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The UW-Madison Division of Extension identified pollinators as a key education/outreach focus for 2022. Through Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week, they're putting their resources out to the public by arranging and encouraging statewide and local activities that support National Pollinator Week. National Pollinator Week is an annual event managed by the [Pollinator Partnership](#) to help spread the word about what we can do to protect pollinators. By increasing knowledge and adopting pollinator-friendly practices, we can improve pollinator health and habitats.

Websites

MGV Hours Reporting:
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu/
report-your-hours/

**Canvas UW Online
Classroom:**
<https://canvas.wisc.edu/>

RPMGA Blog:
rpmga.blogspot.com

RPMGA on Facebook:
Hit control/click on this
link:
[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

Rotary Gardens:
rotarybotanicalgardens.
org

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Program:**
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Association
(WIMGA):** wimga.org

A **pollinator** is any animal that visits flowering plants and moves pollen from flower to flower, which helps plants reproduce, making fruits and seeds. In North America, pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, flower flies, beetles, wasps, hummingbirds, and in some parts of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico, nectar-feeding bats. Some animals, like butterflies, move pollen while they are feeding on plant nectar. Bees are the most efficient pollinators because they also collect pollen as a protein source for their offspring, so they move the pollen around as they visit flowering plants. There are approximately 20,000 bee species in the world, 3,600 in the United States and over 400 in Wisconsin ([DATCP Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan](#)).

Worldwide, approximately 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicines need to be pollinated by animals. These include blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, pumpkins, vanilla, and almonds ([Pollinator Partnership](#)). In Wisconsin, crops such as apple, cranberry, cherry, green beans, cucumbers and other fruits and vegetables depend on pollinators. Honey and beeswax are also important products made in Wisconsin.

Pollinators in Wisconsin and around the world are facing population declines for many reasons. You can get involved in a lot of ways! By creating pollinator friendly habitats, reducing or eliminating environmental contamination from pesticides, and spreading the word about pollinators with your communities, we can all contribute to pollinator conservation.

Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week events are varied. They include virtual education for adults and fun things to do with kids. We hope you participate in at least one way, if not many. The list of events and materials begins on page 12.



continues on page 12



RPMGA Notes

The Last Step in RPMGA's Bylaws Update: Vote to Give Final Approval Thursday, June 2, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Since we started work on updating our bylaws, we've gone through two rounds of questions and input, given everyone lots of time to weigh in, and gotten some excellent feedback. Before the changes to our operating rules can go into effect, though, we need to have a membership vote to approve the suggested revisions.

To allow as many people as possible to vote on these important changes, we're holding the meeting and ballot online, via Zoom. Members were sent an email on May 26 with a link to the Zoom meeting. To allow you to prep for the meeting, we also sent you an email on Monday, May 30, with two copies of the bylaws—one showing the 2015 version of our bylaws showing all the proposed changes—additions and deletions—plus a clean copy showing how the bylaws will read if the suggested changes are approved. When we get together on Thursday evening, we'll take any questions and then vote on the changes. Hopefully all the care and input that have gone into the draft bylaws will mean a very short meeting on Thursday!



June Event: Native Prairie Walk and Potluck with Walworth County MGVs, Wednesday, June 22, 5:30 p.m.

Hanna Wereski is one of the Walworth County Master Gardener Volunteers. Her neighbor has established a beautiful prairie area, and we've been invited to join our neighbors to tour that prairie. Following the walk, Hanna will host a potluck at her house. Location: 6670 Cobble Creek Dr., Lake Geneva. Rain date June 29th. If you plan to go, please RSVP to wcmgva2@gmail.com

Photo by BlueRidgeKitties

Next Coffee Chat: Tuesday, June 14, 1 p.m. online

Don't forget this month's virtual coffee chat with Rock, Jefferson and Walworth county MGVs. It's a great place to hear the latest, meet MGVs you may not know, and generally feel more connected. Julie Hill will send out an email with the link to the Zoom session before long. Hope you can be there!

Coming in July: Guided Tour of Rotary Gardens, Tuesday, July 12 or Thursday, July 14, 10 a.m.

Reservations have started to come in for MG Art Hilker's guided tour of Rotary Botanical Gardens. Art has been volunteering as a tour guide at the gardens for the last 15 years, so he's watched the recent changeover in the Gardens to a more sustainable focus (more perennials, fewer annuals). He's ready to share what he knows about the history of the gardens, its physical aspects, some of the more interesting plants (including a special dahlia garden this year), plus how the gardens provide therapeutic benefits. This year's garden art display of turtles will be on view as well. Art is looking forward to getting stories and insights from other master gardeners as well, making the tour an interactive event. So far, we have more people signed up for the 12th than the 14th, but there's still room on either day.

Two dates to choose from: **Tuesday, July 12 OR Thursday, July 14.**

Time: plan to arrive around 9:45 so we can all check in. The tour begins at **10:00 a.m.**

Fee: You pay only for garden entry. Free to RBG members, \$7 for seniors or \$9 for adults.

Tram Available: Art has reserved the Tram for both dates, so if you have difficulty walking or if you get tired along the way, you can hop a ride. Space is limited to 20 people per tour. First come, first served, so sign up soon to assure your place. **Email Ruth Flescher** (yafello2@gmail.com) with the date you plan to come.

Rotary Gardens Next "What's in Bloom? Tour" Wednesday, June 15, 6-7:00 p.m.

Rotary Botanical Gardens Director of Horticulture, Michael Jesiolowski provides a behind-the-scenes look at what's blooming each month and answers any questions you may have.

What's in Bloom? Tours take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (April- August) and the 4th Wednesday of September. The tours are free for RBG members, or \$10 for non-members. To register, please call 608.752.3885 or sign up in person on the day of the tour.



Pollinator Gardens Talk, Wednesday, June 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Pollinator Gardens provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, wasps and other beneficial insects while providing reproductive benefits to flowering plants. This program, presented by RPMGA member Ann Pedder Reilly, will discuss pollinator insects and birds you are likely to see and the plants that will attract them from spring through fall. We will explore the fit between pollinators and plants and will walk through the gardens to observe their interactions. This program includes educational materials for creating your personal pollinator garden. Wednesday, June 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 for RBG members/\$17 for the general public. Register online by June 20 at <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/pollinator-gardens/>

Rotary Gardens Volunteer Opportunities

Rotary Gardens is having a **New Volunteer Orientation** on **Monday, June 13th** at **9:00am**. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at RBG, please have them contact Carla Edgar or complete an online application on Rotary's website before the 13th: <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/volunteer/> **General Garden Volunteers** tend beds, help plant and weed, water, and more. **Garden Ambassadors** needed for Tuesday evenings, Saturday afternoons and evenings, and Sunday afternoons. Additional **Tour Guides** wanted for the many tours that are being booked for this year. You don't have to be an expert on the Gardens or the plants to fill these positions. Please let Carla Edgar know if you are interested in becoming an Ambassador or Guide. **Sunday Watering** begins soon. Go to <https://signup.com/go/kJZRkCp> to sign up for regular garden shifts or Sunday watering shifts. **Saturday Work Days** have already begun. No sign-up needed for these, just show up at Rotary's Horticulture Center a little before 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning and get put to work getting the gardens in shape. You can contact Carla Edgar with any questions about volunteering at Rotary: volunteer@rotarygardens.org

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Work Night at Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden The 2nd Annual "Compost-A-Plant-A-Thon" is Wednesday, June 1st from 3 - 6 p.m. Folks can come for any or all of that time frame to help with composting and planting. Dress for the weather, bring gardening gloves and if you can share/loan a wheelbarrow, shovels and garden rake(s), that will help with the composting. Tools should be marked in some way for identification. Kneeling pads are also recommended for the planting but they should have enough trowels. Any questions? Contact Mark Dwyer: mdwyer@edgertonhospital.com

Congdon Gardens Workdays The crew helping to maintain Congdon Gardens in Delevan invite you to join their regular Thursday morning workdays, beginning June 2 and continuing through the summer. The time is 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Bring water and your favorite weeding tools. If you have questions, contact Dottie Kahabka (dorthk@charter.net) or Lynda Suskey (lyndamgs@aol.com).

Welty Environmental Center Like most public gardens and similar sites, Welty relies on volunteers to help maintain its gardens and to perform outreach to the public. Opportunities at Welty include naturalists for education programs, writers for their blog and newsletter, design and distribution work for their PR efforts and educational displays, help with special events, and—of course!—gardening and invasives removal. Ask for more information at <https://weltycenter.org/contact-us/>



Congdon Gardens

Nature at the Confluence Wednesday Workdays continue through the summer. Hours: 10 a.m. till noon. Drop in as the “Green Team” gets busy taking care of the land. They invite you to join in whenever you can! You might work on pulling garlic mustard or other invasive plants, or you might work in the Pollinator Garden and Learning Gardens. You might also work on trail maintenance. Bring your own gloves. They supply water and snacks. For more information and the required waiver form to sign, go to <https://natureattheconfluence.com/event/wednesday-work-day-be-part-of-the-green-team/2022-05-04/>

Kettle Moraine Land Trust 4th Saturday Stewardship KMLT has a workday on the fourth Saturday of each month, usually from 1-3:30 p.m. Locations and tasks for each workday vary. Volunteering for one would be a nice way to thank KMLT’s director, Rory Klick, for the lovely presentation she gave in February on Spring Ephemerals. To find out more on each month’s event, go to their calendar <https://kmland-trust.org/events/>

Events for Fun



Wisconsin Arts and Peony Festival, Beaver Dam, WI, Friday, June 3rd- Sunday, June 5th

Garden enthusiasts will enjoy visiting the Ovans Peony Farm from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the days of the festival. Ovans is the largest stem cut peony farm in the state of Wisconsin, and currently has hundreds of different peony varieties which (hopefully!) will all be in bloom the weekend of the festival. Allen Centennial Garden will be participating with their new program Market Science. Visitors can stop by their stall and learn the math and science behind why bees collect honey in hexagonal combs as opposed to triangles or squares. Other cool things to check out include the Dodge County Center for the Arts, and the Great Wisconsin Quilt Show Botanical Quilt Challenge Exhibit. To learn more, click [here](#), then click on the Chamber of Commerce link.

Photo by Linda N.

Garden Fair, Klehm Botanical Gardens, Rockford IL, Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m./Sunday June 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Garden Fair Weekend is back! Join Klehm the first weekend in June to experience a wide variety of plants, flowers, garden décor, art, educational information booths and more! Enjoy live entertainment in our Fountain Garden over a meal from local food vendors! Advance tickets: \$7. At the door: \$10. Free for children 12 and under. All tickets are good for both days. Address of the garden is 2715 South Main Street, Rockford. For more information on the event and where to purchase advance tickets, go to <https://klehm.org/garden-fair-weekend/>

More Training Available in June and Beyond

Looking for Level 2 MGV training--The Plants Plus modules? You can find them in the online classroom, Canvas, which you access with your UW NetID at <https://canvas.wisc.edu/> As of now, Plants Plus modules are ONLY available in Canvas. Check regularly for new modules!

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Classes are in person at the Gardens unless otherwise noted. Fees listed are for Olbrich Members/General Public. For more info, copy and paste this address: <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

Registration for this class has closed, but try calling to see if they'll let you in at the last minute: 608-246-4550.

June 7, Gardening for Pollinators, 6-8 p.m., \$22/\$28. Register by May 31.

Registration is open for these classes. If a class is shown as "filled," see if you can get on a waiting list. Cancellations do occur.

June 8, Early Summer Tips and Tricks from Olbrich's Herb Garden, 6-7:15 p.m., \$16/\$20. Register by June 1.

June 9, Weed Identification and Management, online, 5:30-7:30 p.m., \$18/\$22. Register by June 2.

June 15, Herb Garden Walk with an Herbalist, 6-7:30 p.m., \$28/\$35. Register by June 8.

June 16, Growing Herbal Pollinator Plants, 6-7:30 p.m., \$35/\$44. Register by June 8.

June 30, Native Plants and Pollinators, online, 5:30-7:30 p.m., \$18/\$22. Register by June 23.

July 1, Native Plants for the Formal Garden, online, 1-3 p.m., \$19/\$24. Register by June 25.

July 6, Fantastic Ferns and How to Grow Them Walk, 6-7:30 p.m., \$16/\$20. Register by June 29.



Wisconsin Horticulture Update, Fridays at 9:30 a.m. or Recordings in the Canvas Classroom

The Wisconsin Horticulture Update is a 1-hour weekly review of statewide growing conditions, degree days, insect and disease activity and more, plus special topics. Updates are already in the Canvas Classroom for the expected outlook for 2022 on insects and plant diseases. May 6 will cover the general forecast for 2022 on invasives and weeds. After May 6, the update will go back to its standard weekly format, which include updates from both Brian and PJ's labs (Plant Diseases and Insects, respectively) as well as updates from around the state. No registration required. Recordings will be posted in the Canvas Classroom, so you can catch up on any you missed. Use this link on a

Friday morning to log into the live presentation (goes directly to the Zoom meeting).

[Log into the WHU on Friday at 9:30am](#)



Photo by Michael R Perry

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project: Northern States, Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., online

Learn how to collect data that contributes to knowledge of monarch populations. Participants will learn about monarch biology, monitoring procedures, and data entry protocols, and have time to ask questions of experts. Trainings are relevant for both newcomers and active participants in monarch citizen science projects. A one-hour break is included. Select training based on geographic interest. Advance registration required. Fee: \$45. Register at <https://donate.monarchjointventure.org/event/2022-monarch-larva-monitoring-project/e378139>

Pollinator Palooza at Aram Public Library, Delevan, Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Have you heard the latest buzz? Aram Public Library is hosting its very first Pollinator Palooza! There will be speakers, organizations sharing their stories, raffles, and a pollinator costume contest! Bring the whole family down for a BEE-utiful day, celebrating pollinators of all sorts! Free talks: Helping Pollinators in Your Own Backyard @ 11am with Maddie Olivieri from Geneva Lake Conservancy, Bees, Honey & Being a Beekeeper @12 Noon with Ayla Guild from The Hive Taproom, East Troy, and Planting for Pollinators @ 1pm with Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension Walworth County.

Green Thumb Gardening – Summer Series, online or in person, Mondays starting June 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Green Thumb Gardening class series gives you the practical knowledge to keep your home garden thriving! Dane County Extension educators and local horticulture experts will provide in depth and accessible information for everyone from the novice to the experienced gardener. Register for individual classes at \$12 each or the complete summer series (thru August 22) for \$110.00. Attend virtually from home or in person at the Extension office in Madison. For Online classes: [Click here](#) For In-person classes: [Click here](#)

June 6: Wildlife in the Garden

June 13: Lawn Care

June 20: Plant Processes and Pesticide Safety

June 27: Invasive species





Shoreline and Streambank Plantings, Kettle Moraine Land Trust, online, Wednesday, June 8, 6:30-8 p.m.

Learn more about the plants that live along wet shorelines and streambanks, and serve a range of functions like erosion control, water quality improvement and habitat provision. Find out how to encourage these amazing plants to provide their ecosystem services to your property. Please register in advance with rachel@kmlandtrust.org. Your link to the session will be emailed out the day before the event.

Apple Bagging Demonstration, Bristol, WI, Saturday, June 11, 10:30 a.m.-?

Are you tired of spraying for apple tree pests? Think about bagging apples to protect from codling moth, plum curculio and apple maggot. Join Vijai Pandian, Kenosha and Racine County Horticulture Extension Educator, to learn about apple bagging techniques using zip lock and nylon stocking fabric. Vijai will demonstrate using zip locks, then you can participate in the hands-on activity to bag apples using nylon stocking fabric. Please bring your own nylon stocking fabrics (as many as you can) and twist ties. Bagged apples are yours. You can come back in early October to harvest the fruit you bagged. This session will take place at the Kenosha County Center, 19600 - 75th Street, Bristol, WI. Free and open to the public, however registration is required. Deadline: before June 8th (Wednesday). Go to <https://forms.gle/TVjsbe4AeoesT3Uu8> **Note:** *there is also a new Plants Plus training module in Canvas on Apple Bagging (good for 2.5 hours of education time) if you can't make the in-person demo.*

Rainwater Management in the Home Landscape, Rockford, IL, Wednesday, June 15, 6-7:00 P.M.

Learn about options to put rainwater diverted from the hardscapes in your yard to use instead of lost as runoff. Jay Solomon, U of I Extension Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy Educator, will discuss how rain gardens, bio swales, and other structures can be designed into your landscape to retain this valuable resource. The talk held will be at the Univ. of IL Extension office in Rockford: 1040 N. Second Street, Rockford (directly south of Nicholas Conservatory). No fee, but donations welcome. Register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25773>



Photo by [Arlington County, VA](#)

Woodland, Savannah and Prairie Gardens Tour, UW Arboretum, Madison, Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate late spring by visiting the Arboretum's woodland, savanna, and prairie gardens. This tour, led by garden curator Susan Carpenter, provides an overview of the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week Webinars, online, June 20-24, noon.

UW experts offer knowledge from their specialties for Pollinator Week. Free, but registration required. See page 12.



The Secret Lives of Solitary Bees, Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, Monday, June 20, 1-2:15 p.m.

Native bees are some of our most helpful but least known and understood pollinators. Join us in Library Park during Pollinator Week to learn more about these gentle, hard-working insects, who are an essential part of our food chain. We'll tell you why they're so important and introduce you to some of the solitary bees you may not be familiar with. We'll help you invite these essential guests into your garden and make sure you know what and how to plant so you can give them everything they need to thrive. Free talk will be followed by a native planting activity for those who want to participate. Presented by Rock Prairie Master Gardeners, Mary Kay Thompson and Ruth Flescher and feature guest beekeeper, Allan Liu. The talk will be outdoors, in the park between the back of the library and the Rock River.

June Blooms in the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve, Whitewater, Wednesday, June 22, 6-7 p.m.

Over 100 acres on the Whitewater campus's northeastern border are being restored and actively managed as a native prairie and woodland. You will learn more about native plant species blooming in early summer on the prairie and savanna ecosystems as well as the history and future development dreams for the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian for the duration of the tour. Free but you must register by June 21. Go to <https://www.uww.edu/ce/gardenlandscape/gardenlandscapetours/naturepreservetours>

Bee-utiful Planting for Pollinators, Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha, Wednesday, June 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

While wildlife gardening is now one of the biggest gardening trends, the decline of pollinators and other insects still remains urgent. Learn how to help pollinators thrive and create refuge for them, and how to enhance local food productivity by adding native plants to urban and suburban yards. Presented by SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardener, Jennifer Lazewski. Free. Registration suggested but not required. To register, go to

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/events/park-system/220622-bee-utiful-planting-for-pollinators/> Address: S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha.



Explore Our Native Garden, Rockford, IL, Wednesday, June 22, 6-7:00 p.m.

A native plant garden was established behind the University of Illinois' Winnebago County Extension office soon after they moved in, in 2010. Over the years, many challenges have been overcome and the garden continues to flourish under the watchful eye of Master Naturalist Ginnie Watson and others. Join Ginnie in the garden to learn about the plant selection, care and benefits of native plants. The talk held will be at the Univ. of IL Extension office in Rockford: 1040 N. Second Street, Rockford (directly south of Nicholas Conservatory). No fee, but donations welcome. Register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25773>

Walking Outdoor Garden Tour, Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, Rockford, IL, Thursday, June 23, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Join our volunteer docent on a tour of the outdoor gardens at Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens. Learn about native and exotic plants, shade and sun loving plants, and NCG/Sinnissippi history and fun facts. Dress for the weather. Walking shoes and a bottle of water are recommended. Meet in front of Nicholas Conservatory. Tour will last 1-1.5 hours. Meet at Nicholas Conservatory entrance. Free, but registration required due to limited capacity. [Click Here](#) to register.

What's in Bloom? Garden Tour, UW Arboretum, Madison, Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 p.m.

Join Susan Carpenter, Wisconsin Native Plant Garden curator, to find, compare, and learn about flowers on native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. No registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week, *continued*

Daily Webinars: (Note: These Webinars are free and open to the public, so share with your friends! Registration is required for each one. Webinars will be recorded for later viewing.) Details for all of the webinars can be found at: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/pollinator-week/>

1. Monday, June 20, 12:00 p.m. – Pollinator Gardens: Plant Selection and Garden Care
Presented by Susan Carpenter
2. Tuesday, June 21, 12:00 p.m. – Join in Community Science with the Wisconsin Wild Bee App
Presented by Claudio Gratton and Hannah Gaines-Day
3. Wednesday, June 22, 12:00 p.m. – Wisconsin’s Busy Bees: Getting to Know the Bees in Your Area
Presented by P J Liesch
4. Thursday, June 23, 12:00 p.m. – 10 Things to Consider for Weed Management When Establishing Pollinator Plantings.
Presented by Mark Renz
5. Friday, June 24, 12:00 p.m. – How Do Pesticides Affect Pollinators and Songbirds in Your Yard
Presented by Lynn Markham

Pollinator Scavenger Hunt and BioBlitz:

During the month of June, find plants and pollinators in your yard, community, favorite park, etc. and record them to the Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week BioBlitz. [Scavenger Hunt](#). [Bio-Blitz](#).

Poster Contest:

- [Click here for the complete Poster Contest instructions and mail-in entry form.](#)
- [Click here to submit your poster using our online entry form.](#)

What’s Happening in Our Area?

- June 4, 10a.m., [Planting for Pollinators at Pollinator Palooza](#), Aram Public Library, 404 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan, WI.
- Jun 20, 1:30p.m., [The Secret Lives of Solitary Bees: Enticing These Pollinators to Your Garden](#) (all ages), Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., Janesville, WI. (Also, catch the pollinator display all month inside the library, in the fireplace room!)

- Jun 22, 6:30p.m., [Bee-utiful Planting for Pollinators](#), [Retzer Nature Center](#) Community Room, S14W28167 Madison Street, Waukesha, WI 53188.

Note: Many other pollinator-related events are mentioned throughout this newsletter, including a prairie walk with Walworth County MGVs, a Rotary Gardens Botanical Talk and various items included in the section “More Training Available June and Beyond,” pages 7-11.

Resource Library

There are so many places you can learn more about pollinators and how you can help them! Below are some reliable (science-based) ones you should bookmark.

General Pollinator Resources:

- Wisconsin Pollinators – bees, butterflies and their conservation ([UW-Madison Gratton Lab](#)) – Discover information about our local bees, citizen science opportunities, and use the pollinator habitat assessment tool to evaluate pollinator health in your area.
- Saving Wisconsin’s Native Pollinators ([Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#)) - Explore the Wisconsin DNR page to learn more about threats to our local pollinators and pollinator habitats, funding opportunities to support habitat development, pollinator plant and insect identification resources and ways to get involved in an array of pollinator projects.
- Bee Lab and Flowering Bee Lawns for Pollinators (University of Minnesota) - Learn more about bees and how you can help them through the [University of Minnesota Bee Lab](#)
- Bring back the pollinators ([Xerces Society](#)) - Find information on everything you need to know about pollinators and their habitats, from how to create a habitat for pollinators to managing pesticide usage in private and public spaces. The organization is named for the first butterfly known to have gone extinct as a direct result of human activities.
- [Michigan Pollinator Initiative](#) (Michigan State University) – MSU works with partners around the state in pursuit of research-based solutions for beekeepers, growers, land managers, and policy makers to promote economic vitality and ecological stability.

Planting Guides:

- [Supporting Native Bees – Our Essential Pollinators](#) (UW-Madison Division of Extension) - This publication gives general information as well as suggestions for native plants.
- [Planting Guide for Your Native Pollinator Garden – Midwest Region \(Pollinator Partnership\)](#) - Includes steps and plant suggestions to start your pollinator garden.



The namesake of the Xerces Society - the now-extinct Xerces Blue butterfly. (Photo Courtesy of Xerces.org)

- Free [Pollinator Friendly Planting Guides \(Pollinator Partnership\)](#) - Ecoregional planting guides, Selecting Plants for Pollinators, are tailored to specific areas of the United States. Enter your zip code. There are two different ones depending on where you live in Wisconsin.
- [Pollinator Friendly Plant List – Great Lakes Region \(Xerces Society\)](#) - This fact sheet features regionally native plants that are highly attractive to pollinators and are well-suited for small-scale plantings in gardens, urban greenspaces, and farm field borders, and on business and school campuses.
- [Planting for Pollinators: Guiding Principles and Design Concepts for Residential Pollinator Habitat \(Minnesota Board of Soil and Water\)](#) - This guide is intended to help residents, skilled gardeners to those without gardening skills, plan, install and maintain pollinator habitat in their yards.

Citizen Science:

- [WiBee: The Wisconsin Wild Bee App](#) – Download the WiBee app and join the growing community of community members during the growing season to collect high quality data on wild bee abundance and diversity on Wisconsin’s fruit and vegetable farms and non-crop habitats.
- [Bumble Bee Brigade](#) - Bee a volunteer with the Bumble Bee Brigade and monitor our native bumble bees. The Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade is a photography-based volunteer monitoring project. As a volunteer, you will submit photos and additional information on the bumble bees you observe.
- [Monarch Watch](#) - Join the initiative and support the world-wide study on monarch migration by witnessing and recording adult monarchs you see during specific dates depending on your location.
- [The Great Sunflower Project](#) - Participate in the monitoring and recording pollinator visits to the sunflower species, Lemon Queen or watch a plant and record how many pollinators visit, or how many you see while taking a nature hike.
- [Journey North](#) - Get involved with the community of action by contributing observational data and acting as ambassadors for conservation and protection of migratory species.

Gardeners, please note this article contains many links to other sites which will be good sources of information for many Pollinator Week events. If you encounter any broken links please contact Mary Thompson right away. Thanks!! (mastergardenermary@gmail.com)

Most of the information in this article was taken directly from the UW-Madison, Division of Extension website.

The **Master Gardener Update** is developed by and distributed online monthly by the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Incorporated, for master gardener volunteers and other interested people who have ties to Rock County, Wisconsin. Current officers of the association include Ruth Flescher, president (yafello2@gail.com); Mary Kay Thompson, vice president (mastergardenermary@gmail.com); Sue Wood, Secretary (woodslibrarymedia@gmail.com) and Deb Grams, treasurer (debgrams@yahoo.com).

Mailing Address: Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, c/o Sue Wood
1616 Holly Drive
Janesville, WI 53546