



# Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

by Jennifer Sterling-Folker, April 2026



**Happy Spring Ashford!** Ashford Pollinator Pathway (PP) is back for another growing season after a busy winter doing talks and getting ready to share free native seeds & plants with you at various upcoming events. In January we held a cold stratification party & filled over 25 milk jugs with native plant seeds (thank you Kim Rourke for hosting). We will be hosting a seedling potting party at my house in May & are also planning a May or June field trip to Nasami Farm in Deerfield, MA to purchase native plants, with a stop at Yankee Candle. If you would like to join us for any of these events but aren't already on our email list, please email me at [jfolker@yahoo.com](mailto:jfolker@yahoo.com). If you just want more information & news on what we are up to, you can sign up for our blog via the QR code above.



Cold Stratification Party January 2026

Milk jugs outside waiting for spring



We are planning to provide the Babcock Library with **free native plant seed packets for their spring seed bank**. The seeds we provide are "easy" grow perennials which should sprout in the first season (coneflower, wild mints, smooth blue aster, culver's root, assorted others). Many of them are collected from our own gardens, supplemented with purchased seeds thanks to the ongoing support of the Ashford Conservation Commission.

This winter we've also done talks to the Vernon Garden Club, the Ashford Senior Center, the ADK Gamma Chapter of Manchester & the Windham Garden Club on the importance of native plants in gardening & landscaping. Heather McKelvie & I are available for talks on the subject if you have a group that is interested.

Jennifer Speaking to the ADK Gamma Chapter in March



### **LOOKING FOR THOSE FREE NATIVE PLANTS I MENTIONED?**

Ashford Pollinator Pathway will have them & other give-aways at the Clean Water Festival on May 2 and the Arts Council Festival on June 24. Details TBA. Hope to see you there!

Heather & Jennifer at the Vernon Garden Club

## Spring Reminders

**THAT BRUSH PILE LOOKS LIKE NEGLECT. YOUR NEIGHBORS THINK SO TOO. LEAVE IT.**



Removing leaf debris too early kills the next generation of pollinators. Wait until temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees over several days for pollinators to safely emerge before clearing leaves.



Avoid mowing grass in May so clover, violets, & dandelions can provide vital spring food for bees emerging from hibernation & birds.



If you are looking for native plants, once again our very own **Ashford Garden Center** will have a limited selection to offer in the spring & fall. If you are looking for something in particular, speak with Claudia, the owner about ordering it. Located on Rt. 44 at 330 Ashford Center Road, 860-429-0854; [Ashfordgardencenter@gmail.com](mailto:Ashfordgardencenter@gmail.com).