

What is Pollination and Why Should You Care?

Pollination is a vital stage in the life cycle of flowering plants. When pollen is moved within a flower or carried from one flower to another of the same species it leads to fertilization. This transfer of pollen is necessary for healthy and productive native and agricultural ecosystems. Pollination ensures that a plant will produce full-bodied fruit and a full set of fertile seeds. With no pollination at all, most plants could not produce fruit nor set seed and many of the foods we eat would no longer be available. The plants that many wild animals depend on for food and shelter would also disappear.

About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant for fertilization.



Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies.

A small percentage of pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, and small mammals.

Source: www.pollinator.org

What Can You Do?

Watch for pollinators—learn which pollinators frequent your community

Reduce your impact—reduce pesticide use, increase green spaces and protect pollinator habitat

Plant for pollinators—create pollinator-friendly habitat with native flowering plants that supply pollinators with nectar, pollen, and nesting sites

Become a beekeeper—learn more at www.chathambeekeepers.org



To learn more about how to protect and attract pollinators, visit Cooperative Extension's Pollinator Conservation website at www.protectpollinators.org.



National Pollinator Week Celebration

June 27, 2009

10:00 am—2:00 pm

The Lawn at Chatham Mills
Pittsboro, NC

Chatham County Center
North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Chatham County
Beekeepers' Association

Pollinator Week Events

The Chatham County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension and the Chatham County Beekeepers are having a Pollinator Week Celebration at Chatham Marketplace on **June 27, 2009**.

Who Should Come?

Farmers, Gardeners, Beekeepers, Eaters, Kids of all Ages



The National Academy of Sciences reports that there is direct evidence of the decline of some pollinator species in North America. And, recently, Colony Collapse Disorder of honey bees has alarmed the agricultural industry.

The **purpose of National Pollinator Week** is to teach pollinator-friendly practices and raise public awareness of the importance of the bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, and bats that are needed to produce 75% of our flowering plants and one third of our human food crops.

Program Schedule

10:00 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm:
Beekeeping Demo in Bee Cage

10:30-11:00 am: **Basics of Beekeeping**

11:00-11:30 am: **Pollinator Garden Tour**

12:00-12:30 pm: **Basics of Beekeeping**

1:00-1:30 pm: **Pollinator Garden Tour**

10:00 am-2:00 pm: **Kids' Activities**

Watch expert beekeepers work an actual hive inside a bee cage.

Watch "Bee TV"
and go on a Pollinator Scavenger Hunt.

Meet our local Chatham County beekeepers—we will have beekeeping equipment and products from the hive for "show and tell".



Did You Know...?

Without **honey bees**, we wouldn't have these foods:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Apples | Squash |
| Oranges | Strawberries |
| Grapes | Avocados |
| Blueberries | Almonds |
| Raspberries | Broccoli |
| Cherries | Cucumbers |
| Citrus | Onions |
| Peaches | Watermelons |
| Asparagus | Celery |
| Carrots | Cantaloupes |
| Pears | Honey |



Many other foods that we eat every day depend on pollinators:

- ◆ **Cooking oils** made from sunflower, safflower, and soybean require pollination by insects
- ◆ **Coffee and tea** are pollinated by bees and flies
- ◆ **Chocolate** is made from cacao which is pollinated by a tiny fly no bigger than the head of a pin
- ◆ **Greenhouse tomatoes** are pollinated by domesticated bumble bees
- ◆ **Meat and dairy** cows eat bee-pollinated feed and forage crops