



Sara Wittenberg <PollinatorPartnership@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com>
to me

9:10 PM (2 minutes ago) ☆ ☺ ↶ ⋮

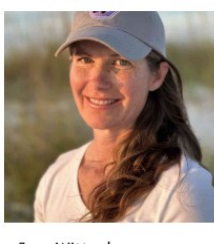


Bee Friendly Gardening™ Newsletter

Dear Sara

February brings a subtle shift—longer days, hints of light returning, and the quiet promise of spring just ahead. While our gardens may still be resting, pollinators are beginning to stir, and the choices we make now can help set the stage for a vibrant season to come. As we wait for warmer days, this is a perfect time to nurture hope, plan with purpose, and celebrate the life that will soon be buzzing back into our landscapes.

Happy gardening,



Sara Wittenberg
Bee Friendly Gardening Manager
Pollinator Partnership

Beyond Honey Bees: 10 Kinds of Bees You Might See in a Garden

David Cappaert, [Quamash EcoResearch](#)



If you hope to find 10 species of bees, you might think you need to visit an expansive nature preserve with a diversity of native flora. But this is not the case; you can find a surprising diversity of bee species in a small garden in any city, if there are a few carefully chosen native flower species for bees to visit. You can quickly check off the conspicuous honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and bumble bees (several species of *Bombus*). You can tell that these are bees because they are black and yellow and fuzzy. But to go further, you may need to reconsider assumptions about what a “bee” looks like. Most bee species are tiny, less than half the size of a honey bee. They may be shiny green or fuzzy brown. They may make nests in the ground or in hollow twigs. What they have in common is a diet of pollen and nectar (unlike most wasps), but some skip the flowers and find these resources in the nests of ... other bees. All told, there are more than 4,000 bee species in the United States.

This is part one of a three part series. Check back in March to learn more about butterflies.

[Read the full article](#)

A Bumble Bee Story

Helen Davis, bumble bee advocate

What’s the buzzzzzz.... Hopefully one of our native bumble bees! Without bumble bees and other native pollinators foraging within our yards and in nature, wildlife, birds and many plant species would not survive. One early spring I witnessed a queen bumble bee and a pair of chickadees fight over one of my backyard birdhouses. After a few days, the birds gave up, leaving behind one egg. The queen bumble bee, which I identified as a common eastern bumble bee (*Bombus impatiens*), stole the chickadee nest in which to build her small colony.



[Read the full article](#)

From Ivy to Abundance: A Slope in Transition

Margy Halpin



In spring 2025, the slow and steady work of removing English ivy began. What had long been a dense, invasive ground cover was carefully pulled back, opening space—both above and slightly below the ivy line shown here—for something new to take root. By the end of that very first growing season, the reward was clear: bees arrived, Lepidoptera arrived, and even Monarch butterflies found their way to this recovering slope.

The earliest native plantings in the BFG Waterview Cluster went into the ground in early 2025, shortly after sections of English ivy were removed. These first steps marked the beginning of a larger restoration effort, turning cleared patches into intentional habitat.



[Read the full article](#)

BFG Quarterly Member Webinar

Gardening for Pollinators: Soil Health Principles

March 20, 2026 at 1:00pm EST

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Presentation By:
Lacey Smith - Northeast Regional Partner Biologist, Pollinator Partnership

[Register](#)

Join me over at this course being offered by our partners - the Great Southeast Pollinator Census!

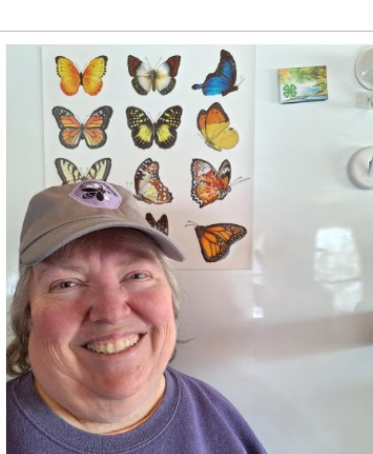
GREAT SOUTHEAST POLLINATOR COURSE

Ready to become a pollinator pro? If you love pollinators—or want to—this 7-week virtual course will transform the way you see your garden, greenspace, and the tiny creatures that power them. Led by experts in their insect fields, you will learn more, see more, and become a more confident Census counter!

| | |
|---|--|
| June 16th Carpenter Bees Dr. Bethany Harris & Whitney Ottinger | July 21st Flies & Wasps Dr. Scott Clem, Dr. Jason Schmidt, & Gabrielle LaTora |
| June 23rd Bumble Bees Avery Young & Becky Griffin | July 28th Beetles and other insects Dr. Joe McHugh Course Wrap-up |
| June 30th Butterflies Dr. Sonia Altizer & Jeremy Rhoden | Registration required. For more information: |
| July 7th Small Bees Dr. Kris Braman & Amanda Bratcher | July 14th Honey Bees Dr. Jamie Ellis & Bethany O'Rear |

GSEPC.org/course

[Sign Up](#)



Stacey Lutsey sporting her new BFG hat

[Get Your Own](#)

The Monarch Ultra

Our partner [Operation Pollination](#) shared this documentary. After a successful film festival run with honorable mentions and a couple of awards, The Monarch Ultra is now publicly available.

Director’s Statement: “As a filmmaker, I saw an opportunity to explore the parallel stories of the monarchs and the runners. During the 2019 relay run, runners not only traced the migration route of monarch butterflies but also experienced similar challenges that the monarchs face in their annual migration. The film covers the story behind the planning and execution of The Monarch Ultra and how this international relay run connects with environmental activism”. - Rodney Fuentes



[View the Film](#)

Your Feedback Can Improve Gardening Across North America!

Do you garden with native plants? The Institute for Applied Ecology would love to hear about your experience! Whether you’ve planted a small patch or reimaged your whole yard, your insights can help others create thriving habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

Our [short survey](#) (about 10 minutes) asks what worked well, what you’d improve, and what you’ve observed along the way.

Your feedback will help shape recommendations for gardeners across North America. A summary of results will be shared in early 2026 on the [Institute for Applied Ecology website](#).

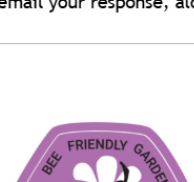
Notable Dates

- February 23-27 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- March 3 - World Wildlife Day
- March 12 - Plant a Flower Day
- March 14 - National Learn About Butterflies Day
- March 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
- March 20 - First Day of Spring
- March 21 - International Day of Forests
- March 28 - Earth Hour (<https://www.earthhour.org/>)
- March 28 - National Weed Appreciation Day

Interested in writing an article for BFG?

We’re always looking for content for our recurring columns “My Favorite Native” [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.

Bloomerang: What You Need to Know



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 payment 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 use the Bloomerang Fundraising platform. 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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