



Bee Friendly Gardening™ Newsletter

Dear Sara

As we welcome September, the shift into fall is beginning to show in our gardens. Blooms are winding down, seed heads are forming, and pollinators are busy preparing for the colder months ahead. This is a wonderful time to appreciate the beauty of autumn and to think about simple ways we can support pollinators as the seasons change.

Happy gardening,



Sara Wittenberg
Bee Friendly Gardening Manager
Pollinator Partnership

Boy Scout Pollinator Garden

by Carter Kunz



My name is Carter Kunz, and I am a Scout in Troop 111 based in Arlington, VA. After earning the rank of Eagle Scout in May 2024, I dedicated the past year-and-a-half to completing my second Distinguished Conservation Service Award (DCSA) project. The DCSA is Scouting's highest conservation honor, earned by only about 1,200 Scouts in more than 100 years. Its rarity is due to the difficulty and time required: it requires the scout to plan, lead, and document two major conservation projects focused on topics like invasive species control, pollinator habitats, or water conservation, including pre- and post-project monitoring to measure impact.

[Read the full article](#)

Bee-Friendly Garden Builds Community in Alberta

BFG Member Ashley Livingston exemplifies what it means to be a BFG Ambassador. Not only does she have a registered BFG in her own yard, but she decided to use her talents to create a pollinator garden at a home that serves individuals with disabilities. She used her connections to teach the staff and residents about gardening for pollinators and the importance of habitat to their well-being. "I had been chatting and teaching them (staff and individuals in the home) about BFG and what a pollinator garden can look like in their home and what it all means," Ashley said. She was thrilled when she asked if she could work together with them to create their very own BFG.



[Read the full article](#)

BFG Ambassadors

MEET A BFG AMBASSADOR

REBECCA CANNADAY

VIRGINIA

Our local schools joined together to put on an environmental themed program for some of our students in 3rd-12th grades. I was asked to lead a station building bee houses. I ended up making bee house kits from scratch after the kits they ordered were not proper sized bee houses.

We discussed bees and wasps who might use the houses while we build them. We also talked about where to put them up, as well as care.

Students took their houses back to their schools for placement and to continue monitoring them.

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

[Apply for badges](#)

Pesticide Education Task Force

The [NAPPC Pesticide Education Task Force](#) is one of several collaborative groups under the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), a coalition of more than 170 partners working to protect pollinators across North America. While this Task Force addresses a wide range of pesticide-related topics, from research and policy to outreach and education, this spotlight highlights resources that will be especially helpful for our Bee Friendly Gardening audience.

Whether you're tackling weeds or managing mosquitoes, even small-scale pesticide use can impact pollinators. The Task Force's newly created [Pesticide Education page](#) features practical, pollinator-friendly tools to help you make informed choices in your own yard, including:

Understanding pesticide labels - why labels matter and how to interpret them

How to read a label - a step-by-step guide in simple terms

Mosquito reduction tips - safe, effective strategies for homeowners and HOAs that protect both people and pollinators

Outreach brochure - easy-to-share handouts for friends and neighbors

You'll also find plenty of ideas for natural alternatives to support pollinator health.

Explore more on the [P2 website](#), or visit the [Task Force page](#) to learn about their broader efforts. And don't forget, you can also browse Pollinator Partnership's [Store](#) for educational materials like handouts, signage, and pamphlets to share in your community!

Tips for Homeowners

Pollinator-Friendly Mosquito and Tick Control

With advanced planning and local knowledge, you can protect people and pollinators from mosquitoes and ticks that vector disease without harming the pollinators in the process.

Bee Careful with Pesticides

- Use insect repellents on your body and clothes instead of spraying your yard
- Try not to use pesticides during daytime, when bees and butterflies are active
- Ask your city or county about vector control for public health, know what to expect when mosquitoes and ticks are on the rise

Check your Yard

low cost and effective

- Remove water that mosquitoes and ticks need to reproduce. Check for standing water, especially after rains (Buckets, toys, etc.)
- Remove invasive plants that harbor ticks and replace with: native and pollinator friendly plants that are attractive to bees and butterflies instead of mosquito and ticks
- Plant native plants that are attractive to bees and butterflies! <https://www.pollinator.org/guide>

Know your beneficial insects and animals

- Attract garden visitors that keep pests down.
- Spiders, mantises, dragonflies, birds, bats, and more!
- Pesticides can harm helpful animals, read and follow labels carefully
- Consider biocontrol products that can reduce pests like mosquitoes and ticks and can be less impactful to the environment.

[More Resources](#)

Notable Dates

- September - National Honey Month
- October - National Leave the Leaves month
- October 21-23 - NAPPC conference (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign)
- October 24-31 - Bat Week

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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