

Pollination Guelph's Annual Symposium a Success

Our third annual pollination symposium was held on February 26, 2011, with more than 75 people in attendance. We raised about \$1,900 over the course of the day, which will go towards many of our community projects. A special thank-you to Planet Bean for providing pollinator-friendly coffee and tea for our event, as well as to all the people who donated items for our silent auction:

Bookshelf

Brenda van Ryswick
David Atkinson
Doug Jamieson
Flour Barrel

Judy Martin

Karin Davidson-Taylor
Linda Barkovsky
Lois Cherry
Nith River Native Plants

Planet Bean

Stone Store
Terry Petrie
Vicki Beard
Victoria MacPhail

Wild Birds Unlimited



Dr. Stephen Marshall's talk on pollinating flies was one of 8 presentations given.

Changes to Pollination Guelph's Board of Directors



During our February board meeting, we presented Kevin Butt and Sean Fox with a framed pollinator photo in appreciation of their time on the Board; both have completed their terms on the Board as Chair and as Director of Implementation, respectively. We thank them for their time and dedication to Pollination Guelph; their knowledge and experience greatly assisted us during our formative period, as well as during the planning of our many projects.



Kevin Butt (top) and Sean Fox (bottom) completed their terms on the board in February.

Kevin has agreed to take on a new voluntary role as the Co-ordinator of Implementation on the Eastview Pollinator Park project, while Sean will act as an external resource to the group. Karen Landman will take on the Director of Implementation position, while Vicki Beard has moved into the Chair position.

With the departure of Kevin and Sean, we are happy to welcome Mike Darmon and Karin Davidson-Taylor onto the board as a Director at Large and Director of Education, respectively. A retired professional plumber, Mike pursues his interests in water resources and environmental issues through involvement in several voluntary organizations as well as municipal advisory and public liaison committees. Karin has worked as an educator for over 20 years, and since 2006, has worked for the Royal Botanical Gardens developing and presenting environmental education program to children and teachers throughout the world. We look forward to working with Mike and Karin over the coming months.

Additional Pollination Guelph Updates

Pollination Guelph is currently busy applying for funding from various sources, working on plans for the 2011 planting season, giving presentations to local groups, and more. Stay tuned for more news!

Mark your Calendars: International Pollinator Week, June 20-26, 2011

Join with others from across North America to celebrate pollinators during International Pollinator Week. Pollination Guelph will be holding their annual "Pollinator Day in the Garden" event, this year at Riverside Park, on Sunday, June 26. There will also be a "Pollinators Festival" in Toronto at the Evergreen Brickworks on Saturday, June 25. More information will follow in the Spring 2011 newsletter. In the meantime, why not considering planning your own event too? Visit www.pollinator.org for ideas and tips.



Neat News and Requests from Other Groups

“Gold Dusters” - National Geographic article on Pollinators

The March 2011 National Geographic magazine had a feature article on pollinators. “Gold Dusters” features incredible, breathtaking photos of pollinators around the world, as well as an in-depth look at pollination and pollinators. Check it out in local bookstores, or on-line at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/03/pollinators/moffett-photography> and <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/03/pollinators/holland-text>.



Photo of a pollinating gecko. © Dr. Mark Moffett and National Geographic.

Volunteer Observers of Spring Beauty Needed

Do you enjoy being outside during lovely spring weather? If so, you might enjoy volunteering for *Spring Beauty and the Bees*, a pollinator monitoring program. This spring, researchers from the University of Toronto are enlisting the help of interested volunteers to observe local pollinators of spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica* and *C. caroliniana*) - and they could really use your help!

By monitoring the insects that visit spring beauty throughout the eastern US & Ontario, we can determine how pollinator communities change depending on the year, the location, and the season. This information will help us better understand the biology of pollinators, as well as help us determine the best way to evaluate their value for plant reproduction.



To help, you need only to be able to get to a patch of spring beauties. The researchers will help you with the rest. You will be asked to commit to about 2 hours of observations over three weeks. For more information, visit <http://springbeauties.wordpress.com>. To volunteer, please email Alison Parker at spring.beauty.pollinators@gmail.com with your name and location; she will provide more information.

Consider volunteering with the “Spring Beauty and the Bees” program this spring.

The Bumble Bees of Southern Ontario: Notes on Natural History and Distribution

Ever wondered when to expect the first bumblebees of the year, or what flowers you might find them foraging on? A new paper by Colla and Dumesht in the Journal of the Entomological Society of Ontario (141: 39-68) presents a summary of the phenology, food plants, distribution and habitat associations for the 18 species found in Southern Ontario. Download it at:

http://www.entsocnt.ca/files/files/Journal/2010/Final_JESO_2010/Colla_and_Dumesht_FINAL_low_res.pdf

Calling all Nature Photographers

A field guide to the bumble bees of North America is now being written, and photos are needed of bumble bees in the wild that would help people identify them to species. If you have a great picture that you are willing to share, please contact Sheila Colla at sheila_123@hotmail.com. In particular, photos from anywhere in Canada (other than southern ON), the west coast, Alaska and the southern parts of the US are needed. However, good pictures from anywhere are appreciated, as there are rare species in Ontario that are not well photographed.



Send your favourite bumble bee photo in today!

Flight of the Bumblebee (and other Pollinators)

Naturalist Don Scallen recently had an article about pollinators published in “In The Hills” magazine. It includes interviews with several local individuals and groups, and provides an overview of the importance of pollinators and some of the efforts being made to protect them. Read it on-line at: <http://www.inthehills.ca/current/features/don-scallen-bumblebee-pollinator/>.

Overwintering Monarch Populations on the Rise

Good news! Populations of monarchs migrating to Mexico from Canada and the US have more than doubled from last year’s historic low. However, there is still concern about their long-term survival because of deforestation where they overwinter, pesticide use, and lack of plants along their journey.

Please note that this newsletter is intended for anyone interested in keeping up with the work of the Pollination Guelph board and volunteers. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact pollinationguelph@gmail.com.

All photos © V. MacPhail, except the photo of a pollinating gecko, which is © Dr. Mark Moffett and National Geographic.