

Bee Friendly Gardening™ February 2023

Pollinator Week 2023 Logo Released

Check out the new Pollinator Week 2023 logo! This year we are featuring the unequal cellophane bee (Colletes inaequalis) foraging on willow (Salix sp.) emphasizing the importance of early blooming trees and shrubs for bees that emerge in the spring. Download the logo HERE. Speaking of willows, Laura Jach Smith, Pollinator Partnership's NRCS Pollinator Liaison in Wisconsin, wrote an excellent article on Pussy Willows.



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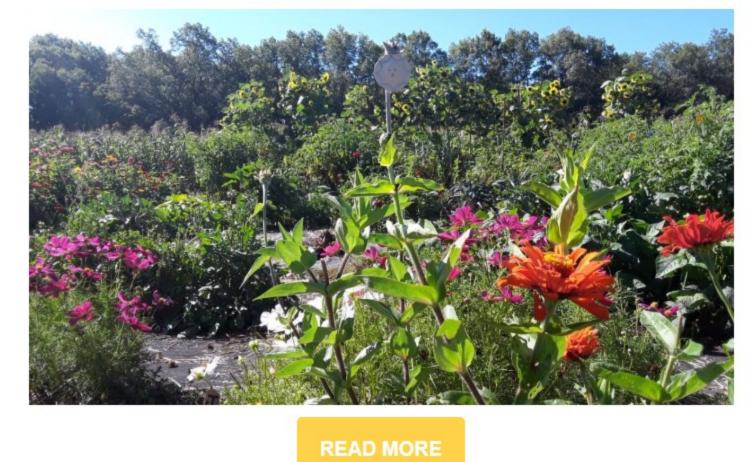
According to Laura, "when our earliest pollinators start to emerge in spring, there are scant food resources available. However, the Pussy Willow (Salix discolor, named for its similarity to a cat's paw), is a critical source of pollen when most fruit trees and early spring ephemerals are not yet blooming."

READ ARTICLE

Bee Friendly Community Garden Buzzing For 20+ Years!

By Connie Crancer - Pollinator Partnership's NRCS Pollinator Liaison in Michigan and Project Wingspan State Coordinator

What started with a handful of gardeners and a few garden plots at Scholl Farms in Montague, Michigan, has blossomed into a community garden with more than three dozen gardeners covering greater than 20,000 square feet. Why does Stu Scholl offer this opportunity of a community garden on his farm? "It's the right thing to do," he says.



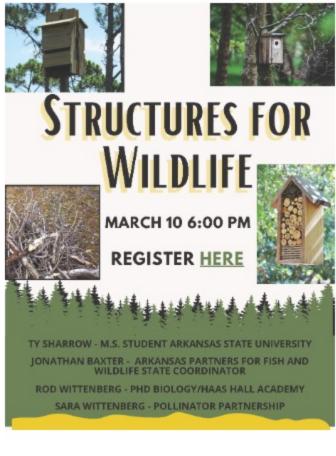
Partner Highlight: Free Seed Program for California and Oregon Landowners

The Monarchs and More Western Habitat Program provides regionally specific seed mixes, milkweed plugs when appropriate, and technical assistance for pollinator plantings on land in California and Southern Oregon for free or highly subsidized based on landowner need. The seed mixes include regionally-specific wildflowers, including annuals and perennials, designed with overlapping bloom periods throughout the growing season. We are excited to engage landowners and land managers in the establishment of self-sustaining native habitat to support all pollinators. Eligible projects are limited to sites that can dedicate a minimum of ¼ acre to pollinator habitat (which can be split up into different patches on one property). Visit this page to learn more and apply!



LEARN MORE

Upcoming Workshops and Presentations



Join Pollinator Partnership for a virtual presentation on installing structures for wildlife on your property. Live in the Northwest Arkansas area? We have two series coming up at the Bentonville Public Library you may be interested in:

<u>Urban Agriculture</u> + <u>Neighborhood</u>

<u>Gardening</u>

Check out these Bee Friendly Gardens! Here are some of our member's pollinator gardens. Feel free to email photos

you would like shared in upcoming newsletters to bfg@pollinator.org.









Notable Dates:

February - National Bird Feeding Month

February 21 - Pollinator Steward Certification begins

March 12 - Plant a Flower Day (go an extra step and

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March 14 - Learn About Butterflies Day

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 28 - National Weed Appreciation Day

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



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