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## Bee Friendly Gardening™ Newsletter

Dear Sara

April brings our gardens to life, with blooms unfolding, colors returning, and pollinators beginning to buzz in earnest. The energy of the season is unmistakable, as each day reveals something new pushing up through the soil or opening to the sun. It's a time to dig in, plant generously, and support the growing web of life that depends on these spaces. With every flower and thoughtful choice, you're helping create a haven for pollinators to thrive.

Happy gardening.



Sara Wittenberg  
Bee Friendly Gardening Manager  
Pollinator Partnership

### Three Reasons to Love Flower Flies

David Cappaert, [Quamash EcoResearch](#)



Before I present my case, we should define terms. Flower flies are insects in the family Syrphidae. Like bees, flower flies forage on pollen and nectar, providing pollination service for many plants. Many species feature black-and-yellow coloration that suggests wasps or bees that visit the same flowers. But they are cosplaying, projecting the threat of a defensive sting they don't possess. A close look reveals the features that differentiate a flower fly (in the order Diptera, or true flies) from a bee or wasp (in the order Hymenoptera, or bees, wasps, and ants). Flower flies have stubby antennae, a broad connection between the thorax and abdomen, and huge eyes that cover most of the head. Wasps and bees have long elbowed antennae and a constriction between the abdomen and thorax. Like all flies, flower flies have a single pair of wings held flat; other insects have 2 pairs (although fore and hind wings may be linked and function as one). Another stand-out feature: flower flies (also known as hoverflies) can pause mid-air, like a hummingbird.

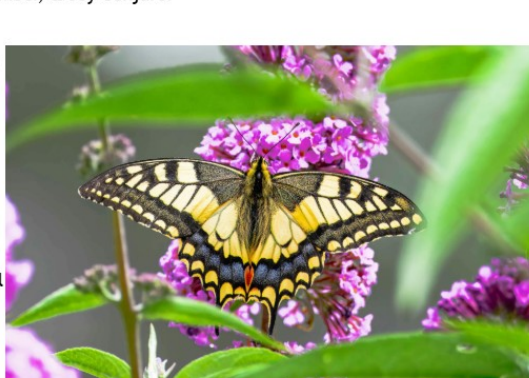
This is part three of a three part series. See our February newsletter (bees) and March newsletter (butterflies) to learn more!

[Read the full article](#)

### A Garden Grows Joy: Natives, Pollinators, and the Human Heart

By Kimberly Failon, Henrico County, VA Master Gardener Volunteer, Pollinator Steward Certified, HMGAs Member, & Joy Conjuror

"If you build it, they will come." This phrase from the classic Kevin Costner movie "Field of Dreams" is spoken by a ghost appealing to Kevin Costner's character, telling him to build a baseball field in his cornfield, where legendary baseball players come to play, a notion that creating something valuable or appealing will naturally attract people. After many years of walking past a balding, weedy field, not a cornfield per se, Kim started to wonder, "Why hasn't the neighborhood done anything there?" The unkempt area got all of Kim's gardening cylinders firing. It was a spot where perhaps a tree or two had been taken down. Nothing had gone up in its place, but that clearly was years ago.



[Read the full article](#)

### Plant Profile: Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)



Dyck Arboretum

[Learn More](#)

### Get Ready for Native Plant Month with My Home Park



We are pleased to announce our second native plant sale hosted by Bee Friendly Gardening and My Home Park! This time around, we are thrilled to expand this sale to the entire contiguous U.S.

Pollinator Partnership's Bee Friendly Gardening and My Home Park make it easier for people to support pollinators with native plants. From April 1 - April 30, BFG Members receive 10% off this sale by using the discount code P2BFG26. By purchasing a native plant garden kit through this partnership, you'll not only create a thriving pollinator-friendly space in your own yard, you'll also be helping make native plants more accessible to others.

For every four plants sold through this partnership, My Home Park will add another one to a native plant garden jackpot, available for claim by one lucky BFG member. Last year we were thrilled to award 140 plants to a single BFG member to help expand their pollinator habitat project. Help us make this year's jackpot even bigger by shopping this sale! Stay tuned for details on how to apply after the sale ends April 30th.

[Shop the Collection](#)

### BFG Bonus Webinar



#### THINKING LIKE A BEE

"Thinking Like a Bee" moves beyond the basics to explore what solitary cavity-nesting bees physically require to thrive -- their life cycles, their vulnerabilities, and the science-based practices that make the difference between a bee habitat and a bee hazard.

Thursday April 23  
10PT/12CT/1ET  
Must Register to Receive Link

MEMBER WEBINAR



[Register](#)

### SAVE THE DATE for Earth Day! April 22, 2026



We are thrilled to share the 2026 Pollinator Poster, as well as our Earth Day Toolkit! [EarthDay.org](#) named "Our Power, Our Planet" the official theme for the 2026 celebration, acknowledging the collective power of individuals, communities, and grassroots initiatives for making meaningful progress towards a sustainable future.

Similarly, small pollinators make a big impact—on our food, our landscapes, and our future. When we stand up for the species that sustain us, we're also standing up for ourselves and the generations to come. From planting a single window box or seeding an entire meadow, you are helping create a better world for pollinators, people, and the planet. Check out all of our [Earth Day resources](#).



[Download the Earth Day Toolkit](#)

[Pre-Order 2026 Poster](#)

### International Compost Awareness Week



International Compost Awareness Week is May 3-9, 2026! Learn how to turn everyday food scraps into compost and use it to build a thriving pollinator garden. Composting keeps organic waste out of landfills, cuts methane emissions, and creates rich, chemical-free soil that supports bees, butterflies, and healthy ecosystems. It closes the loop from food to soil to new growth, right in your own garden. Let's Go Compost is a national nonprofit working across schools and communities to make composting affordable, accessible, and easy to implement. Learn how to compost and get free resources for schools, museums, libraries, and home gardeners at [letsgo compost.org](#).

### Notable Dates

- April - [National Native Plant Month](#)
- April - National Garden Month
- April 5-9 - National Wildlife Week
- April 14 - National Gardening Day
- April 17 - International Bat Appreciation Day
- April 22 - [Earth Day](#)
- [Pollinator Week](#) June 22-28

### Interested in writing an article for BFG?

We're always looking for content for our recurring columns "My Favorite Native Plant/Pollinator" [Tell us about your favorite native plant, why you love it, and what pollinators love it.] and "How Many Host Plants?" [Highlight what host plants you have included in your garden, as well as the pollinators that they support.]. We would love to feature you in an upcoming BFG newsletter! Simply email your response, along with a photo if possible, to [bfg@pollinator.org](mailto:bfg@pollinator.org).

### Less Than 3 Months Left to Transition Your BFG Membership



Now that we are using a different Customer Relations Management (CRM) software, what does that mean for BFG members? First, let's define each platform: *Bloomerang* is a donor management software that helps organizations like Pollinator Partnership keep track of donations and sponsorships. *Bloomerang Fundraising* (formerly QGiv) is Bloomerang's fundraising processor that allows us to receive online donations.

#1 If you use PayPal for your recurring annual Bee Friendly Gardening Membership payment, we encourage you to discontinue that payment and instead update your payment method to Bloomerang Fundraising. In Bloomerang Fundraising, you have the ability to choose the start date of your payment. Once you have made the switch, don't forget to cancel your recurring donation in PayPal.

#2 With Bloomerang Fundraising, donors can easily create and access their donor portal. This portal allows you to view your giving history, update payment information, and access tax receipts.

We need all of our supporters to switch your recurring donations over to Bloomerang Fundraising by July 1, 2026. Thank you for your incredible support. Your donations make a real impact for pollinators and their habitat!

[Switch to Bloomerang Fundraising](#)

### Bee Friendly Gardening is for Every Landscape! Be a part of the Bee Friendly movement.

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