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Bee Friendly Gardening™

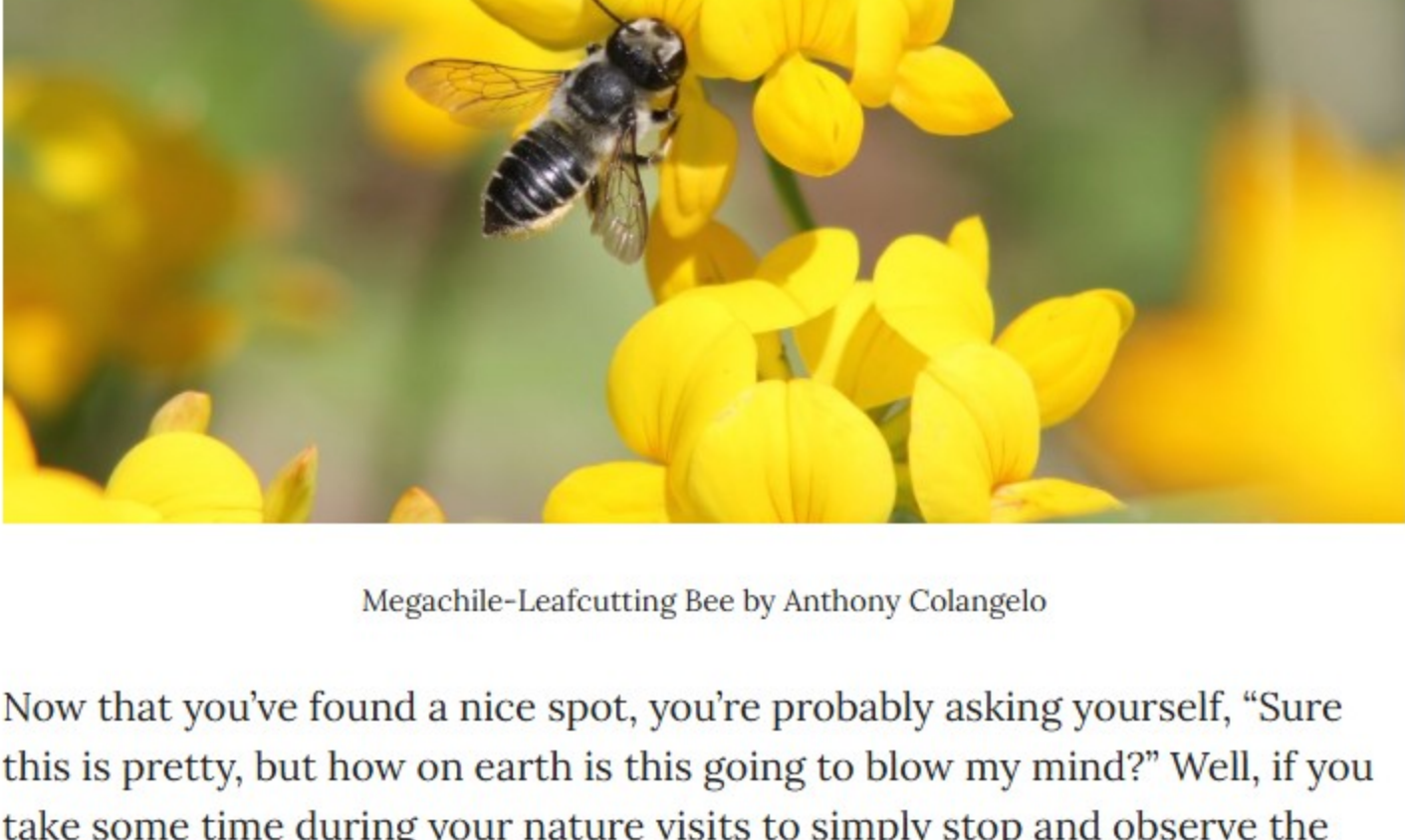
A Program of Pollinator Partnership

September 2023

Learning How To Identify Bees!

Amber Barnes – Conservation Program Manager, Pollinator Partnership

Do you want to have your mind blown? Yes? Then I suggest you step outside on a sunny, comfortably warm day, and spend some time in a native wildflower garden or blooming field. Better yet, make periodic visits to that same area at different times of the day, throughout the year!



Megachile-Leafcutting Bee by Anthony Colangelo

Now that you've found a nice spot, you're probably asking yourself, "Sure this is pretty, but how on earth is this going to blow my mind?" Well, if you take some time during your nature visits to simply stop and observe the wildlife surrounding you, what you will begin to notice is that there is an entire busy, bustling world going on that we rarely give a second thought.

Not only will you observe pollinators at work, but you'll also get a glimpse of the intricacies of these plant-pollinator interactions and the web of life that they support. The beauty, diversity, and connectivity represented in this tiny piece of nature is mind blowing, if you take a moment examine the community of interactions. After a little while, you may begin to really appreciate the hard, dangerous work that goes into pollination and the suite of life that depends on the presence of our bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, birds, bats, and other pollinating animals.

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A Well-Placed Sign May Be All You Need

So often we get inquiries about how to handle well-meaning neighbors who oppose a carefully crafted pollinator garden that may not look as tidy as they believe it should. Many pollinator gardens delight passersby when they are in full summer bloom, but can start to look less appealing as petals drop and stems turn brown.



P2's Pollinator Habitat Specialist's California BFG in early summer (left) and early fall (right)

One way to create a more traditionally 'tidy' looking garden is to do some trimming. Stems can be cut to varying heights of 8-24" to create habitat for stem nesting bees, and fallen leaves can provide necessary shelter from the elements for overwintering caterpillars. Consider [purchasing](#) a sign for your Bee Friendly Garden to let your neighbors know that this seemingly unruly patch is actually an intentionally curated pollinator garden!



[PURCHASE SIGN](#)

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

Shannon Farmer, NAPPCC Coordinator

If you have been involved with Pollinator Partnership or Bee Friendly Gardening for a while you may have heard whispers of the NAPPCC program. NAPPCC stands for North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, and it's an initiative of Pollinator Partnership that is focused on connecting interested parties from diverse backgrounds to come together to work on pollinator-related tasks for the benefit of North American pollinators.



NAPPCC hosts a conference in Washington, DC every year to connect people from across multiple sectors to find creative solutions for pollinator conservation. Our ultimate goal is to create meaningful connections and invite discussion from experts across multiple disciplines in North America.

We have 10 unique task forces that focus on different pollinator-related topics, and every year our conference allows the task forces to choose a work plan to accomplish a goal related to that task force in a year's time. Sometimes those task forces give grants to researchers dedicated to honey bee health or bumble bee research. Task forces may focus on creating educational content to share with the public about important pollinator conservation issues, such as pesticide education, or climate change and its impacts on pollinators. There are a variety of perspectives that come to the table in order to both provide and gain insight from other accomplished scientists and passionate pollinator protectors.



NAPPCC also gives out awards to phenomenal pollinator advocates around North America. Part of our conference is a reception where we recognize the efforts of Pollinator Advocates, Farmer-Ranchers, Electric Power Companies, and Roadside awards to recognize the important contributions of these individuals and organizations across the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

The 2023 NAPPCC Conference will be held at the US Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC October 17-19 (with a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person). Consider attending our [Conference](#) or nominating someone you know for next year's [NAPPCC Awards](#). You are always welcome to send any inquiries to me or my colleagues about NAPPCC to nappcc@pollinator.org. We are grateful for your contributions to our Bee Friendly Gardening Program, and look forward to working with you in the future!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Demystifying Hummingbird Vision - Do you really need a garden full of red to attract hummingbirds?

Pareesay Afzal, Summer Science Journalism Intern - Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Everyone loves the airborne burst of shimmering colors that is a hummingbird. There are many reasons why you may want them in your yard—not only do they flaunt magical, iridescent colors, but their slender bills are wonderful for carrying pollen from flower to flower, as well as feeding on insects. Many guides to lure these birds into your garden have an intriguing emphasis on the color red - some of which are harmless (display red flowers, create red feeders), while others we definitely do not recommend as they can cause harm to the birds (hanging red ribbons on bushes and trees, [adding red food coloring](#) to homemade nectar).

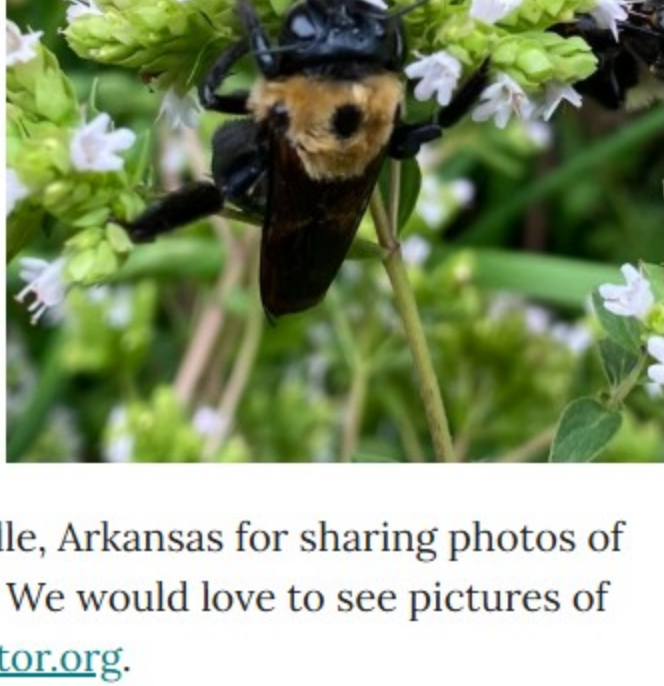
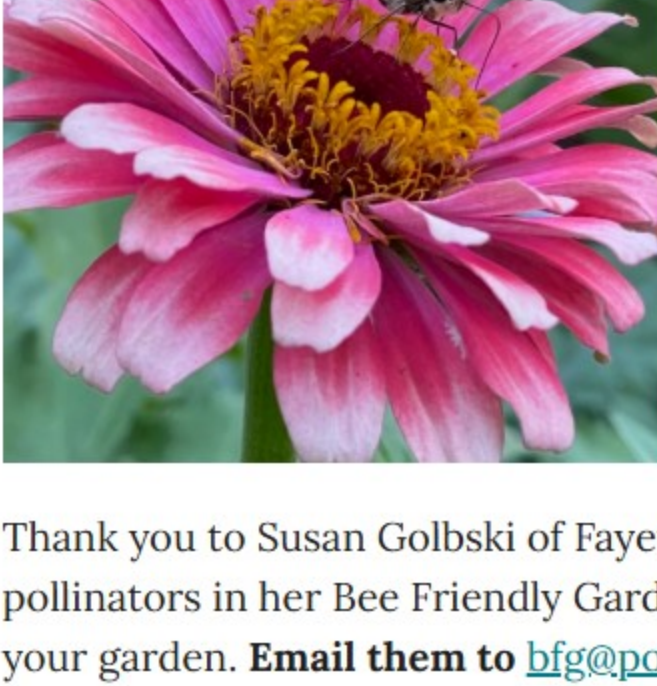
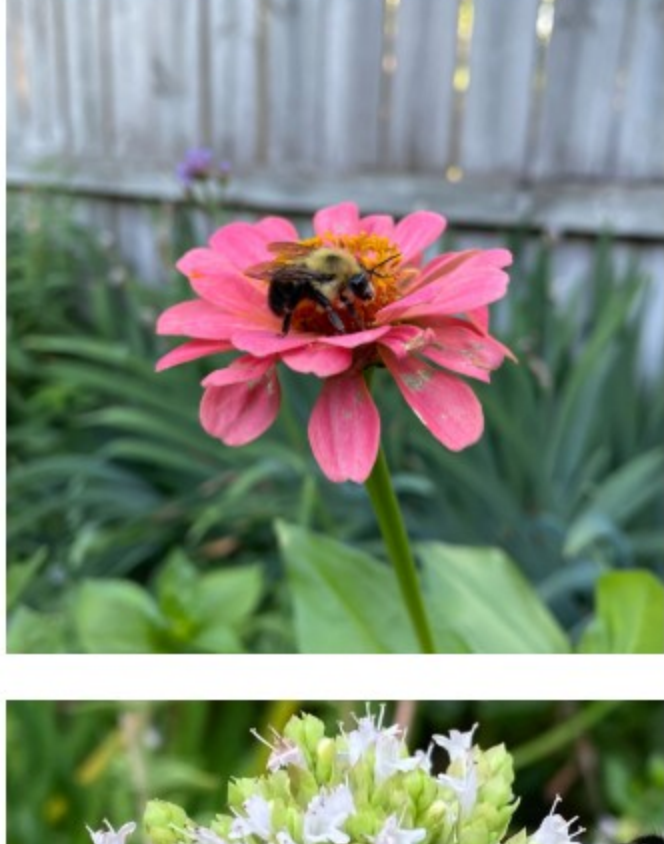
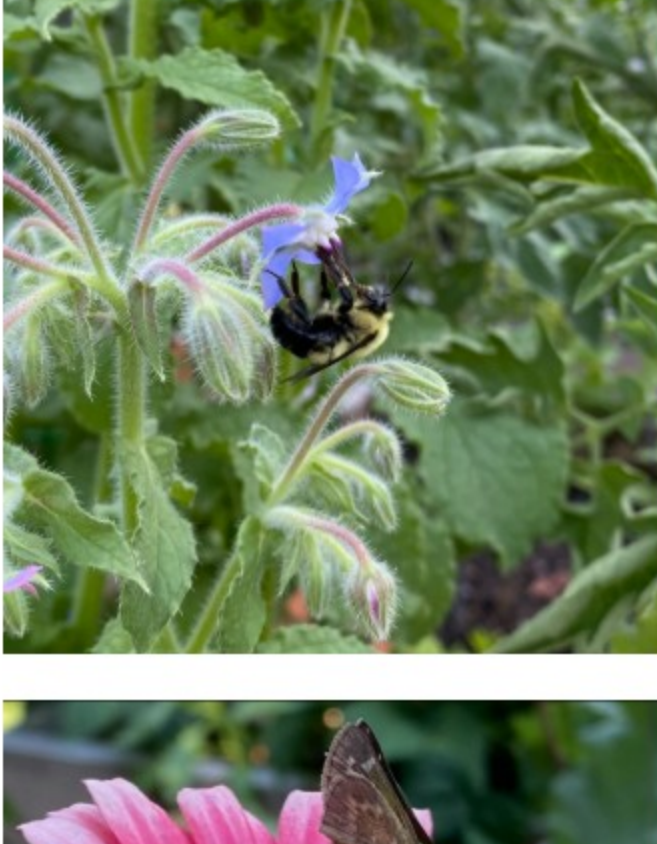


A hummingbird and bees visit a feeder. (Courtesy Mary Jane Gagnier, Macaulay Library ML12742355)

So, how real is the red rave? Observations and controlled research alike show that there is some truth to the assertion that red and shades of red (orange, pink) are hummingbird classics. In fact, hummingbirds wandering into raspberry fields and consequently eating the invasive fly, spotted wing drosophila, has brought about a berry industry [revival](#) in New York. Gardens full of cardinal, petunia, fuschia, and honeysuckle flowers have been a tried and tested way of catching these birds' attention. However, research has shown that hummingbirds will select flowers based on nectar quality and composition over color (Stiles 1976).

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Bee Friendly Garden Spotlight



Thank you to Susan Golbski of Fayetteville, Arkansas for sharing photos of your garden. We would love to see pictures of your garden. **Email them to** bfg@pollinator.org.

[EMAIL BFG](#)

Notable Dates:

- September** – National Honey Month
- September 23** -National Public Lands Day
- September 23** – First Day of Fall
- October 17-19** – NAPPCC Conference
- October 24-31** – Bat Week
- October 28** – National Make a Difference Day
- October 31** – Halloween

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



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