

Pollinator Photo Contest – Deadline March 10, 2013

Pollination Guelph is looking for your great Pollinator Photos! Thanks to the great response from our 2012 contest, we are repeating our pollinator theme at our 2013 Pollination Symposium. Photos will be narrowed down by volunteer judges, and then the finalists voted on by all symposium attendees, with the most popular photo winning a gift certificate generously donated by Brock Road Nursery in Guelph.



Send in your pollinator photo for a chance to win a gift certificate to Brock Rd Nursery!

A maximum of 5 digital photos per person may be submitted to pollinationguelph@gmail.com by March 10, 2013. In the body of the e-mail, please include the photographer's name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address and description of photo (location, etc.). Photos must have been taken in Ontario and include a potential pollinator. The bee, fly, butterfly, moth, beetle, or hummingbird could be on a flower, in a hive or nest, on a host plant, or some other location that shows it as a potential pollinator. By submitting a photo you give Pollination Guelph permission to use it in the course of their work; however, copyright of the photo would remain with the photographer.

Pollination Guelph's Annual Pollination Symposium April 6, 2013

Our annual pollination symposium will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at the Dublin St United Church in downtown Guelph. Running from 9am to 4pm, there will be talks about Pollination Guelph's activities in 2012 and plans for 2013; about wind and water pollination; improving native bee habitat in the suburban landscape; what to plant instead of invasive species; incorporating native seeds into paper art projects; and creating pollinator patches in communities and along roadsides. There will also be a choice of three workshops for participants: making pollinator-friendly seed paper, butterfly-rearing cages, and touring a local neighbourhood to look at gardening practices.



Make a butterfly-rearing cage during one of the symposium workshops this April.

Registration is \$40 (\$30 students/seniors) if pre-registered by March 27, 2013 to pollinationguelph@gmail.com or \$45 (\$35 student/senior) after March 27 or at the door. There will be a silent auction and sale table to raise funds for Pollination Guelph, as well as booths from other groups, and a pollinator photo contest judging. Visit our web-site at www.pollinationguelph.ca for more information.

Over 200 Website Resources on Pollinators and Pollination Now On One Page!

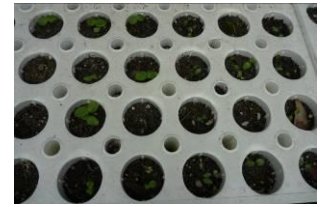
Pollination Guelph's "Resources on the Web" page has recently been updated with another 70-80 new links and a few new sections, bringing the total to over 200 links in 14 categories. These include: Best Overall Sites, Making Homes for Pollinators, Planting Native Plants for Pollinators, Pollinator Observations and Identification, Pollinator-friendly Gardening and Plantings, Pollinators and Agriculture, Pesticides and Pollinators, Resources for Teachers, Pollinator Declines, Pollinator Habitat Certification Programs, Honeybee-specific Resources, Still More Resources, Diversions - Video clips, lectures, and games, and Pollination Guelph's 2012 Pollination Symposium (videos). Check it out at <http://www.pollinator.ca/guelph/index.php?n=Resources+on+the+Web>. If you have a favorite link that's not on there let us know!



What flowers should I plant? What is that pollinator? Visit our web-site for answers to these questions and more!

Foster (Plant) Parents Needed! – Planting Night, March 20, 2013

Do you have a green thumb? Do you have space in your garden, on your deck, along your line, or elsewhere for a few plant flats? Pollination Guelph is starting a plant propagation project to grow native plants to be used in some of our many planting projects around the City, and we need your help! In partnership with the Waterloo Wellington Wildflower Society, we are looking for volunteers to plant up some seed trays and foster the growing plants until they can be transplanted this fall. The planting night will be Wednesday, March 20 (7:30pm until finished) at the University of Guelph Bovey Building greenhouses. If you are interested in taking part with the seeding and/or fostering, please RSVP to Rodger, rtschanz@uoguelph.ca.



Be a foster plant parent and help grow plants for our projects.

Pollination Guelph's Hospice Wellington Project Featured in Landscape Ontario Magazine

Pollination Guelph was recently profiled in the February 2013 Landscape Ontario magazine Hort Trades for our work turning "typical" landscaping into a delight for the senses and a sanctuary for local pollinators. Two perennial pollinator gardens were installed at Hospice Wellington in 2012 on steeply sloped areas where the turf has been dying and weeds establishing. One area in particular is in full view of the Hospice's patio and sunroom, and both now have over 300 flowering plants and shrubs to provide year-round food and habitat for pollinators and visual delight for visitors and residents of the Hospice.

Manor Landscaping, owned by Carlo Mann, generously offered their assistance through staff time and machinery used for stripping the sod and spreading the soil and mulch they also donated. Volunteers from Pollination Guelph designed the gardens, and worked with Manor Landscaping and Hospice Wellington to plant the gardens. The Guelph Community Foundation also provided funds. Phase 3 of the Hospice Wellington project will be going ahead this spring with expansion to the native shrub border and addition of native flowering plants.



Hospice Wellington, Manor Landscaping, and Pollination Guelph volunteers were featured in Landscape Ontario's magazine. (photo courtesy of SNAP Guelph)

Thanks to the success of this partnership, Pollination Guelph is now seeking other local landscape firms who would like to partner with us on, or to sponsor, upcoming planting projects. If you are interested, please contact us at pollinationguelph@gmail.com. View the full article on-line on page 11 at http://www.horttrades.com/landscape-ontario---february-2013?utm_source=epic48&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6465&utm_term=waterloo

Thanks to Mike Darmon, Welcome to Ben O'Hara, Volunteer Opportunities

Pollination Guelph would like to thank Mike Darmon for his last two years of service on our Board of Directors. Even before joining the board, Mike was a strong supporter of Pollination Guelph, frequently watering and weeding our first plantings at Riverside Park. His contributions while on the board were varied, but he was particularly instrumental in getting our Trans Canada Trail (TCT) planting projects started. He intends to continue his support of this project as a member of the TCT sub-committee.

Ben O'Hara takes Mike's position on the board. He has also been a strong supporter of Pollination Guelph, in particular, assisting with landscaping plans for some of our projects, particularly the Hospice Wellington project. Welcome Ben!

If you are interested in getting further involved with Pollination Guelph and would like to share your skills in planting design, research, fundraising, project management, web-site design, volunteer co-ordination, or any other way, please let us know: pollinationguelph@gmail.com!



Mike Darmon adding to the most recent TCT plantings

Interesting News and Events from Other Groups

Canadian Pollinator Conservation 2013: Next Steps Meeting, April 10, 2013

Wildlife Preservation Canada is hosting a Canadian Pollinator Conservation 2013: Next Steps meeting on April 10, 2013 at the University of Toronto. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together a variety of groups from across Canada involved in pollinator conservation, including government, NGOs, academics, land managers, and other interested groups and persons. There will be talks from people on a range of topics from status of pollinators to policy, outreach and citizen science, agriculture, and restoration plantings. There will also be a discussion period where attendees can discuss the next steps in pollinator conservation in Canada and what is needed to pursue them. For more information, or to register, visit <http://pollinatorpartnership.ca/nextsteps.htm>. The deadline to register is April 2, 2013.

Link between agricultural talc dust and bee kills? What can be done to avoid this?

In the spring of 2012, there were a number of reported bee kills in Ontario that occurred at the same time as corn treated with a neonicotinoid insecticide (as most corn in Ontario is) was being planted. While this group of pesticides has been used for a couple of decades, it is now under investigation after a series of reported problems and mounting evidence that it can have indirect (sub-lethal) effects on pollinators. Although the seed was planted directly into the ground, it was suspected that dust inside the machinery, such as the talc used to keep the seeds from bunching up or abraded pieces of seed coat, had become contaminated with the insecticide.



Samples were collected for pesticide residues (photo from B. MacDonald).



Dust contaminated with insecticides may have spread from this corn field when it was being planted to adjacent wildflowers and harmed foraging bees.

When the dust left the planter during regular operations or during emptying back at the farm, it was carried on the wind to nearby flowers, which were then visited by honeybees looking for pollen or nectar. The hairy bodies with an electrostatic charge that make bees good collectors of pollen also make them good collectors of talc dust, and thus it is supposed the bees carried the pesticide back to the hive. Other bees may have been affected by flying through the dust or being exposed to it in other ways. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency arm of Health Canada and other provincial bodies have been investigating this problem, and while their report is not yet finalized, they have reported that the pesticides used on treated corn seeds may have contributed to 2012 spring losses.

What can farmers do to avoid this problem? The Ontario Field Crop News recently published an excellent article with guidance: <http://fieldcropnews.com/2013/01/taking-steps-towards-reducing-the-risk-to-pollinators/>. This includes such steps as communicating with local beekeepers so they can protect their hives, planting when it is less windy (e.g. early morning or late evening), managing wildflowers close to the crop (although this can have other negative impacts on pollinators), minimizing the amount of insecticide seed treatment or seed lubricant used, and exhausting dust towards the center of the field or deflecting it to the ground. Hopefully there will not be a repeat of the kills this spring.

***“When one tugs at a single thing in nature,
he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”***

— John Muir

(from <http://www.fws.gov/cno/pdf/HabitatGuideColor.pdf>)

