



Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

By Jennifer Sterling-Folker, August 2022

Greetings Ashford and a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who attended our June 25th Pollinator talk and/or stopped by our table at the Ashford Arts Council Event on July 9th at Westford Hill Distillers. Almost 70 people attended the June 25th talk by Carrie Crompton, Goodwin Master Naturalist, who talked about the 30-year decline of insect populations in the US and Europe, and the devastating changes to an ecosystem that occurs when insects are absent. The good news is that insect populations are resilient, mostly local, and by providing nectar, pollen and foliage for butterfly and moth larvae in our own yards, we can support insects and help reverse their decline.

POLLINATORS IN OUR YARDS CARRIE CROMPTON



JUNE 25, 2022, 2:00PM
WESTFORD HILL DISTILLERS
196 CHATEAU ROAD, ASHFORD



We had numerous door prizes to give away, including two large baskets filled with pollinator-friendly items, a variety of native plants and gift certificates from Ashford Garden Center and Foster Hill Farm, and free Anise Hyssop seedlings to anyone who did not win a door-prize thanks to Melinda MacDonald's green thumb. Attendees had a chance to receive a free Pollinator Pathway medallion in exchange for pledging to register their gardens with the organization. They also had a chance to sign up for more

information about Ashford Garden Club. Thank you to all donors, the Ashford Conservation Commission, the Ashford Garden Club and to Lou & Margie Chatey for supporting this event.

Our table at the Arts Council's July 9th event had a steady stream of visitors stop by to talk about gardening, pollinators, and take free informational handouts, pollinator stickers, iron-on bee patches, and small plant growing kits. We also had free native seedlings to give away thanks to the agriculture students at UConn's Spring Valley Farm who are growing native plants free to distribute at events like this. We held a raffle for a free night at Henrietta House Bed & Breakfast here in Ashford; Carol Natitus of South Windsor was the winner. A huge thank you to Marian Matthews, owner of Henrietta House, for donating this item! Funds raised were divided between the Ashford Garden Club & Ashford Pollinator Pathway to pay for plants, equipment, and more native seeds free to Ashford residents at the Ashford Library.

Email us (AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com) with questions, if you'd like site/plant advice, a list of native plant nurseries, or to visit a native plant garden. Also let us know if you register your land with Pollinator Pathways so we can drop off a free medallion courtesy of the Ashford Conservation Commission. Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AshfordPollinatorPathway>) for more info & additional photos from these events.

