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Bee Friendly Gardening™ A Program of Pollinator Partnership

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PARTNERSHII

Evolving a Community Garden into a Butterfly, Pollinator, and Bird Habitat

Scott Fink, WEAR President and Garden Caretaker, BFG Member



The Chicago neighborhood association, West Edgewater Area Residents (WEAR) is located on Chicago's northside in the Andersonville neighborhood and adjacent to the Union Pacific (UP) North Line railroad. Thirty years ago, the railway embankment was barren land strewn with trash. With the help of the city, WEAR signed a long-term lease with the UP Railroad to beautify the area and create the WEAR Garden. At the time, the city established the new Greencrop program, which provided financial and educational support for planning the new garden. The garden won numerous City Garden awards in those years.

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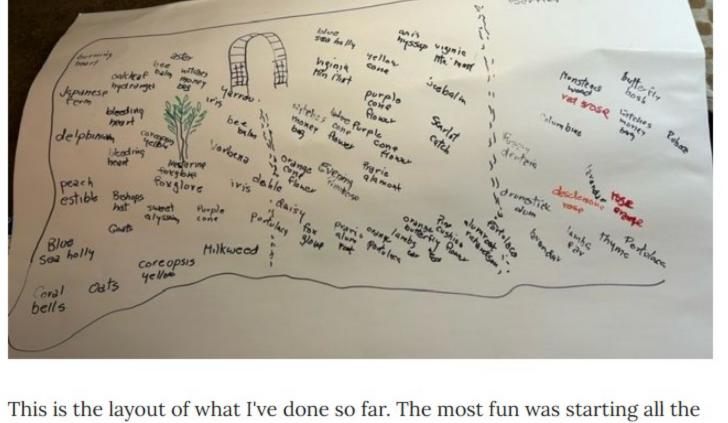
Bee Friendly Garden Spotlight

By Liz Ross, Chittenango, NY - BFG Member



bloom here, but every plant is specifically chosen for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Lots of coneflower, bee balm, catmint, butterfly bush [but please note that with few exceptions (B. utahensis, B. marrubifolia), Buddleia is invasive across much of North America and should be avoided], cup and saucer, etc. I use absolutely no chemicals and even make my own plant food from comfrey.

"This is the center section of my pollinator garden. Not everything is in



plants from seed in my basement two years ago. It makes the northern winters go by faster. I also have flowering trees such as apple, crabapple, and nectarine, along with raspberry. I was pleasantly surprised that the bees went crazy over my lambs ear that is planted across all three beds in front. The garden was buzzing all summer. I didn't even mind being stung twice.

Thank you for all that you do, and all that you teach us! Supporting

pollinators is a big part of that. I live in a pretty rural area, with a dairy farm down the street, so it's pretty easy. Lots of squirrels, possums, rabbits, and deer hanging out. I don't think anyone cares that I have "weeds" in my yard. The birds that come to my feeders drop wildflower seeds, and I let the milkweed do its thing. I have the sweetest smelling blossoms in my yard. I give much more credit to those people that live in the suburbs who try to do their part to support wildlife. They have too many lawn service chemicals to compete with."

Thank you to Liz for sharing information about her Bee Friendly Garden. We would love to see pictures of your garden. Email them to

bfg@pollinator.org.

Pollinator Steward Certification



training is open until December 31st! Register today to reserve your spot in this educational program offered only by Pollinator Partnership. PSC empowers people with the scientific know-how to make a real difference for pollinators, people, and the planet. Topics include an introduction to the wonderful world of pollinators, how they live and thrive, threats to pollinators, and how we all can help. Details will be provided on habitat creation for pollinators in many landscapes including parks, rights-of-way, urban gardens, and farms. Register at https://www.pollinator.org/psc.

Check out our new - and "friendlier" - <u>Bee Friendly Gardening website</u>. We have added a new Member benefit as well - now you get 20% off Pollinator

Member Updates

Partnership <u>consulting services</u>, if you want help building your BFG.

And as always, you have access to our BFG Members only <u>webpage</u> and <u>Facebook group</u>. We are at 98 members in the group now. That's 98 chances for garden inspiration! Let's try to get to 150 by the end of the year. With over 450 Members, this shouldn't be a problem. If we can hit 150 by

for garden inspiration! Let's try to get to 150 by the end of the year. With over 450 Members, this shouldn't be a problem. If we can hit 150 by December 31, I will select one BFG Facebook page member to win a BFG hat. Come check out the page and join us to get in on the pollinator gardening fun!



registered BFG, <u>what are you waiting for</u>? Now is the perfect time to sow your native perennial seeds to take advantage of the cold wet winter weather for optimal germination. Need seeds? <u>We have you covered!</u>

Notable Dates: • December 21 - Winter Solstice

- January 1 New Year
 January 5 National Bird Day
- January 5 National Bird Day
 January 28 National Seed Swap Day



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Brought to you by BFG - be a part of the Bee Friendly movement!