



Bumble bee feeding on Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

Part TWO:

Pollinator Events Held in 2017

Pollinator Forums, held at the Montshire Museum

Events were filmed by Briana Spangler, video producer for CATV8;
Links are underlined.

Our focus has been on the *native* pollinators that play a large role in the pollination of native wild plants, as well as many agricultural plants such as blueberries and tomatoes. Non-native honeybees are highly managed for agricultural purposes, and barely survive here without human cultivation. These programs held in 2017 provided a great introduction to '*Why Native Pollinators Matter*'.

What's Happening to our Native Pollinators

March 9

Taylor Ricketts, Director, UVM Gund Institute for Environmental Economics

Kent McFarland and **Sara Zahendra**, Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Who are the pollinators? Which species are in conservation trouble? What has caused these losses? Most importantly, what can landowners do to reverse the decline in pollinators? The VCE speakers have been involved in monitoring the declines in butterflies and bees in our region, and Ricketts has been involved in research that documents the important role of *native* pollinators in agriculture.

Managing Your Garden with Fewer Chemicals

April 13

Alan Eaton, UNH Cooperative Extension Integrated Pest Management

Will Allen, Cedar Circle Farm co-founder, and author of *The War on Bugs*

Janet Cavanagh, Landscape architect

Pesticide regulatory officials frequently say that private lawns and backyards are a major cause of pesticide misuse or over-use. Alan Eaton discussed some of the simple measures we can use to reduce pesticides in our lawns and gardens. Will Allen discussed the history of pesticide development and our increasing use of these chemicals.

Supporting Native Bees with Gardens and Meadows

April 26

Cathy Neal, UNH Cooperative Extension, Specialist [Landscape Horticulture](#)

Amy Papineau, UNH Cooperative Extension, Field Specialist

Native bees are critical to the success of local agriculture and to maintenance of biodiversity in natural ecosystems. By providing pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat in the garden and in the surrounding landscape, you can help support this important natural resource. The speakers discussed how to select plants that will provide the best resources for bees, how to establish a wildflower meadow and how to create nesting habitat.

Field Trip Lessons

At an event titled [Mow Less for More Buzz](#), sponsored by the Upper Valley Land Trust, Susannah Lerman of U Mass spoke about the surprising amount of 'wildlife' found in suburban lawns that have had no chemicals and infrequent mowing. Links to her results are found in several research papers found in section [SIX](#) [[LINK needed for 6-B- not quite finished](#)] of this website. At this same event, Toby Alexander of NRCS in Vermont spoke about creating and maintaining meadows. He has a

related slide show¹ *on Pollinator Habitat Conservation and Management* that was presented at a pollinator conference held in 2016.

Plainfield's Bill and Laura Knight created a large meadow that surrounds their house and small lawn. They started with a berm of bare soil and over-seeded for a period of 12 years with wildflower and a short bunch grass (sheep hard fescue), along with some weeding of invasives and occasional weed-whacking the more aggressive plants. The result is increased bee habitat and colonies, as discussed in an article from *Nature* in [PART 3, HABITAT](#)

Sara Zahendra at Vermont Center for Ecostudies led three field trips for pollinator identification, arranged by the Hanover Conservancy. Her recommended books for ID in the field are listed in section SIX of this website, under [Books](#).

The garden clubs of Hanover and Lyme organized a tour in Etna of Jim Kennedy's well-established pollinator field-trial beds in the meadows he manages for wildlife. Three years after installation, the plants are blooming, spreading and attracting pollinators.

Handout on Pollinator Gardens and Plants

Our 2-page ['Think Like a Pollinator'](#) handout, provided at 2017 pollinator events, has a brief guide for creating pollinator gardens and a short list of native perennial plants of high pollinator value.

Poster for Events held in 2017: speakers and field trips

Intended for printing on 11" x 17" cardstock, it also works well on 8.5" x 14" paper.

[Color print formatted for 11 x 17](#)

Created January 2018

¹ To view this slideshow, paste this URL into your browser:

<http://anr.vermont.gov/sites/anr/files/specialtopics/Alexander Presentation Pollinators 3-17-2016.pdf>