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Thu, Oct 30, 1:29 PM ⭐ ↩ ⋮



Bee Friendly Gardening™ Newsletter

Dear Sara

October has arrived, bringing cooler days, crisp leaves, and a touch of spooky charm to our gardens. While the season winds down, there's still plenty of life buzzing beneath the surface—pollinators finding shelter, seeds settling in for next spring, and nature preparing for a well-earned rest. As you enjoy the magic of fall, remember that leaving a little “wild” in your garden can give pollinators a cozy place to weather the season.

Happy gardening,



Sara Wittenberg
Bee Friendly Gardening Manager
Pollinator Partnership

The HEAL Project: Cultivating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

Celebrating 20 Years of Outdoor Science Education in San Mateo County

Emily Cheng, Program Director at The HEAL Project



In 2025, The HEAL Project (Health, Environment, Agriculture, and Learning) is celebrating 20 years of growing gardens—and growing minds. What began in 2005 with a vision to connect students with the natural world through school gardens has blossomed into a dynamic, community-driven nonprofit bringing hands-on environmental education to thousands of young people in San Mateo County. For more than two decades, The HEAL Project has introduced students to pollinators and produce, composting and climate action—all while cultivating curiosity, empathy, and respect for the land.

[Read the full article](#)

Appalachian Bee Friendly Garden

A pollinator habitat, recently established as a Bee Friendly Garden, nestled within the mountains of Hurricane, West Virginia

Hailey Saxton, West Virginia State University 4-H Youth Development Student Worker, Senior Agribusiness Major, 1890 Scholar

Upon receiving information, education, and resources related to pollinators, West Virginia State University 4-H Student Worker, Hailey Saxton, along with community volunteers jumped into action to implement a pollinator habitat in her hometown of Hurricane, West Virginia. Nestled within the Meeks Mountain Trails at the Hurricane City Park in Hurricane, WV, this garden has continued to thrive and attract pollinators, such as bees and butterflies since its establishment in 2023.



[Read the full article](#)

BFG Ambassadors

MEET A BFG AMBASSADOR

LYNDEE WOLF

📍 ONTARIO

As a Certified Pollinator Steward and BFG Ambassador, Lyndee leads a community-led volunteer pollinator habitat restoration project (Kanata North Regeneration Stewards - KN Regens), for the Ottawa Stewardship Council on public lands in Ontario, Canada.

OSC-KN Regens are slowly transforming sections of noxious weeds and invasive plant species into wonderfully rich mini-meadows, filled with colourful native wildflowers for bees, butterflies, birds, and people to enjoy. They also have two demonstration garden projects.

This highly visible garden is located beside a busy public walking path. Volunteers are on hand often, through formal events and casual conversations, to engage and educate the community. You can visit the garden (stop #5) and related environmental stewardship projects virtually through the Ottawa Stewardship Council's Environmental Stewardship Tour: <https://www.ottawastewardship.org/environmental-stewardship-tour/>



Interested in becoming a BFG Ambassador? [Check out the criteria](#) and [apply for the badge](#) on the member webpage!

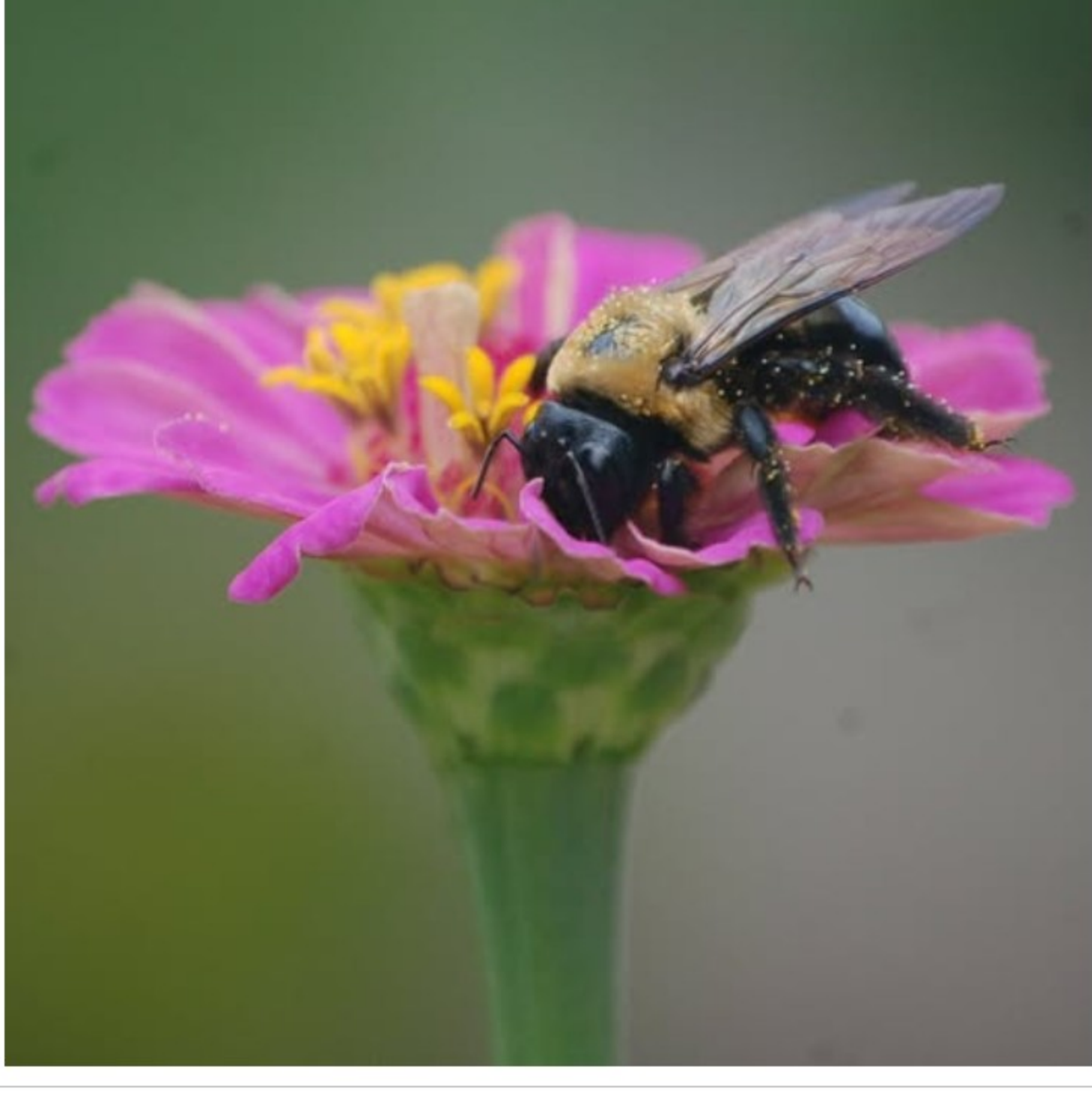
[Apply for badges](#)

Pollinator Communications Task Force

The Pollinator Communications Task Force works to create and share relevant, thoughtful, engaging and hopeful communications campaigns around the conservation of pollinators and their importance to our ecosystems. NAPPCC's (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign) mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America, and brings together a growing, collaborative body of more than 170 diverse partners including respected scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials, and dedicated volunteers. The goal for this task force centers on elevating the work of the pollinator community at large (including other NAPPCC Task Forces) and to educate the public on the importance of pollinators. The Pollinator Communications Task Force recently concluded the fourth annual [Pollinator Week Bioblitz](#) to encourage a surge of data on the distribution of pollinators across the US, Canada, and Mexico during Pollinator Week. Stay tuned for more information on the 2026 Pollinator Week Bioblitz! This task force also publishes an ongoing [Conservation Spotlight Article](#) series featuring inspirational stories that cover a wide range of pollinator projects across North America. Check out the highlighted projects for inspiration, hope, and to build your own understanding of pollinator conservation issues.

And the Winner Is...

The winner of the very first Bee Friendly Gardening photo contest is Cassie Franklin with The Bee & Bee. The competition was fierce, as we had 27 amazing entries. Congratulations Cassie!





Applications are open for Monarch Watch's 2026 Free Milkweeds programs!

Our **Free Milkweeds for Restoration Projects** and **Free Milkweeds for Schools & Non-Profits** programs award free milkweeds to qualified applicants, and through these programs, **more than 1 million milkweed plants** have been planted in restored habitats and gardens across much of the monarch breeding range. We're excited to continue partnering with people around the country to create monarch habitat. **Spread the word about this opportunity with your community!**



[More Information](#)

Notable Dates

- October - National Leave the Leaves month
- October 24-31 - Bat Week
- November 13 - World Kindness 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 and QGiv: 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. 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 [update your payment method](#) to QGiv. In QGiv, you have the ability to choose the start date of your payment. Once you have made the switch, don't forget to [cancel](#) your recurring donation in PayPal.

#2 With QGiv, 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 encourage all of our supporters to browse our new giving platform and consider switching your recurring donations over to QGiv. Thank you for your incredible support, your donations make a real impact for pollinators and their habitat!

[Switch to QGiv](#)

Bee Friendly Gardening is for Every Landscape!

Be a part of the Bee Friendly movement.

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