



## SHELTON COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

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### **Meeting Minutes, Monday, March 11, 2019**

Present: Sharna Kozak, Ann Singletary, Patty VanSickle, Teresa Gallagher, Theresa Syc

Absent: Mary King, Allison Menendez

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:20 pm by Chairman Sharna Kozak. It was preceded by a seed exchange and opportunity for gardeners to register for their 2019 plots.

**1. Meeting Minutes: Patty VanSickle made a motion to approve the minutes for February 11, 2019. Seconded by Theresa Syc. All were in favor.**

**2. Guest Speaker: Master Gardener Barbara Thomas spoke about ‘Planting for Pollinators.’** Her handout is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

*Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher.*

## Planting for Pollinators

Pollination is accomplished approximately 80% by animals (mostly insects), 18% by wind, and 2% by water.

Pollinators are mostly insects. Bees are very efficient pollinators due to hairs on their bodies that pick up pollen but many insects and mammals are pollinators.

**Flower structure** - Most flowers are “perfect” – male and female structures in the same flower. “Imperfect” flowers have male and female structures in different flowers, either on the same plants or on different plants.

**Decline in pollinators** is caused by many things - loss of habitat and host plants, over use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides), disease, and pollution.

### How we can all help -

- Greatly reduce or eliminate use of pesticides
- Use plants native to our area & increase your garden size and/or add planters
- Choose a variety of plants producing Spring, Summer, & Fall flowers
- Plant several of the same type of plant in clusters
- Provide water and spots for shelter & nests (leave plants stalks up in the Winter)
- Encourage your neighbors to do the same to create “connectivity” to larger areas

**What are native plants?** Plants that developed in a particular region over thousands of years, they are uniquely adapted to area conditions and insects have evolved with them and rely on them for food and breeding. To attract certain butterflies, plant their host plants – ex. plant *Asclepias* (Milkweed) for Monarchs.

**“Specialists”** – about 30% of bees in Northeast are specialists, they require specific plant pollen for feeding. Many butterflies and moths are also specialists – their caterpillars can only eat certain plants. Without the required plants, specialist bees and caterpillars are unable to survive.

**Native bees** – approximately 300 bees are native to Connecticut, most are solitary and ground nesting – leave some bare soil for them to nest in

**Botanical & Common plant names** – use botanical names to get the right plant – for example *Echinacea* (botanical) instead of Coneflower (common)

For plant name pronunciations -

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

**Avoid cultivars (cultivated varieties) & use straight species plants** – cultivars can lack pollen or the pollen may not be accessible to insects

### Suggestions for 3 seasons of flowers (botanical and common names):

#### Spring -

- *Salix discolor* – Pussy willow (shrub/small tree)
- *Zizia aurea* – Golden Alexander
- *Geranium maculatum* – Wild Geranium
- *Tradescantia virginiana* – Spiderwort
- *Aquilegia Canadensis* – Eastern Red Columbine

#### Summer -

- *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* – Narrowleaf Mountain Mint

- *Monarda fistulosa* – Wild Bergamot
- *Monarda didyma* – Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea, Red Bergamot
- *Agastache foeniculum* - Anise Hyssop
- *Asclepias tuberosa* – Butterfly Milkweed or Butterfly Weed – Monarch host plant!!
- *Asclepias incarnata* – Rose Milkweed or Swamp Milkweed – Monarch host plant!!
- *Borago officinalis* – Borage
- *Phacelia tanacetifolia* – Lacy phacelia – very attractive to bees, **good cover crop** that decomposes quickly and adds nitrogen to soil
- *Lobelia cardinalis* – Cardinal Flower – **needs moist soil** - hummingbirds love it
- *Lobelia siphilicata* – Great Blue Lobelia – **needs moist soil**
- *Eutrochium fistulosum* – Joe-pye Weed
- *Echinacea purpurea* – Purple Coneflower (Goldfinch love the seeds)
- *Lonicera sempervirens* – Trumpet Honeysuckle (vine – attracts hummingbirds)

**Fall – important late food sources for bees and butterflies**

- *Solidago caesia* – Blue-stemmed Goldenrod
- *Solidago canadensis* – Canada Goldenrod
- *Solidago nemoralis* – Field Goldenrod
- *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* – New England Aster
- *Eurybia divaricata* – White Wood Aster – common local wildflower
- *Rudbeckia hirta* – Black-eyed Susan

**There are many great websites for additional information, some suggestions:**  
**Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation** - <https://xerces.org>

**Newtown's Protect Our Pollinators:**

<http://www.propollinators.org/home.html>

**For plant lists and general wildflower information:**

<https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=CT>

**Gardening for Pollinators:**

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

**Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants:**

[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsEasternUS\\_V1.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsEasternUS_V1.pdf)

**Pollinators in the Landscape- Importance of Pollinators & Causes of Decline:**

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/pollinators-in-landscape-i-importance-of-pollinators-causes-of-decline>

**Check on native status of plants** at <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/>

**Book:** Bringing Nature Home – Douglas W. Tallamy

**Native seeds with good plant information:** <https://www.prairiemoon.com>

**Native plant nursery:**

Earth Tones, 212 Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury, CT  
 Native, 2940 Redding Road, Fairfield, CT