

Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair
 Jane Hankins - Vice Chair
 Beth McClain - Secretary
 Ken Strait - Liaison to
 Land Use Board
 Burt Doremus
 Marion Carl
 Cheryl Lalancette

Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Newsletters are available on the township website and the township Facebook page. Printed copies available in the municipal building.

Additional Resources for this edition :

www.usda.gov- Pollinators- Strategic Pollinator Priorities Report

www.pollinator.org -Pollinator Partnerships.

Tracking Pollinators

Why Track Your Garden Pollinators?

As you may be aware the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission is in the process of creating a pollinator garden behind the West Cumberland Senior Center on 10 Cassidy Court. It is a project that we hope will get individuals and/or groups interested in creating more pollinator gardens around the township. It will serve as working garden for pollinator observation. If you are interested in learning more about it please contact the HTEC @ the municipal building.



Pollinators are important to the ecological survival function. Without pollinators, the human race and all of earth's terrestrial ecosystems would not survive. Of all the plants that produce all of our food and plant-based industrial products, almost 80% require pollination by animals. Pollinators are not just limited to bees - bats, birds, butterflies and other flying insects are pollinators too. You may have heard that bees are disappearing and bats are dying in alarming numbers. These and other animal pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants all have contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators. Pollinators that can't find the right quantity or quality of food (nectar and pollen from blooming plants within flight range) don't survive. Right now there simply aren't enough pollinator friendly plants to support pollinators.

So how can one help? If everyone - home owners, local and national governments, and private industry made the effort we could change the future for pollinators and secure our own future by providing food for the world. That is the reason that the environmental commission is undertaking this project for our community. We encourage you to participate as well by creating a pollinator garden, by volunteering with organizations that are working on the issue, and by sharing information. When we share planting and pollinator information with others i.e. neighbors, friends, families, the larger the community - positive results may multiply quickly. Observation and sharing connects the dots between knowledge and action.

Tracking your Garden: Listed below are some steps to help you observe your garden and record and share information:

Start simply and be patient - build on what you know and be willing to learn, grow and change

Find information on how to plant and what to plant in your garden - keep a list to share with others, find out what works and what doesn't work as well

Create cost savings, buying plants that work best or sharing plants and seeds with others

Build relationships with others interested in pollinators and gardening in your area

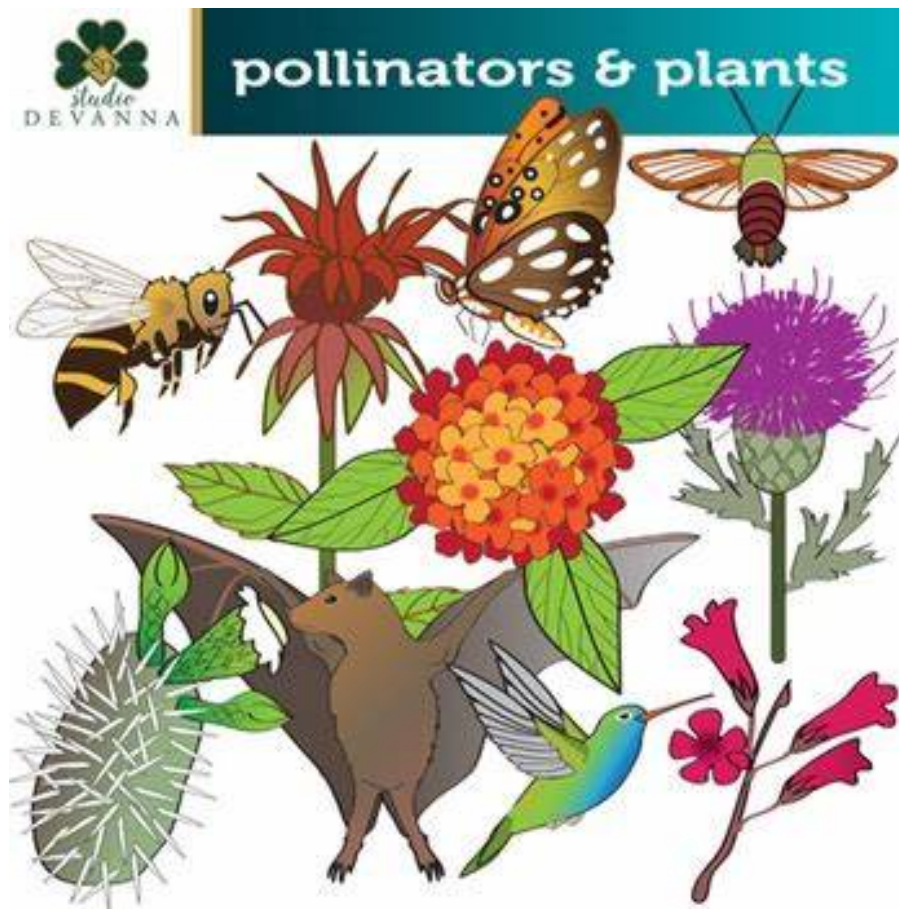
Provide information and photos you can contribute to citizen projects

Eliminate Pesticides or treated seeds and plants - buy native species

Be willing to change as you learn more about who are your pollinators and how to support them

Accept limitations - you won't identify every pollinator you track in a season, some never. It's okay they're there.

A wonderful resource guide for tracking pollinators is *I Spy! Who's Using My Garden (A pollinator garden workbook)* Copyright 2019 by Katy Pye.



Now is the best time to plan and prep for your garden for next year.