

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Wilton Launches A “Pollinator Pathway” To Bring Back Bees And Butterflies

By Jackie Algon

Wilton residents have the opportunity to use their own backyards to make an environmental impact by joining the new Pollinator Pathway. Spearheaded by several conservation organizations including NRWA, the program aims to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along two continuous corridors in Wilton.

The initiative will lift-off April 18th with a presentation at the Wilton Library about what pollinators are, why they are important and how we can create a positive environment for them. Come learn which plants to use, where to get them, and how to plant them. Join the Pathway by pledging to create a pollinator-friendly space on your property--as small as a container to as large as a meadow--and to use pest management techniques that do not require pesticides to control insects or weeds. While two swaths of Wilton have been earmarked as Pollinator Pathway, all residents are encouraged to participate. The initiative is modeled after one started in Norway by a woman who created a “bee highway” through Oslo. With success, adjacent towns will join, too.



The Pollinator Pathway Logo

Wilton artist, Paige Lyons, designed the logo, which shows the town map in green and the configuration of the “Y” shaped pathway in purple.

**Follow the Pathway on Facebook
@WiltonPollinatorPathway**

Thanks to All Who Joined Us for An Early Spring Walk in Belknap Preserve



Thank You To Our Generous Donors!

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St. Luke's School, New Canaan—Meeting Space
Wilton Library—Meeting space

NRWA Annual Meeting Will Feature A Talk on “Preserving Plum Island”
Monday, May 22nd 7PM, Ridgefield Library



Photographs courtesy of Robert Lorenz.

Featured Native Plant: Mountain Mint

By Elizabeth Craig

Mountain Mint is the Northeastern Pollinator Plant of the Year for 2017. Long blooming, from late June through August, Mt. Mint produces an abundance of nectar to support butterflies, bees and moths. It grows to 2' to 3' high, likes full sun to part shade and grows in wet to dry soils. Deer, rabbits and rodents will not bother this plant due to its strong mint smell. It's easy to grow from seed and needs little to no care once established. If you have a vegetable garden, plant Mt. Mint nearby. It will attract many bee species that will help increase your garden's yield. There are over 20 native species, and all are good garden plants. Two favorites are Hairy Mt Mint (*Pycnanthemum verticillatum*) and Narrowleaf Mt



SPRING EVENTS

NRWA and Woodcock Nature Center co-sponsor the *Community Conservation Initiative*, a series of educational talks paired with conservation action

Tuesday, April 11, 7PM
Vernal Pools: The Jewels of Ridgefield's Forests
Register at RidgefieldLibrary.org

Saturday, April 15, 10-noon
Vernal Pools Walk
Register at WoodcockNatureCenter.org

Tuesday, April 18, 7-8:30PM
Wilton Pollinator Pathway: How to Bring Butterflies and Bees Back to Your Yard
Register at WiltonLibrary.org

Sunday April 30, 9:30-12:30
Help Plant A Pollinator Garden Along the Norwalk River Valley Trail
Register at info@norwalkriver.org

Saturday, May 28, 10-1
Expert Lecture & Guided Walk: What's Fun about Fungi?
Register at WoodcockNatureCenter.org

New Trail Maps April 30th!
Trails of the Norwalk River Valley And Vicinity
Available at NRWA events or at Norwalkriver.org

For a full listing of events and to join online, visit norwalkriver.org

Membership Form

Becoming a member helps NRWA continue to protect local water quality, hiking trails and natural habitats.

| Riparian Society | Membership |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Steward \$1,000+ | Supporter \$50-\$99 |
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My company has a matching gift program (company name)

Enclosed is my tax deductible Annual Membership gift of \$_____.

Please make check payable to NRWA, Inc. and mail to NRWA, Inc. P.O. Box 197, Georgetown, CT 06829

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to receive updates and events info. My email is _____

News Briefs

Connecticut Restricts Pesticide Linked To Bee Deaths But It Still May Show Up In Your Nursery

Last summer Connecticut became the first state to restrict the use of Neonicotinoids, pesticides that have been linked to declines in bee populations. Plants and seeds treated with the pesticide may still be available for purchase, though. Ask your nursery to provide native, pollinator-friendly plants that are free of pesticides. And thank your state representatives for leading the way in helping to save the bees!



Important Environmental Laws Before The CT Legislature This Session

2017 bills address issues including banning fracking waste disposal (including use as a de-icer on roads), open space protection, access to public water data, water management transparency, updates to the bottle bill and a possible ban on single use plastic bags. This legislative session lasts until June 7. Check your representative's environmental scorecard compiled by CT League of Conservation Voters at ctlv.org. Follow us on Facebook for updates and advocacy alerts.

New Water Quality Reports

Available at Norwalkriver.org/water-quality-reports/

Avoid buying plants and products containing the pesticides, neonicotinoids, which are linked to the decline in bee populations.

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NORWALK RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. Box 197, Georgetown, CT 06829
www.norwalkriver.org

The Norwalk River Watershed Association works to improve the water quality and fish and wildlife habitats of the 40,000-acre Norwalk River Watershed including Ridgefield, Redding, Wilton, Weston, Norwalk, New Canaan & Lewisboro.