers or clear cutting of timber, pollinators just lost their food source and may have to travel miles to replace it.

Pollinator corridors are just that. A corridor joining dislocated groups of habitats so wildlife can find the food it needs.

Joining in building this corridor is easy. It's based on four principles: grow pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs, protect bees nests (where able) plant and protect butterfly host plants and grasses. -----AND SPREAD THE WORD !

We are lucky in Kingston. We are a very green community. There are lots of spaces where a few more flowers and plants would be great. Think how (more) beautiful the town would be if everyone did this. It would be great if we could make a corridor from Plaistow to Brentwood or Danville to Exeter... we can.

Anyone with questions feel free to email

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