

More work at the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming – Preparation of a Pollination Garden

Work continues by Pollination Guelph at the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming (GCUOF), located at The Arboretum at the University of Guelph. This past spring we put in pollinator-friendly hedgerows at the site, and volunteers recently turned out for the next stage in our plans: a perennial pollination garden. As the area we are planning to put the garden in is mostly old field, there is a big issue with twitch grass and thistles. These weeds are very persistent and can easily overtake any plantings done, so weeding is a necessity.



Volunteers spent a sunny fall morning pulling twitchgrass and other weeds from the future perennial pollination garden.

After a morning of hard work, the planting area was cleared and will be mulched with straw for the winter. In the spring, we'll see if there are any lingering twitch grass remnants and give it another weeding. From there, we will plant a variety of species that will meet the needs of pollinators, as well as add in a terrace and arbor.

Mark your Calendars: Pollination Guelph Symposium, Saturday, February 25, 2012

Plans are now underway for our 2012 symposium. It will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Harcourt United Church. This year we aim to make it more interactive, with a morning of presentations and an afternoon of workshops. If you would like to donate something to our silent auction, or if you would like to have a booth at our event, please contact pollinationguelph@gmail.com. More details will follow in early 2012, but save the date today!

Pollinator Photography Contest – Deadline for submissions: February 10, 2012

Did you take any great photos of pollinators in Ontario over the past few years? New to the 2012 symposium will be a photo contest with a pollinator theme. These photos will be displayed at the symposium and voted on by all attendees, with the most popular photo winning a gift certificate for a local, pollinator-friendly product.



A yellow-masked bee (Hylaeus) on the centre of a Queen Anne's lace flower.

Digital photos may be submitted to pollinationguelph@gmail.com between December 1, 2011 and February 10, 2012. 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. For more information, contact us.

Pollination Guelph Survey – Thanks for your Feedback

69 people* recently completed our on-line survey, and some of the results are below:

- 52 people were from Ontario, 4 from other provinces in Canada, 7 from the US, and 1 from other international. Only 22 people were from Guelph, Ontario.
- 100% preferred e-mail over phone contact; 6% equally preferred phone contact.
- 88% of people were already on our direct e-mail list; others were forwarded it.
- 45% of people heard about us from events and presentations we held or attended; the rest heard from about us via word of mouth (21%), newspaper articles (12%), internet searches (10%), or other avenues (e.g. newsletter).



45% of people first heard about Pollination Guelph through an event we held or attended.

- People are most interested in learning about pollinators, pollinator-friendly plants and pollinator-friendly gardening (58-65%), and least interested in family-friendly events and volunteering (13-19%). These numbers are likely reflective of the fact many of the respondents actually live outside of Guelph.
- 90% of people have not volunteered with Pollination Guelph yet, but 60% are interested in volunteering in the future, particularly with planting designs, planting events, and planting maintenance; education and outreach; advocacy; and research. This includes people inside & outside of Guelph!
- Many of the respondents have valuable skills and knowledge that we will likely try to draw from, including gardeners, foresters, ecologists, planners, landscape architects, researchers, seed collectors, farmers, beekeepers, and writers.
- Comments made by respondents were quite positive, telling us that we have been the inspiration for plantings and similar pollination groups across North America, that our symposiums are an excellent source of information, and that people are eager to learn and do more!

**Some of the results may be based on less than 69 responses, due to skipped questions.*



We hope to be able to involve many more people in our volunteer efforts in 2012.

Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas? Consider Donating to Pollination Guelph!

Do you have someone on your Christmas gift list who “has everything”, “doesn’t want anything”, or is “hard to buy for”? Consider making a donation to Pollination Guelph in his/her name. You will receive a charitable receipt and we can mail out a card to you or the donee. Cheques can be sent to Pollination Guelph, 7 Brazolot Drive, Guelph, ON N1G 4M1. Your support will help us implement the Pollinator Park at the landfill, the GCUOF garden and hedgerow, and other projects throughout Guelph.

Neat News, Upcoming Events, and Requests from Other Groups

The Emergence of Butterfly from Chrysalis – On-Line Photos

Our last newsletter featured links to videos and pictures that Victoria MacPhail took of a monarch caterpillar transforming into its chrysalis. Since then, she was able to capture the emergence of an adult from its chrysalis. Amazingly, it took less than a minute for it to emerge, and then only a few hours to pump up its wings for flight. Check out the pictures at:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150826983530514.743111.611065513&type=1&l=7a3607f04e>.



A monarch butterfly, only a few minutes old, hanging from its chrysalis.

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign Meeting – Talks, Apps, and More

The 11th Annual Conference of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) was held in Washington, D.C. this past October with participants from Canada, the US, and Mexico. The following interesting pieces of information are some of the highlights from the meeting.

On-line Presentations

The public symposium portion of the event, "Our Future Flies on the Wings of Pollinators" was webcasted live, and is now available for streaming and downloading at <http://www.mnh.si.edu/nappc2011/> and <http://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/pollinator-symposium/id476569677>. Speakers included those involved with the Pollinator Partnership, BASF Farm, Wyman’s Blueberries, an evangelical minister, and more.

Research Results

- Setting aside even 2% of your farm as a “biodiversity area” can increase pollinators, birds, and more.
- Crop pollination decreases as you move further away from suitable pollinator habitat.
- Honeybees may not concentrate on only the crop they are meant to pollinate: one study involving 6 colonies in 3 orchards found only 6-18% of pollen collected was apple pollen; the rest was from other plant species.
- Bee decline should be viewed as a cancer rather than a virus, as there are multiple factors involved, which can be different in different areas



A honeybee visiting an apple flower.

Memorable Quotes

- “A vision without a strategy is a hallucination” – Rev. Richard Cizik
- “Feed the foodchain that feeds us” – Graham Hartwell, BASF
- “Motivation is when dreams put on their work clothes” – Thomas Edison (via another presenter)

Bumble Bees of the Eastern US Identification Guide

Check out <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/BumbleBeeGuide2011.pdf> for a free download of the "Bumble Bees of the Eastern US" identification guide, complete with information on preferred food plants, nesting biology, similar species, beautiful color pictures, and more. Although the guide was designed for the US, it does work for bees in Ontario.



A male bumble bee, late in the season, moving slowly because of the cold.

Bee-Smart Pollinator Gardener Smart Phone App and Eco-Regional Planting Guides

New this fall is a Bee-Smart Pollinator Gardener app, a downloadable smart phone application that allows you to create a planting plan based on your ecoregion, the pollinators you wish to attract, particular plant types/blooms/colors desired in your garden, soil and light availabilities, and more. Check out <http://pollinator.org/beesmartapp.htm> for more information on how to download.

Don't have a smart phone? These ecoregional guides are also available as a .pdf on-line at <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>. They are designed for the US, but many of the plants are suitable for southern Ontario: use a zipcode of an area at the same latitude as our area (e.g. for Guelph (and the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Continental ecoregion), you can use one from Saginaw, Michigan: 48601).



Other Items of Interest

- The US Forest Service has released an Eastern US version of its popular “Attracting Native Pollinators to your Garden” booklet, which can be downloaded for free at http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsEasternUS_V1.pdf.
- Encyclopedia of Life, www.eol.org, has a web-page for over 700,000 species around the world, linked to literature, museum specimens, and more. This includes plants and pollinators.
- Another smartphone app, Leafsnap, <http://leafsnap.com/>, allows you to identify a leaf to species from a photo, and present other information, e.g. seeds, flowers, bark, to help confirm the identification. It does this using an algorithm based on data collected from specimens at the Smithsonian museum.

Excerpts from a DisneyNature Film on Pollination & Pollinators

DisneyNature has produced a beautiful film on pollination & pollinators called “Wings of Life”. Unfortunately, it has been delayed from premiering in North America, although it did premiere in France this year under the name “Pollen”. Hopefully the movie will be out next year in HD. In the meantime, visit http://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_the_hidden_beauty_of_pollination.html for a clip from the producer. After a few minutes of his talk, there are absolutely breathtaking out-takes from the movie. The trailer for the movie, using different clips, is available at <http://www.movingart.tv/wingsoflife/>.

We Want to Hear From You!

Are there any topics you want to learn more about? Are there any projects you want to get an update on? Any events that you want to participate in? We are always looking for ideas and suggestions for our newsletter, symposium, and other events.

Would you like someone from Pollination Guelph to come to your event? Would you like to speak at one of our events? Depending on our availability, we would be happy to come. Please contact us at pollinationguelph@gmail.com for details.



We are happy to talk to people of all ages about pollination. Photo from the City's Adopt-a-Tree event courtesy of TD FEF.

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 from the City of Guelph Adopt-a-Tree Event, which was courtesy of the TD Friends of the Environment Fund.