

How many of us feel that summer has just arrived? With that thought in mind, ignore the calendar that says September, and welcome to the Summer 2009 edition of Pollination Guelph's newsletter.

Pollinator Day in the Garden and Hillside 2009 – All A-Buzz with Excitement!

Pollination Guelph recently was at two big events – Pollinator Day in the Garden and Hillside 2009. The Pollinator Day in the Garden was a huge success; held at the University of Guelph Arboretum on June 27, two walking tours were given by a staff member, while information on pollinators and pollination was given out. Over 40 people attended, with Carol Channen winning the door-prize of two gardening books! A number of people also stopped by our booth at the Hillside Community Tent July 25 & 26. Great discussions were had with people from Guelph and many other cities. A lot of enthusiasm for pollinator-friendly gardening is spreading out from Guelph!



Pollinator Monitoring Research Underway at the Park

Pollinator sampling and monitoring started this spring at the pollination park under the direction of Andrea McGraw-Alcock and Dr. Peter Kevan at the University of Guelph. The goal of this work is to be able to show how the numbers of bees and other pollinators change as the Park develops over time.

Three main types of sampling being used this year include bee bowls, trap nests, and malaise traps. The bee bowls used at the site are the size of cereal bowls, colored yellow or blue, and filled with propylene glycol. Bees and other insects are attracted to the colored bowls, thinking they are flowers, but then drown in the liquid. The bowls are left out for 48hr periods every two weeks from June until September, and then the insects are collected and identified.



Malaise traps are similar in appearance to a tent, with a funnel at the top. As insects fly into the tent wall, their natural instinct is to fly upwards, which forces them into a funnel and then a trap. These traps are set up at the same time as the bee bowls.



Trap nests come in a variety of shapes and sizes; in our case, milk cartons were filled with paper tubes of various sizes for nesting bees, and left out during the spring and summer. These nests mimic the natural nesting habitat of many bees (e.g. hollow stems), which then lay their eggs in the tube and seal it shut. Tubes can then be removed and the insects inside can be identified after they mature and emerge, usually during the next spring.

Pollination Guelph Updates

- We will be signing our licensing agreement with the City in the near future. A technical advisory committee has been set up to facilitate work and discussions between Pollination Guelph and the City of Guelph. Pollination Guelph is now federally incorporated, and are applying for our charitable status.
- A botanical inventory was recently completed at the site. This will give us a better idea about the types of plants currently growing there, guiding our methods of developing and maintaining the park. A large number of non-native and invasive plants have established themselves, but there are still a few native plants, such as goldenrods and asters, that attract lots of pollinators.

- As it has taken us longer than anticipated to complete the licensing agreement, it is almost certain that we will defer the start of planting at the site until next spring. However, Mathis Natvik, of Natvik Ecological, Guelph, has prepared a site implementation plan for our first 1.5ha demonstration plot, so we should be able to hit the ground running as soon as the snow melts.
- Board members continue to give talks to a variety of groups, from Master Gardeners to City Councils, and have responded to several media requests.
- Strategic planning is on-going, and we have started submitting applications for various grants.



News from Other Groups

Healthy Landscapes Community Garden Tour – Sunday, September 20, 2009, 11am to 4pm

The City of Guelph's Healthy Landscapes program's 2009 community garden tour is on Sunday, September 20, and this year's theme involves native plants and pollinators. Join Pollination Guelph at Judy Martin's garden (1 Echo Dr) to chat with a board member and to pick up information about pollination, pollinators, and our organization. Then stroll through the five gardens on the tour to learn more about healthy, natural gardening. Visit www.guelph.ca/healthylandscapes for more information, including addresses and descriptions of the gardens.

Practical Pollinator Conservation Conference, Montreal, QC – October 5 & 6, 2009

The Canadian Pollinator Protection Initiative (CPPI) is hosting a national conference in Montreal, October 5-6, for environmental and agricultural organizations that want to develop their capacity to promote pollinator conservation. Experts from government, universities, industry, and public education organizations will be in attendance as we work together to develop practical strategies for pollinator conservation in Canada. For more information, or to register, please visit www.pollinator.ca.

Looking for Pollinator-Friendly Gardeners in the Caledon, Erin, Dufferin County Areas

Don Scallen, a teacher and nature writer for *In The Hills*, a magazine that serves Caledon, Erin and Dufferin County, hopes to write an article on pollinators for the Summer 2010 issue. He would like to speak with anyone in that circulation area who gardens, in part, with pollinators in mind - someone who intentionally includes plants that attract bees and other pollinators to his or her garden. If you are that person, or know of someone who is, please contact Don at 905-877-2876 or dscallen@cogeco.ca.

Thanks for the Donations!

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation over the past few months – with lots of work planned, funding is always a concern. Donations to Pollination Guelph can be made through a board member, in person at Guelph City Hall, or by mail to Finance Dept., City of Guelph, 1 Carden St, Guelph, ON N1H 3A1. Cheques can be made payable to the “City of Guelph”, but you must indicate “Donation to Pollination Guelph” in the memo section. Thanks to the City for handling the donations until we get our charitable status.



How You Can Help

- Join our mailing list so you will be the first to learn of volunteer opportunities at the pollination park and elsewhere in the City.
- Visit our display at 1 Echo Drive between 11am & 4pm on Sunday, September 20.
- Make a donation or purchase any of our fundraising items (books & posters).
- Stay tuned – we have just had our one year anniversary, and now that we're getting organized, a lot more activities and events will start happening.

Please note that this newsletter is intended for anyone interested in keeping up with the work of the Pollination Guelph board and volunteers. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact pollinationguelph@gmail.com. All photos © V. MacPhail.