

4th Annual Pollination Guelph Symposium a Success

Our 2012 symposium was held on February 25, 2012 at Harcourt United Church in Guelph. About 56 people attended the day of presentations and workshops on topics ranging from pollinator-friendly gardening and farming to large-scale restoration and naturalization projects and butterfly tagging and rearing. Our silent auction featured donations from many different organizations and individuals, and bidding was intense on some items. All funds raised will go towards the work by Pollination Guelph in the community, including plantings, educational events, and research.



The symposium had both a presentation and workshop about monarch butterflies.

We are always trying to improve this annual event, and have prepared a survey to get feedback on the reasons why you **did** or **did not** attend, and your thoughts on the day. Please use this link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGdwUjQ1V3VqWXFIZFRTZlBCSFfMUE6M>

If you were not able to attend, we have posted the talks and brief excerpts from the workshops, to our new YouTube channel. Check them out at <http://www.youtube.com/user/PollinationGuelph>.



A happy silent auction bidder with her new ladybird purse and gourd.

Thanks to our 2012 Symposium Silent Auction Donors

City of Guelph	Judy Martin	Pollination Guelph
David Ainslie	Karolyne Pickett	Royal Botanical Gardens
David Atkinson	Laura Murr	Tom Ashby
Grand Moraine Growers	Marg Peter	Vicki Beard
Janet Trimble	Meadowville Garden Centre	Victoria MacPhail
John Duthie	Planet Bean	Wild Birds Unlimited

Pollinator Photo Contest Winners



83 photos were submitted to our photo contest by 23 photographers. The entries were narrowed down to the top 16 by PG's board (see last page), and then voted on by symposium attendees. Andalyne Tofflemire (far left) tied for first place with her photo of an American Lady visiting purple asters (center). Victoria MacPhail also tied for first place with her "peek-a-boo" photo of a ground-nesting bee (far right).

Changes to Pollination Guelph's Board of Directors

Pollination Guelph is run entirely by volunteers, and is guided by a ten-member Board of Directors, who sign up for a two-year term. The board has undergone some changes recently, with Karen Landman and Peter Kevan finishing their terms. We are pleased to announce that Rodger Tschanz and Karolyne Pickett have agreed to join us, and bring their knowledge and skills to our organization. Read their biographies and that of all our board members on our web-site at www.pollinationguelph.ca.



Karen Landman received a framed pollinator photo as a thank-you for her dedication to Pollination Guelph.

Neat News, Upcoming Events, and Requests from Other Groups

Bee Friendly Farming Initiative Expands to Canada

Partners for Sustainable Pollination and Seeds of Diversity Canada have now expanded the Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) initiative from the US into Canada. The goal of this initiative is to increase public awareness, recognize agricultural producers who provide forage for honeybees and other pollinators, and encourage consumers to support BFF-certified agricultural producers. BFF is an inclusive term that is intended to recognize anyone who supports bees directly or indirectly—farms, ranches, businesses, schools, local governments, nonprofits, gardeners and beekeepers.



Certified growers and beekeepers are encouraged to use BFF labels and signage in their marketing and outreach efforts. Annual certification fees will be used to support cost-growers planting additional bee forage. The US-Canada BFF map is at <http://pfspsbees/BFFMap>. BFF participants also interact at <http://www.facebook.com/BeeFriendly>.

Toronto's Wild Bees – Host a Nest box on your Green Roof or Send in your Urban Observations

A group of researchers from York University are mapping the nesting of wild bees in Toronto's green spaces. The Toronto's Wild Bees project also includes research on bee diversity, conservation, pollination, and habitat design, specifically for urban green spaces. Their web-site at www.TObee.ca has a lot of information, pictures, and videos about making the nests and the insects that use them. Do you have wild bees nesting in your urban garden? Send the information to wildbeestoronto@gmail.com and they will attempt to identify the bees to species for you, and give you tips on how to sustain their populations. After one year of observations, many of the Toronto nestboxes have been colonized by bees such as *Hylaeus*, *Hoplitis*, *Megachile*, *Osmia*, and possibly *Anthidium*, as well as various wasp species.



A bee nesting in an old twig in an urban garden.

Do you have access to an urban green roof (both inside and outside Toronto) and are you interested in hosting a bee nest? The researchers have about 210 boxes set up all over Toronto and surrounding areas, and have sent 50 more to other North American cities, and are now looking to expand their study. They would need access to the green roof once per month from April until October, and in exchange you would receive a comprehensive list of the cavity-nesting pollinating bees and pest-controlling wasps your green roof is providing habitat for in the city. Contact wildbeestoronto@gmail.com for more information.

If my job were pollination
I'd punch in early

If my job were to walk
on soft petals and bump
the stamen of its fine gold
flour, if my job were to fly
in midday on my own wings
and leave a trail of sundust,

if this were my job,

I'd take no money, I'd give my time.

If this were my job, I'd come home
to the honeycomb singing.

- *Work Dream, Carl Adamshick**

Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it
now. So we might as well make peace with the
landlord.

-*Tom Eisner, Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of
Biology, Cornell University**



*Quotes from: Ecological Society of America. 2008. *Communicating Ecosystem Services Pollination Toolkit* Pollination Toolkit: Pollination Quotes and Poetry. Updated June 20, 2008. Online at www.esa.org/ecoservices

Top 16 Photos from Pollination Guelph's Pollinator Photo Contest 2012



Top to bottom, L-R: American Lady visiting purple asters, Andalyne Tofflemire; Giant Swallowtail butterfly feeding from garden flower, Brian Morber; Hoverfly on flower, Rigel Conway-White; Red Admiral on buttonbush, Don Scallen; Beetle snacking on pollen, Brian Morber; Don't touch me, Robert Pavlis; Pollen collector, Randy Bartholomew; Peek a boo, ground nesting bee, Victoria MacPhail; Locust borer beetle on boneset, Don Scallen; Bee on Thistle, Jon Clayton; Cuckoo wasp on fleabane, Don Scallen; Hoverfly in Flight, Franziska Boerlin; Bee on Coneflower, Franziska Boerlin; Agapostemon splendens on New England Aster, Don Scallen; Bee on Brown-eyed Susan, Franziska Boerlin; Newly emerged Question Mark butterfly, Andalyne Tofflemire

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 for the American Lady on Purple Asters, by Andalyne Tofflemire, and the top 16 pollinator contest submissions.