

International Pollinator Week runs from June 20-26, 2011. There will once again be events in Guelph (Sunday, June 26), Toronto (Saturday, June 25), and throughout the US. We hope you can do something for pollinators during this week, whether it be by attending an event, planting a pollinator-friendly plant, building a bee box, watching a pollinator visiting a flower, or simply thanking a pollinator as you enjoy some strawberries, chocolate, coffee, or any of the other hundreds of foods resulting from pollination. Visit www.pollinator.org for more information on events and what you can do to help.



Pollinator Day in the Garden, Riverside Park East, Guelph, Sunday, June 26, 2011, 12-4pm

Pollination Guelph will be holding its annual Pollinator Day in the Garden on Sunday, June 26, 2011. This year it will be held at Riverside Park East (located at the corner of Riverside Drive and Speedvale Avenue in Guelph). Enjoy an afternoon of information and activities about pollinators, pollinator-friendly plants, and their habitats. Visit the pollinator-friendly gardens planted at the park and speak to experts on how you can help pollinators. PLUS, make a bee nest, learn how to raise butterflies, see different types of pollinators, create some crafts, take home some free pollinator-friendly seeds, and more!

Pollinator-Friendly Demonstration Hedgerow Plantings on April 30 a Success !

On a bright, sunny Saturday morning, 17 volunteers gathered at the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming (GCUOF) at The Arboretum to increase the number of pollinator-friendly plants in the area. This is one of the few hedgerows we are aware of that have been planted with pollinators in mind, and is a great example for other farmers and landowners to follow.

In less than 2 ½ hours, 319 native trees and shrubs were planted into the hedgerows adjacent to the farm. These included Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*), Wild Red Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), and Narrow-leaved Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*).



Thanks to all the volunteers who planted pollinator-friendly plants this spring.

GRTEES Grant to Pollination Guelph

The Guelph Round Table on Environment, Economy and Society (GRTEES) recently granted \$750 to Pollination Guelph for our work to increase pollinator habitat at the Guelph Center for Urban Organic Farming and to educate the community about the value of pollinators. This money will enable us to create interpretive signage at the site and increase the long-term benefits of the project.



Measuring the effect of microclimate on pollinators and pollinator plants (natives and cultivars)

A University of Guelph research team, from environmental science, horticulture and landscape architecture, have come together to investigate the effects of microclimate on the visitation rate of pollinators to native plants, and cultivars thereof. Popular garden perennials selected for study this year are *Helenium*, *Penstemon* and *Monarda*. Two sites at The Arboretum - a good garden site and an old gravel/sand pit - have been planted with an equal number of plants. Pollination Guelph and the City of Guelph's Healthy Landscapes program have contributed funds to purchase the perennials. University of Guelph students and faculty will collect data through the summer and into the fall, with a plan to extend this research into the 2012 growing season.

Neat News, Upcoming Events, and Requests from Other Groups

Pollinators Festival, Evergreen Brickworks, Toronto, Saturday, June 25, 8am-1pm

The Pollinators Festival is a Toronto-based event that will be held on Saturday June 25. Come to Evergreen Brickworks at 550 Bayview Avenue for the weekly farmers market AND a morning filled with educational and celebratory events about pollinators. There will be garden tours, honey tasting, hands-on workshops, arts and crafts, candle making and more! For more information, e-mail Pollinatorweek@gmail.com.

rare's 5th Annual Butterfly Count, Cambridge, Saturday, July 2, 8:30am

Join Jessica Grealey during this official butterfly census, where participants will be identifying and counting all of the butterfly species throughout all habitats on the rare Charitable Research Reserve. Nets and identification resources/guides will be provided. The cost is \$3 to help cover cost of publishing results in the National Butterfly Association's International Census Report. Register early by calling 519-650-9336 x 114 or by emailing matthew.lawson@raresites.org.



Join the rare butterfly census to identify and count butterflies.

Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies, Terra Cotta CA, July 13-14

Teachers and educators: the Monarch Teacher Network will be running a course at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area (14452 Winston Churchill Blvd., Halton Hills) on July 13 and 14 from 8:30am-4:30pm. Learn how to raise and tag monarch butterflies and use monarchs as effective tools for teaching science, language arts, social studies, math, Spanish, technology and more! You'll walk away with expert instruction, Curriculum Guide and DVD, monarch rearing equipment, life cycle poster, t-shirt and more! The cost is \$95 + taxes, and you can register at www.monarchteacher.ca.

Monarch Mania, Terra Cotta CA, Saturday, July 16, 10am-12:00 noon

Come and see real, live monarch caterpillars and butterflies in all stages of their lifecycle. Then go outside and see what winged wonders you can discover. This program is for everyone! All programs involve indoor and outdoor activities, starting at the Watershed Learning Centre. Please dress appropriately for the weather. The cost of this event is a

suggested donation of \$5 per person along with gate admission. For more information, or to register, contact the Stewardship hotline at 905-670-1615 x 221



A monarch caterpillar feeding on milkweed. It will soon turn into a butterfly.

BioBlitz Naturalist Challenge, Speyside, Saturday, July 16, 9am-3:30pm

Come join Conservation Halton in their annual BioBlitz in partnership with the Bruce Trail Conservancy, this year at the Speyside Resource Management Area, located west of Highway 25 on 15th Sideroad (Bruce Trail Parking Lot) in Halton Hills. Participate in guided hikes and demonstrations on specific taxa or go on a self-guided hike and test your skills. Registration is free, but limited to 60 people in total for all workshops: visit www.conservationhalton.on.ca/bioblitz for more information.

Pollinator Guided Hike, July 16, 1:30pm-3pm. One of the guided hikes during the BioBlitz will provide an introduction to the amazing world of pollination and pollinators. Join Victoria MacPhail, MSc, a pollination biologist and volunteer board member with Pollination Guelph, as participants explore the conservation area to find pollinator-friendly plants and learn how to identify the major groups of pollinators, while discussing some of the issues facing pollinators and what we can do to help. Please register in advance, as space is limited to 20 people (see web-site above).



You may be amazed at all the different types of pollinators to be found at Speyside.

Psychological benefits of greenspace increase with biodiversity

A study in the journal *Biology Letters* shows an interesting link between biodiversity and human (mental) health. It found that "...psychological benefit was positively related to species richness of plants and to a lesser extent of birds...and [that] simply providing greenspace overlooks the fact that greenspaces can vary dramatically in their contribution to human health and biodiversity provision. Consideration of the quality of that space can ensure that it serves the multiple purposes of enhancing biodiversity, providing ecosystem services..." Read the full paper at <http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/3/4/390.full>.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emerging Issues: Global Honey Bee Colony Disorders and Other Threats to Insect Pollinators



A healthy frame from a honeybee colony.

This report came out in early 2011, dealing with topics such as pollination and pollinators; variation in managed pollinator populations; driving forces of pollinator population instabilities; and what is being or can be done to limit instabilities. It concludes that currently-available global data and knowledge on the decline of pollinators are not sufficiently conclusive to demonstrate that there is a worldwide pollinator and related crop production crisis.

However, it is clear that global agriculture has become increasingly pollinator-dependent over the last 50 years. As well, human activities and their environmental impacts may be detrimental to some species but beneficial to others, with sometimes subtle and counter-intuitive causal linkages. The report calls for renewed focus on the study, conservation and even management of native pollinating species to complement the managed honeybee colony tradition. Economic assessments of agricultural productivity should include the costs of sustaining wild and managed pollinator populations. Read the full report at <http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org/news/unep-report-highlights-threats-to-bees/?referrer=linkages-update>



Apples are just one example of a crop pollinated by bees.

Life Lessons from Butterflies

The Guelph Mercury recently published a very touching article about the use of butterflies in end-of-life care, and about the lessons they can teach us. Read it on-line at <http://www.guelphmercury.com/living/article/544669--butterflies-offer-lessons-about-life-and-death>.



Watching butterflies progress through their life cycle can have meaning in our own lives.

Pollination Guelph's Annual Symposium –Donor Erratum

Apologies to the Royal Botanical Gardens – they also donated items to our silent auction held during our symposium, but were accidentally left off the list of donors in our Winter 2011 newsletter. Thanks once again to them and all our other donors! If you would like to donate for a future event, please contact us at pollinationguelph@gmail.com. Charitable receipts will be provided for the value of the donation.

Volunteer Survey from Pollination Guelph – Watch your Inboxes

We occasionally get people asking us how they can volunteer with Pollination Guelph. Currently, we are developing a list of activities and roles that people can assist with. These may include such tasks as planting new areas, maintaining areas, fundraising, helping with outreach, and more. Watch your inboxes over the next month for a quick, on-line survey to see where you might best fit with us. In the meantime, calls for volunteers will continue to be sent out through our e-mailing list.



Young and old alike can volunteer with us.