

Butterflies, Bees, and Pollinators, Oh My!

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Pollinators in Season

The garden is planted, the school year has ended, and everyone is starting to enjoy summertime activities as the days warm up.

While the calendar says that summer *officially starts* on June 21st, nature starts sooner: flowers and trees are in bloom, bees and butterflies begin to emerge. Birds are building nests and raising their young. And as summer unfolds, it's important to remember the vital role of pollinators.

It's safe to say that we cannot live without pollinators: they play an important role in our natural world as well as our daily lives. We have pollinators to thank for the foods we eat, the plants we need to survive, and even some of the medicines & herbs we take in order to remain healthy.

Pollinators are celebrated during **National Pollinator week**, observed this year from June 18-24, 2018.



What is pollination? What are pollinators?

Pollination occurs when pollen grains travel between two flowers of the same plant species, or within a single flower —by wind or animals. In some cases, successful pollination of plants may require multiple pollinators to visit a single flower. Successful pollination results in healthy fruit or fertile seeds allowing plants to reproduce.

Up to 80% of all flowering plants rely on pollinators, and over 200,000 species of animals act as pollinators. Pollinators include bats and other small mammals, hummingbirds, beetles, bees, ants, butterflies, wasps, and moths. *Did you know that without these pollinators many plants wouldn't exist?*



The Role of Pollinators

Animal pollinators play an important role in our lives, and provide many of the foods we eat, products we use, as well as medicines we use in treatments. Worldwide animals pollinate approximately 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices and medicines. Foods that we enjoy such as salsa, peanut butter & jelly, pasta salad, blackberries, apples, tomatoes, and much more, would not exist without the assistance of pollinators. It is estimated that in the United States alone pollinators produce about \$40 billion worth of food products.



Animal Pollinators are in Decline

Animal pollinators as a whole are in decline, and there are variety of reasons, including overuse of pesticides, loss of habitat, air pollution, invasive species, parasites, and disease. As this is a threat to the world's food supply, there is now intense focus on how to save pollinators.

There are many things each of us can do in order to help protect pollinators. A few ways to help pollinators include:

1. Create a pollinator friendly garden.
2. When planting a garden, use a variety of plants that grow during different seasons.
3. Limit the use of pesticides.
4. Install houses for bats and native bees.
5. Whenever possible, restore animal pollinator's native habitats.
6. Provide educational opportunities to spread the word about the importance of pollinators.



Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens' theme in 2018 is *Health & Wellness, A Life Well Lived*. As part of this theme, the Estate provide healthy habitats for pollinators.

In addition to the gardens and grounds, Stan Hywet has a Butterfly Habitat, Pollinator Garden, and bee hives that help promote pollinator health.

Learn More about Pollinators

To learn more about pollinators and their vital role in nature, visit Stan Hywet's Butterfly Habitat and Pollinator Garden. The estate is open Tuesday-Sunday from 10am – 6pm with last entry at 4:30pm

Or take one of our upcoming programs:

- Wednesday 6/27 at 10:30 am or 1 pm
Seiberling Explorers: Butterfly & Pollinator Walk (ages 3-6 and families)
Included in admission. No registration required.
- Saturday 7/14, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Gardening Gurus: Bees & Butterflies- Pollinators of Stan Hywet
\$10 SH members, \$13 non-members. Register by 7/7 at stanhywet.org

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