

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Bee Friendly Gardening

A Program of Pollinator Partnership

October 2024



## How Our Town Created a Pollinator-Friendly Property Maintenance Ordinance (Part 2)

By Bonny McLaughlin Stitt, BFG Member



My involvement in West Fork City politics began with a phone call from a friend on December 27, just as I was preparing for a large family Christmas event. “Bonny, have you heard about the December City Council meeting? The mayor’s new proposal to revise the property maintenance ordinance? No? Well, you should probably watch the video clip of it that’s been posted on the garden club’s Facebook page. The mayor is proposing some pretty strict new guidelines for gardeners.” As I watched the video, I became increasingly alarmed. If this new ordinance passed, my plans for a more wildlife-friendly yard would become illegal overnight. And even if I gave up my new garden dreams, my current yard was already in violation of the proposed new ordinance.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Did you miss Part 1? [Check out last month's newsletter.](#)

## Pumpkin Chiffon Pie

Food is a basic human need, and without pollinators, humans would go hungry! Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, and small animals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. Pollinating animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies in a vital interaction that allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants. With pollinators in decline, our food is at risk. More than 200,000 species of pollinators are critical to the stability of our food supply. Enter, [Pollinator Friendly Cooking!](#) Use this cookbook to create culinary masterpieces that honor pollinators and the important work that they do! This month, we want to feature our seasonal Pumpkin Chiffon Pie. As we enter the holiday season and you make plans to entertain guests or nourish yourself with the gifts that nature provides, let’s remember the critical role pollinators play in bringing us some of our favorite holiday foods.



## North American Pollinator Protection Campaign



As you read this, many of the staff of Pollinator Partnership have just returned from Washington D.C. along with more than 170 diverse partners for our annual conference. The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) has a mission to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America by bringing together leading scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials, and more. Check out our [growing list of accomplishments](#). The heart of NAPPC is the [Task Forces](#) that work all year to accomplish very specific pollinator-related objectives. Stay tuned as we profile some of the work of these Task Forces in the coming months!

## You Asked/We Answered – Q&A

**Q:** I’ve been seeing bald-faced hornets in our yard for the first time. I am a little worried about their reputation for unprovoked aggression, but I don’t know how to safely discourage them. Are all pollens and nectars indiscriminate attractors of all pollinators?

**A:** Hornets have the reputation of being aggressive at all times. However, hornets usually only express aggressive behaviors when their colony is threatened and are rarely aggressive when foraging, unless the individual feels threatened. Hornets can be very protective of their nests and may attack if the nest is approached. Fortunately, most hornet nests are located high in trees or off of the ground so stumbling on one is rare. However, if a nest is located in a high-traffic area it may be advisable to remove it to avoid stings.

Different types of pollinators do tend to have different flower and plant preferences, which are called [Pollinator Syndromes](#). Some of the characteristics that affect a pollinator’s preferences are color, scent, and flower shape. While wasps and hornets may be visiting your flowers for a sip of nectar, it’s also likely that they are hunting and removing garden pests to feed to their young. As such, they can be a beneficial presence to a garden.

[Check out this link](#) to learn more about bald-faced hornets.

## How Do I...

Have you checked out our growing collection of [Quick Reference Guides](#)? From Bee Houses to Light Pollution to plants for supporting pollinators, we think you will find these printable documents to be great resources when looking for ways to promote pollinators.



## Bringing Back the Natives

20th Anniversary Conferences, featuring keynote speaker Doug Tallamy

In celebration of its 20th Anniversary the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, in partnership with the [Golden Gate Bird Alliance](#) and the California Native Plant Society’s [Santa Clara Valley Chapter](#), is delighted to present keynote speaker Doug Tallamy and presentations by regional changemakers at two separate conferences. Join us for one day—or both—the programs are different. Get your tickets [here](#).

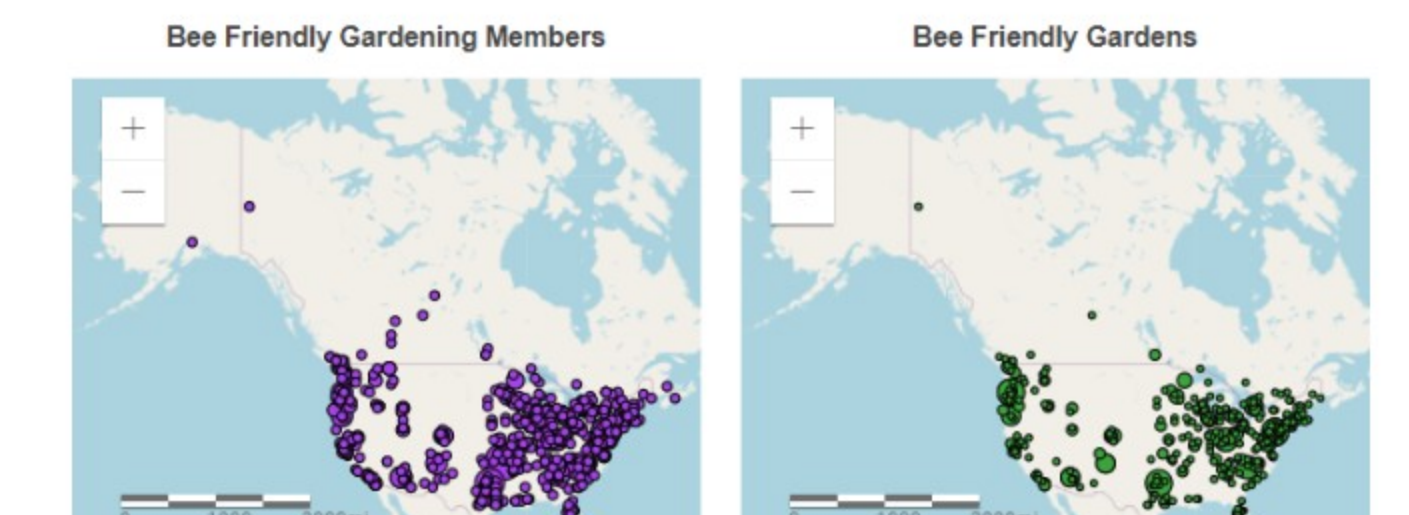
Saturday, Nov. 16, Oakland Museum’s James Moore Theater, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 17, Santa Clara University’s Mayer Theatre, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



## Love Bee Friendly Gardening?

Please help us meet our goals!



We set a goal to reach 1000 Members and 500 registered Bee Friendly Gardens by the end of 2024. We are getting close, but we need your help. You are our best ambassadors for the program, and we are counting on you to help us spread the word! Help us cover the continent with purple and green.

Talk to your friends and neighbors. Tell them about the [importance of pollinators](#), the [challenges they are facing](#), and the [little things we can all do](#) to help them, right in our own backyards. As a BFG Member, have you already registered your garden? If not, go ahead and take that step. If so, have you considered other spaces you have influence over in which you could install more habitat? Perhaps this graphic will inspire you to do more work in public places, encouraging others to take action.

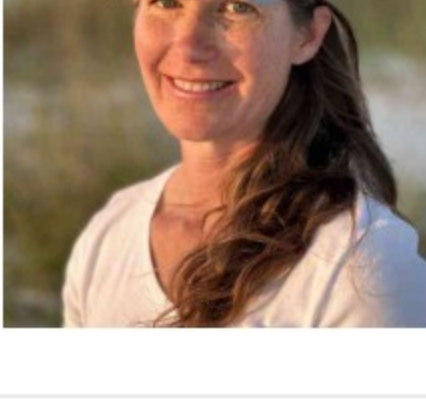


And don't forget to use your [Member badge](#) everywhere, as it makes a great conversation starter! Insert it in your email signature line, use it as your social media profile picture, post it everywhere in the hopes that someone will see and ask you what it means to be a Bee Friendly Gardener!

Finally – tell your friends when they sign up to say they found out about us from you. Refer three friends and earn a free Bee Friendly Gardening hat!



Thank you from Sara Wittenberg, your Bee Friendly Gardening Manager



## Notable Dates:

- October - National Leave the Leaves month
- October 24-31 - Bat Week
- October 31 - Halloween
- November 13 - World Kindness Day

Bee Friendly Gardening is for Every Landscape!  
Be a part of the Bee Friendly movement.



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

Copyright © 2024 Pollinator Partnership. All rights reserved.