

Green Notes



JUNE 2022

What is a Pollinator?

A pollinator is a type of organism that feeds off of flowering plants. They visit open flowers and eat nectar and pollen, and in the process, they transfer small amounts of pollen from one flower to another. This fertilizes the plant, allowing it to produce more flowers and produce crops. Bees and butterflies are certainly among the list of pollinators, however pollinators include many more insects. Flies, wasps, moths, and beetles pollinate, as well as many birds, and small mammals, including bats!

Why are Pollinators Important?

It is estimated that 75% to 95% of flowering plants on Earth need pollinators. Roughly one third of the food we eat requires pollinators to grow. Numerically, they provide around 20 billion dollars worth in products each year!



This month's Green Notes content provided by Green Team members:
Lake Katherine Nature Center

Pollinator Week June 20th-26th



Pollinators love dandelions and clover! Consider leaving these plants in your yard for them to enjoy. Or, if they need to be removed, avoid pesticide use that could injure bees and other pollinators looking for nectar and pollen.



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What Can You Do to Help Pollinators?

- Create habitat. Leaving dandelions and clovers provides food in an otherwise pollen-barren lawn. Planting native species can also greatly help local pollinator populations. Not all plants are the same, however, so choose from this list, keeping in mind the scientific name:
 - <https://bit.ly/3tVBzse>
- Minimize pesticide use.
- Remember that not only bees and butterflies are pollinators. Wasps, flies, and small mammals, that may be considered a nuisance, are just as important.
- Spread the word about how important pollinators are to the environment, agriculture, and the economy.
- Keep learning! Visit sites such as:
 - Pollinator.org
 - Xerxes.org
- Visit natural spaces, like Lake Katherine, to increase your appreciation and love for the natural world.

In next month's Green Notes:
Green Gatherings