



## Bee Friendly Gardening™

March 2023

### Love the Ones You're With: Working with existing natives to create stellar pollinator habitat

By Jimmy Giannone - Pollinator Partnership's Ohio Biologist

You don't have to be an expert to get into native plants and to create awesome habitat for wildlife and pollinators in your yard or surrounding marginal lands. A couple of years ago, I was happy mowing acres of lawn. That low cut, uniform looking lawn was appealing to me at the time and I always helped my dad get rid of the dandelions which he referred to as "weeds". My interest in the outdoors seemed to be focused on larger wildlife, songbirds, and trees - the things that are pretty easy to see and identify. As I spent more time outdoors, I started to recognize and be intrigued by native plants. Once I started recognizing native plants, I noticed all of the pollinators that were utilizing them. It wasn't until 2 years ago that I realized that I could make a change and provide native plants for bees and pollinators in my landscape, yard, and marginal area, and that's when I completely changed my approach.



[READ ARTICLE](#)

### My Favorite Pollinator Plant

What is YOUR favorite pollinator plant? [Email](#) me with a photo of your favorite pollinator plant from your garden and tell me why it is your favorite, and it just may be featured in a future newsletter column - My Favorite Pollinator Plant. Sharing your experience and expertise can help us all improve our landscapes! A diverse floral landscape is essential for our pollinators.



Bee Friendly Gardening encourages incremental change to incorporate small improvements over time. Joanna Scott, Pollinator Partnership's Indiana NRCS Pollinator Liaison, says when asked about her favorite pollinator plant - "I have too many. But ONE of my favorites is Ratibida pinnata. Not only an excellent pollinator plant, but I think it looks gorgeous growing in a natural setting with its beautiful yellow drooping rays.



And just to add to its beauty, it has such a lovely scent- my favorite is to crush the seeds in my hands in the fall!" Sandy Chenal, Pollinator Partnership's Ohio NRCS Pollinator Liaison, offered "My favorite native forb is the butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa). I was a teenager the first time I saw it, and was introduced to it by a camp counselor. It stood out from everything else in the field with its bright orange!

I believe it was Aldo Leopold in the Sand County Almanac who said, "Once you can name something it is yours". From then on, I could identify it, and felt connected to it. Not until much later did I learn how important it and other milkweeds were to the Monarch Butterfly."

### New Member Benefits

[Bee Friendly Gardening Hat](#) - We are so proud of our new Bee Friendly Gardening hats! To snag your own, visit our members' only store.

[Bee Friendly Gardening Facebook Page](#) - We are also excited to announce our new Bee Friendly Gardening members only Facebook page! This will be a place for us to share with you, as well as a community forum for BFG members to share with each other. Please join us today!



[Bee Friendly Gardening Rack Card](#) -This is a great way to encourage people within your sphere to join in what we are doing here at BFG! Get them at the BFG Member store.

### The Great Gardens Conference: June 2-4 Hannibal, MO

The upcoming 3-day The Great Gardens Conference connects the dots between plants, wildlife, and home environmental entertainment. Be sure to check out Pollinator Partnership's Illinois NRCS Pollinator Liaison Eleanor Schumacher's talk about Project Wingspan and increasing pollinator habitat across the Midwest.



[LEARN MORE](#)

### Want to work with us?

WE'RE HIRING

WESTERN REGIONAL PARTNER BIOLOGIST

Help Oregon and other Western farmers support pollinators and other beneficial insects with native habitat.

Pollinator Partnership (P2) is looking for an experienced and passionate professional who possesses the skills and desire to provide technical assistance and educational support to landowners and producers in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

APPLY NOW

**Compensation and Benefits:**  
Beginning salary range is \$50-\$5,000, commensurate with experience. P2 provides a wide range of benefits including generous paid time off, medical insurance, and a flexible work environment.

**Location:**  
This position will ideally be based in eastern Oregon, primarily working remotely from a home office with occasional work from local USDA NRCS Field Office(s). Position will include occasional travel to farms and events throughout the West for field days, workshops, and outreach.

**POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP**

[APPLY TODAY](#)

### Notable Dates:

- March 20** - First Day of Spring
- March 28** - National Weed Appreciation Day
- April** - National Gardening Month
- April 5** - National Dandelion Day
- April 14** - National Gardening Day
- April 17** - International Bat Appreciation Day
- April 22** - Earth Day
- June 19-25** - [Pollinator Week](#)

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

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