



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.



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.



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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!

The 2023 - 2024 Monarchs and More Western Habitat Program is HERE!

Free or highly subsidized native wildflower seed mix, milkweed plugs, and technical assistance for establishing pollinator habitat in California and Southern Oregon!

Questions? [Contact Erin Arntsen: ark@monarchjointventure.org](mailto:ark@monarchjointventure.org)

Learn More & Submit Interest Form! <https://bit.ly/WesternHabitat>

[LEARN MORE](#)

Upcoming Workshops and Presentations

STRUCTURES FOR WILDLIFE
MARCH 10 6:00 PM
[REGISTER HERE](#)
TY SHARROW - M.S. STUDENT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
JONATHAN BAYTER - ARKANSAS PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE STATE COORDINATOR
ROD WITTENBERG - PHD BIOLOGY HAAS HALL ACADEMY
SARA WITTENBERG - POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

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:

[Urban Agriculture](#) + [Neighborhood Gardening](#)

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.



Photo by B Drake - Dallas, Texas



Notable Dates:

- February** - National Bird Feeding Month
- February 21** - [Pollinator Steward Certification](#) begins
- March 12** - Plant a Flower Day (go an extra step and make it a native [pollinator-friendly flower](#) for your region)
- March 14** - Learn About Butterflies Day
- March 20** - First Day of Spring
- March 28** - National Weed Appreciation Day

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



bfg@pollinator.org
415-362-1137
600 Montgomery Street, Suite 440
San Francisco, CA 94111

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