



THIRD ANNUAL PLANT SALE TRAIL

May 18, 2018



UW-Extension, 3365 W Brewster St., Appleton, WI Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association (OCMGA)

8 am to 2 pm | ocmga.net | 3365 W Brewster St, Appleton, WI 54914

Plants are from Wisconsin nurseries. We offer a wide variety of perennials, annuals, vegetables and house plants, plus garden compost. There will be garden-related demos and vendors, a Garden Art and Flea Market, and a Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions and to help you find the right plant for you. For map/directions download flyer on website.



1041 E Northwood Dr, Appleton, WI Paper Valley Garden Club (PVGGC)

8 am to 4 pm | papervalleygardenclub.com | 1041 E Northwood Dr, Appleton, WI 54911

Plants are from the gardens of members and families and offer a wide variety — perennials, annuals, ground covers, vegetables and herbs, and house plants. PVGC members will be happy to answer questions and find the right plant for your garden site — sun, shade, color, height, size, soil conditions or ease of growing. For map/directions download flyer on website.



WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI Wild Ones Fox Valley Area (WOFVA)

9 am to 2 pm | foxvalleyarea.wildones.org | 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd., Neenah, WI 54956

Plants featured are high quality nursery-propagated native forbs, grasses, ferns and vines in 4-inch pots, 1- to 2-year growth. Wild Ones continues in its efforts to save America's favorite butterfly, along with other pollinators, through the Wild for Monarchs campaign. Through our spring native plant sale, we encourage everyone to buy and plant more milkweed (host plant for monarchs) and more nectar plants (food sources for pollinators). Volunteers will be on-site to help you plan a butterfly and pollinator garden with native plants or to integrate these plants into your existing garden. For map/directions download flyer on website.

As you visit the various locations, you'll find not only native and non-native perennials, grasses, and ground covers, but fruits and vegetables. There will be knowledgeable people on hand to answer your questions about plants, about planting and maintaining plants, and about growing your own plants.

Visit us online at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org, papervalleygardenclub.com, and ocmga.net.

Photos are courtesy of Judy Kesser.

Heather Holm Responds

By Rebecca Eyer

Heather Holm, award-winning author, offered an insightful glimpse into the world of native bees and other pollinators during her 2018 Fox Cities Book Festival presentation. Heather is truly passionate about pollinators and the environmental factors that aid them in being successful. Our food supply depends on that success. During her presentation she highlighted the following about native bees:

- There are 4000 species of bees in the US and Canada, approximately 475 species in Wisconsin
- Adult bees have a 2-6 week lifespan
- Bees pollinate 80% of the flowering plants on earth
- Many bees are 'oligolectic' meaning specialists in the flowers they pollinate

Several weeks after Heather's presentation, I emailed her with lingering questions from her presentation. Heather graciously emailed a response to my questions regarding her rationale for proper mulching, tilling, and methods to maximize pollination late into autumn. Following are several quotes from her response.

MULCHING

Heather recommends using less mulch in our gardens because it can impact ground nesting bees.

She wrote...

I think we use mulch for the wrong reasons, mainly to cover the ground for weed suppression between plants. In nature, there is rarely bare ground so the paradigm shift I would like to see is gardeners spending money on plants to fill the gaps, rather than spending it on mulch. Heavy layers of mulch applied year after year in the garden can create a real impediment for ground-nesting bees to find access to the ground to excavate their nests. I personally only use mulch for informal paths in my garden, not in the planting area.

Instead of mulch I use the natural materials that Mother Nature provides as a weed-suppressing material including leaves from trees and the debris or cut pieces from the plants in my garden. I leave all the perennial plant material standing from the growing season throughout the winter. In the spring, beginning in early May where I live in the Minneapolis area, I begin measuring soil temperatures with a digital kitchen thermometer. I wait for the soil temperature to reach 50 degrees F before tromping around in the garden to begin any work. I then cut the old plant material from the previous season with sharp garden scissors into 10" lengths allowing the pieces of old stalks and remaining leaves to fall to the ground. This material, on top of the leaves from the previous fall is the weed suppression. The materials are loose, and ground nesting bees can easily crawl under and find their way to the soil to begin excavating nests.

Bumble Bee on Rough Blazingstar, (*Liatris aspera*).

Photo by Tim Lewis, Wild Ones Rock River Chapter

TILLING

In regard to the topic of tilling soils, Heather noted...

Soil is the most valuable resource we have and the most poorly understood and abused. To have healthy soil and therefore healthy plants, we need to foster the beneficial bacteria, microorganisms, and fungi in soil. Tilling the soil disturbs the important soil structure and aggregates formed from biological interactions, and brings weed seeds to the surface. Untilled soils have a greater capacity to hold water and infiltrate excess water. Tilling also breaks up critical mycorrhizal fungal connections formed between fungi and plant roots, these are important symbiotic connections where the fungi provide nutrients from the soil in exchange for carbohydrates from the plants. My three recommendations for preserving the soil are as follows: 1) minimize soil disturbance and compaction including tilling, 2) feed your soil compost, and 3) do not use fertilizers, synthetic or organic, since they can greatly harm or eliminate the life in your soil.

In addition, allow areas of bare soil for pollinators. And remember tilling soil disturbs existing nests of the pollinators we are trying to protect.

MAXIMIZING LATE AUTUMN NECTAR SOURCES

Finally, as we get ready to choose plants for our gardens this year, we should consider the needs of pollinators late in the season by providing a variety of fall flowering plants.

The best thing you can do in your garden is to ensure you have many kinds of fall flowering plants. Planting many species of asters (*Asteraceae spp.*) and goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) can adequately provide a long-blooming floral buffet for pollinators into late autumn. These nutrient-rich native perennials are important for migratory species such as monarch butterflies and for new queen bumble bees preparing to hibernate for the winter.

We thank Heather for her advice on how to assist and protect pollinators through proper mulching, avoidance of tilling, and incorporating fall flowering plants into our garden beds. For further information from Heather Holm, including the titles of her award-winning books, visit her Facebook page at: [facebook.com PollinatorsNativePlants](https://www.facebook.com/PollinatorsNativePlants) or her website at pollinatorsnativeplants.com.