**POLLINATOR CONSERVATION AWARD AND**

**YOUTH POLLINATOR POWER POSTER CONTEST**

All Pollinators are important for our environment and our ecosystem.  We need all pollinators to eat the foods we enjoy and need to live healthy lives.  Each and every bite we enjoy is thanks to the diligent work of pollinators.

This fiscal year we are focusing on BEES.  Like all pollinators Bees are necessary for humans.  We rely on pollinators to pollen plants for reproduction and the materials they provide.  Besides the ability to pollinate Bees provide us with honey.

Honey Bees pollinate about 80 percent of all pollution around the world.  One bee colony has the ability to pollinate 300 million flowers daily.  There are approximately 4,000 Bee species in North America pollinating plants across North America.  Information shows more than half of these native Bees are in decline and some of the species nearing extinction.

You can help Bees by planting a Bee garden.  This will create a safe space by planting flowers in a range of shapes, sizes, colors, and bloom times.  When you plant be sure you plant only certified organic plants.  Look for the USDA Certified Organic label.  If the label says it is protected against insects the container may be treated with Neonicotinoids.

The neonicotinoid imidacloprid was introduced in 1994.  It is the most widely used insecticide in the world. Neonicotinoids are used as seed treatments as well.  Neonicotinoids are systemic insecticides.  That means every part of the plant treated has been poisoned.  Any animal, including humans, that consumes any part of the plant absorbs neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoids help the agriculture industry because there is less damage to produce.  The consumer wants insect free, pristine looking fruit, vegetables, etc.  Eating treated products has been killing pollinators.  It has been shown to damage other animals including humans.

The fable about Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs tells us the poison inside the apple caused Snow White to fall into a deep sleep.  The fruit she ate looked perfect.  We too look for the perfect fruit to eat.  What makes it look perfect may be detrimental to your health.

Buy USDA Certified Organic at the grocery store and at the nursery.

Teach others, help save our Bees.

Mary Lou Paulson

WSFGC Pollinator Conservation Chairman

Sources:

[https://thebeeconservancy.org/10-ways-to-save-the-bees/#:~:text=Plant%20a%20Bee%20Garden,%2C%20colors%2C%20and%20bloom%20times.](https://thebeeconservancy.org/10-ways-to-save-the-bees/%22%20%5Cl%20%22%3A~%3Atext%3DPlant%20a%20Bee%20Garden%2C%2C%20colors%2C%20and%20bloom%20times%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

[http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/archive/imidacloprid.html#:~:text=Imidacloprid%20is%20used%20to%20control,products%20containing%20imidacloprid%20vary%20widely.](http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/archive/imidacloprid.html%22%20%5Cl%20%22%3A~%3Atext%3DImidacloprid%20is%20used%20to%20control%2Cproducts%20containing%20imidacloprid%20vary%20widely%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

[https://www.google.com/search?q=imidacloprid&rlz=1C1CHBF\_enUS1030US1031&oq=imidacloprid&gs\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIKCAEQABiLAxiABDIKCAIQABiLAxiABDIKCAMQABiLAxiABDIQCAQQABiDARiLAxixAxiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAYQABiABDIHCAcQABiABDIHCAgQABiABDIKCAkQABiLAxiABNIBCDIwNzVqMWo3qAIAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=imidacloprid&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS1030US1031&oq=imidacloprid&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIKCAEQABiLAxiABDIKCAIQABiLAxiABDIKCAMQABiLAxiABDIQCAQQABiDARiLAxixAxiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAYQABiABDIHCAcQABiABDIHCAgQABiABDIKCAkQABiLAxiABNIBCDIwNzVqMWo3qAIAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8" \t "_blank)

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**POLLINATOR POWER POSTER CONTEST**

**DETAILS**

**Pollinator Conservation AWARD —Chairman, Mary Lou Paulson**

Deadline – December 1 to THIS Chairman

Reference NGC’s

 <http://gardenclub.org/projects/pollinator-gardens.aspx>

 <http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-mpgc/ngc-pollinator-power.pdf>

**BEES are the WSFGC Focal Pollinator for 2023-2025**

Awarded for an outstanding comprehensive program for the protection and welfare of Pollinators, such as creating a garden in a public or private space or schools; habitat protection, protection of migratory routes, public education, establishment of pollinator gardens at a school or community site, or other.

Winning entry may be sent by this chairman to state chairman for entry into NGC Pollinator Gardens Award. (E-5)

Categories:

D. High School Gardeners

E. Junior/Intermediate Gardeners

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**Pollinator Power Poster Contest**

Deadline— FEBRUARY 1 to **District** Chairman for Judging

District to send only 1st place poster in each grade level

Reference NGC’s <http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-mpgc/ngc-pollinator-power.pdf>

This contest is to encourage the appreciation of pollinators. There is a $10.00 cash award for the best pollinator poster in each grade level, K-12. Computer posters accepted and judged separately.

1. Poster size 8.5” x 11”. Do not fold or use glitter.

2. On the back of the poster include: Name, Grade, School, Home Address, Sponsoring Garden Club, Address, and District.

Posters will be judged using the following criteria:

Art Knowledge

Colorful Appropriate anatomy

Effective use of space on the paper Appropriate habitat

Creativity Demonstrates pollinator’s

 importance