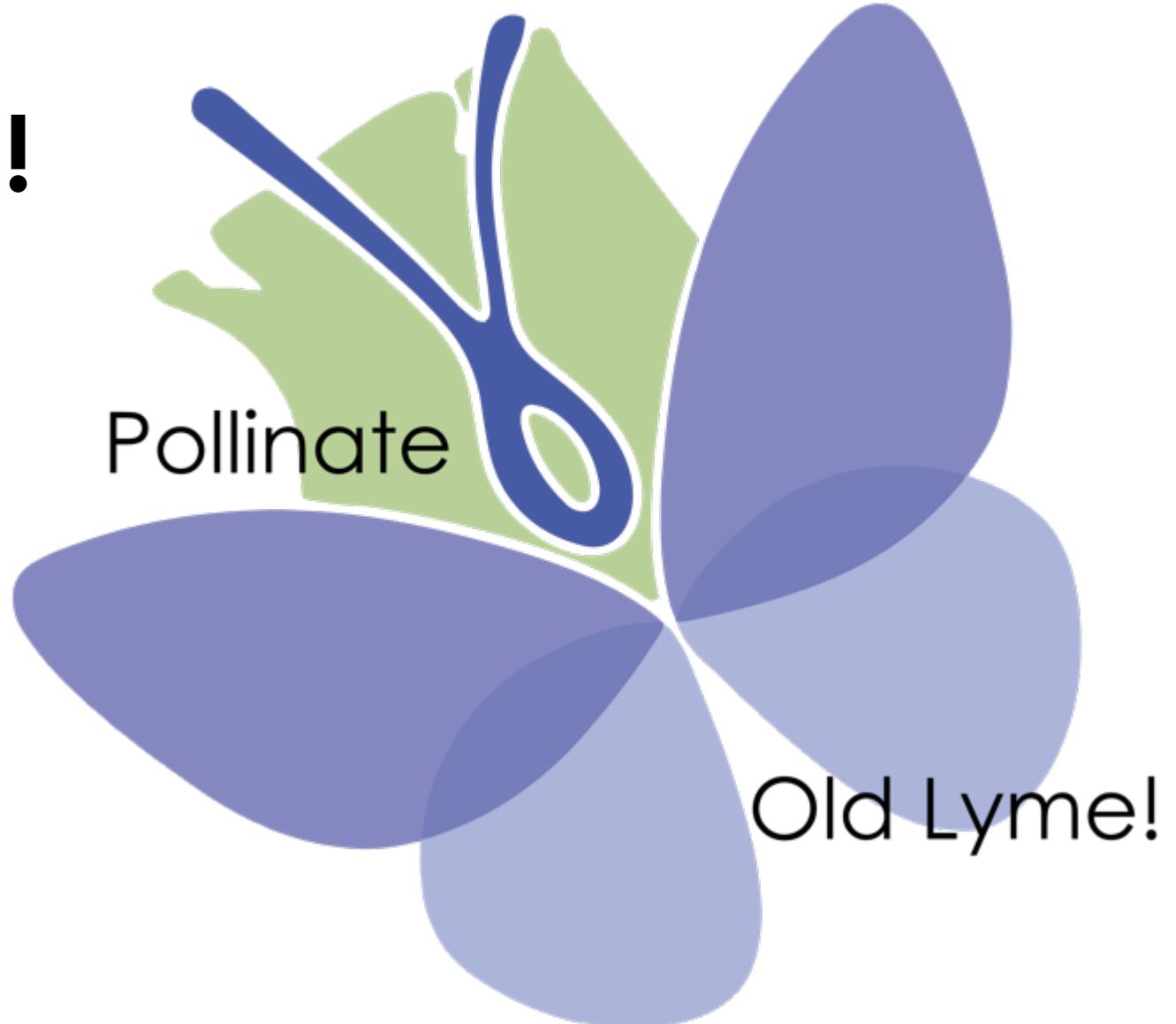


Get ready to Pollinate Old Lyme!

January 26, 2021

Cheryl Poirier &
Suzanne Thompson

New Town Initiative!

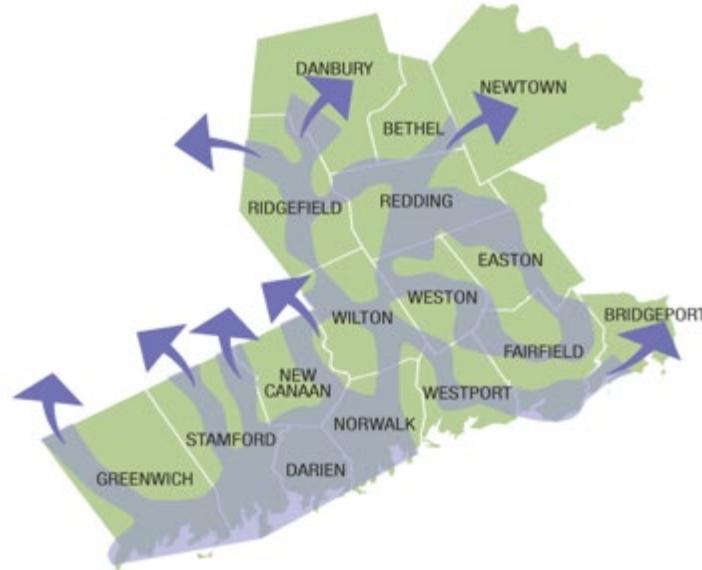


Pollinate Old Lyme!

A community-wide initiative to provide more native, pollinator-friendly habitats & food sources for bees, butterflies & other insects, birds and wildlife

- Any resident can take part
- “Green thumbs” not required!
- Talks, Webinars, Tours, Displays, Events, Activities
- Planting advice, how-to demonstrations, photos, sources of native plants
- Part of Pollinator Pathway Northeast





People Across Connecticut are Creating a Pollinator Pathway for Bees and Butterflies

Theresa Sullivan Barger Aug 20, 2019 9 min to read



Pollinator Pathway pioneers: Louise Washer, director of the Norwalk River Watershed Association; Donna Merrill, executive director of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust; Mary Ellen Lemay, facilitator for the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H), outreach coordinator for the Aspetuck Land Trust and chairman of the Trumbull Conservation Commission; and Kimberly Stoner, who works in the Department of Entomology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, at Keeler Ridge Meadows.

Erik Trautmann



Pollinator Pathways

Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife

- Community land stewardship project
- Brings together volunteers from town conservation organizations
- Over 110 towns in CT and NY by 2020
- New Pathways in PA, NJ, MA, SC, GA, TN, WA



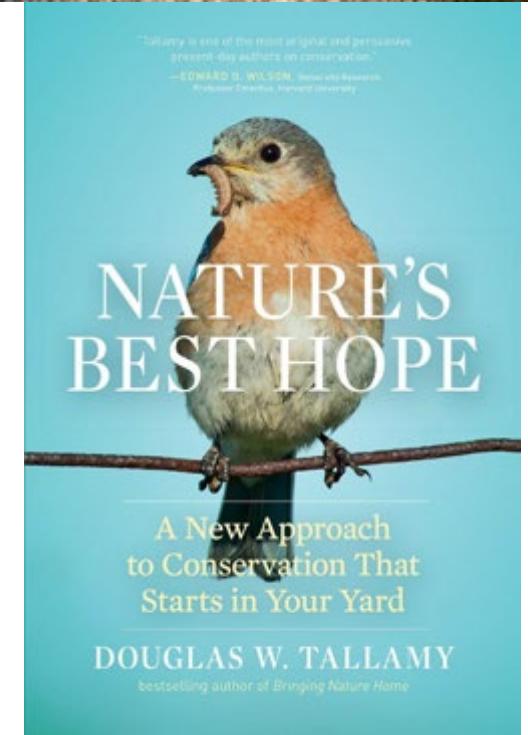
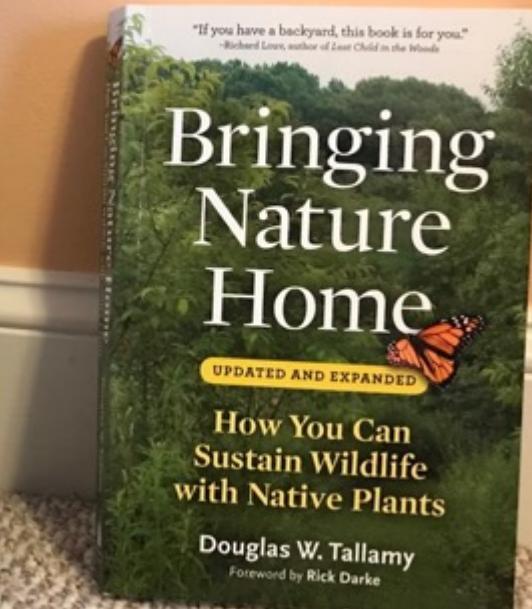
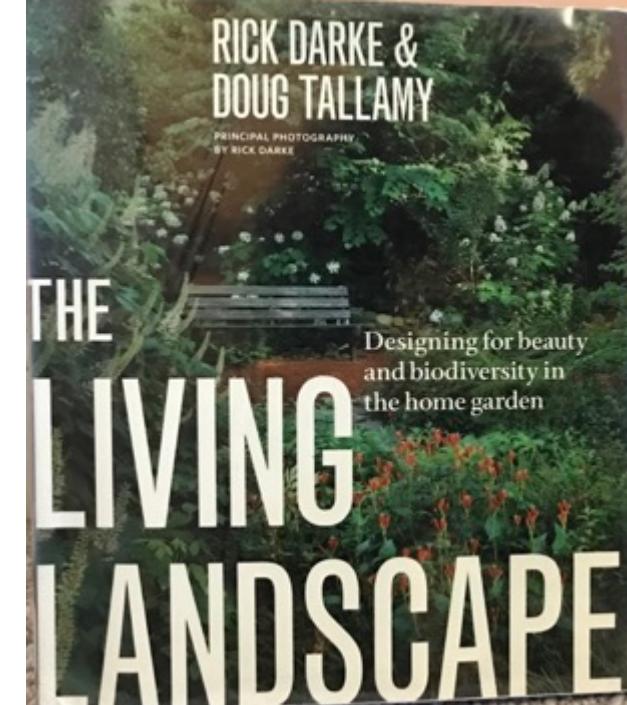
Pollinator Pathways

Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife

[Home](#)[About](#)[Pollinator Pathways](#)[Your Backyard](#)[Invasive Threats](#)[Resources](#)[Get Involved](#)[Upcoming Events](#)[Contact](#)

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”

*-Doug Tallamy,
professor of
entomology and
wildlife ecology at the
University of Delaware*



THE SOLUTION:
PLANT NATIVE

A GRASSROOTS CALL-TO-ACTION TO RESTORE BIODIVERSITY
- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY -
GET DIGGING AND GET ON THE MAP!



GET ON THE MAP!

Homegrown National Park goal:

20 million acres of native planting across the United States

“Plantings can introduce surprise, anticipation and entertainment into our landscapes, and they have health benefits. We are entering the “ecocene” era where we have the ethical and ecological will to sustain life. ”

— DOUG TALLAMY

Your Role in Building Biological Corridors:
Networks for Life

homegrownnationalpark.org



**GARDEN
FOR WILDLIFE™**



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY



**Native
Plant Trust**
Conserving and promoting
New England's native plants

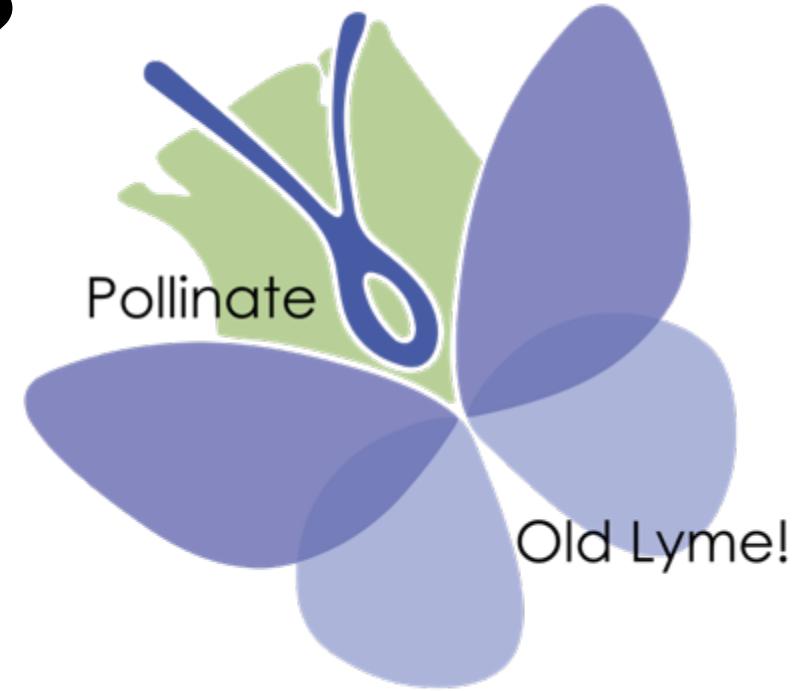


Why are we doing this?

Our native ecosystems need our help

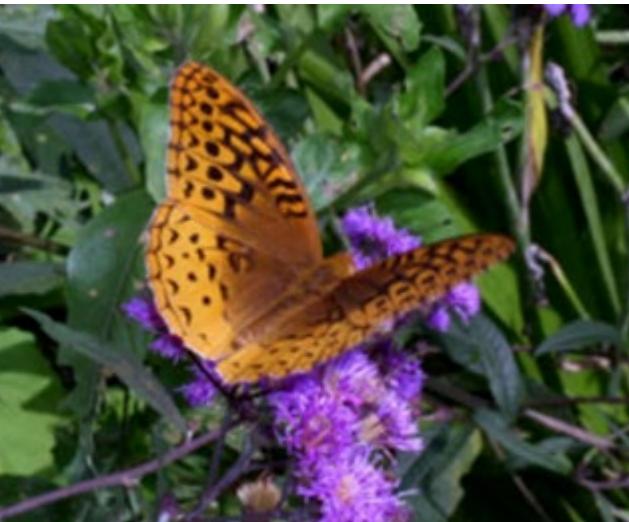
Over 94% of land in CT is privately-owned

- Our yards and lawns can help provide homes...
 - For native plants that support the insects that
 - Feed the birds migrating through our region every year
 - And support our survival, too
- If we...
 - Add back native plants and natural settings in our own yards
 - Support natural open spaces and healthy ecosystems
 - Help control and remove invasive plants
 - Reduce our use of pesticides and excess fertilizer



The World Depends on Insects

- Earth's biodiversity/eco-services have been degraded by 60%
- Only plants can photosynthesize energy into food
- Insects and plants depend on each other
 - 80+% of all plants depend on pollinators
 - 90% of all flowering plants depend on pollinators
 - 90% of plant-eating insects depend on specific host plants to survive



Fritillary. Photo by Beatriz Moisset.



And We Depend on Pollinators

- Everything else eats insects or their predators
 - 96% of birds rear their young on insects & spiders – think caterpillars!
 - Many wildlife species depend on insects
 - 35% of the world's food depend on pollinators to reproduce



YOUR SHOPPING CART
WITHOUT
POLLINATORS

YOUR SHOPPING CART
WITH
POLLINATORS



FILL YOUR SHOPPING CART AT
TED'S IGA, HEBRON, CT

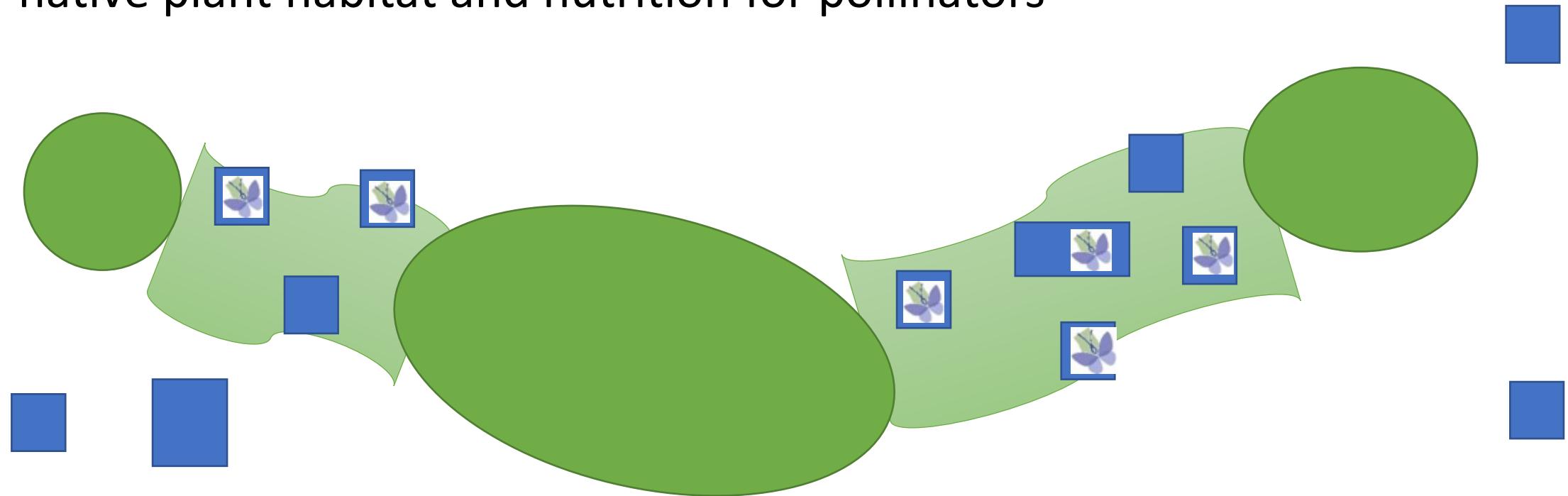
FILL YOUR SHOPPING CART AT
TED'S IGA, HEBRON, CT

Corona
Extra

Corona Extra
Coca-Cola

What is a Pollinator Pathway?

Corridors of public and private properties that provide pesticide-free native plant habitat and nutrition for pollinators



Goal: To increase the numbers and locations of native plantings that support pollinators throughout our community

Why We Need Pathways across CT



We live in a
fragmented forest



Many owners of
smaller, connected
yards



Monoculture lawns
don't support
pollinators

Pollinator Pathways Come in All Sizes & Budgets



Container Gardens



Flower Beds, Yards, Lawns



Educational Displays,
Teaching Gardens



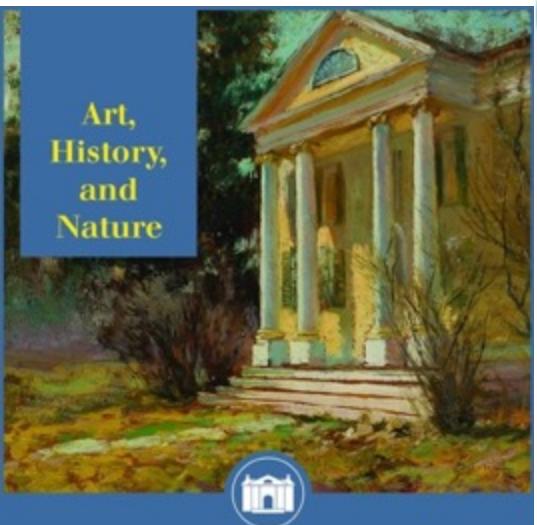
Preserves, Restoration Sites,
Meadows, Open Space

Pollinators need multi-season sources of pollen, nectar, shelter and water, they don't care if it's a flower pot or a meadow!

Nature Preserves are Pollinator Havens



Pollinate Old Lyme! Team



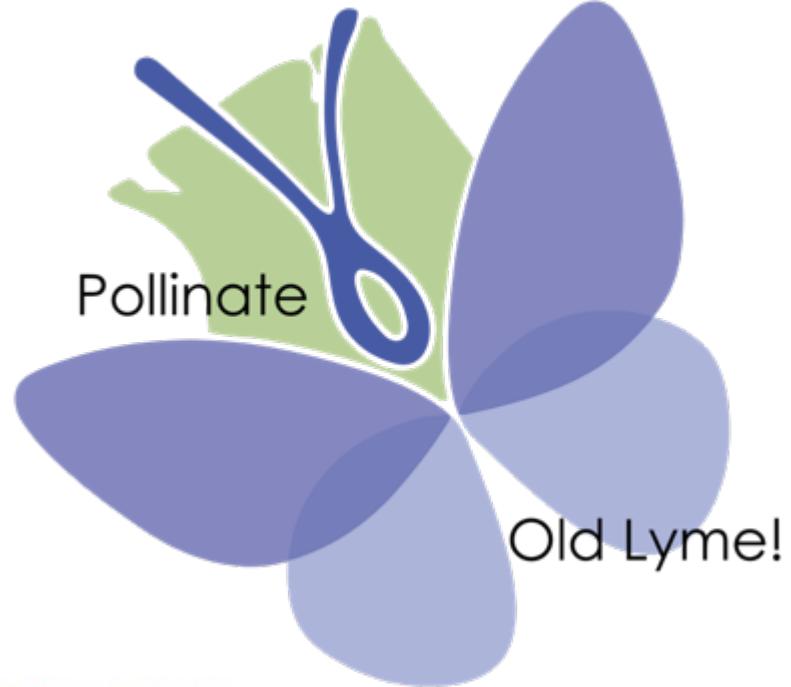
Old Lyme
Land Trust

master
GARDENER
PROGRAM
UConn Extension

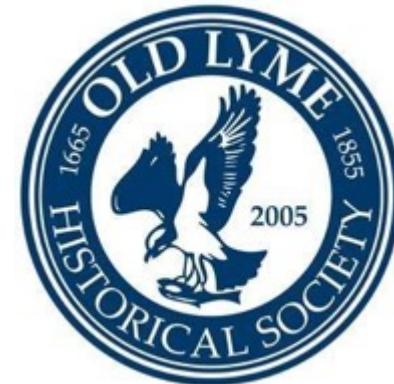
Phoebe
Griffin
Noyes
OLD LYME LIBRARY



Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center



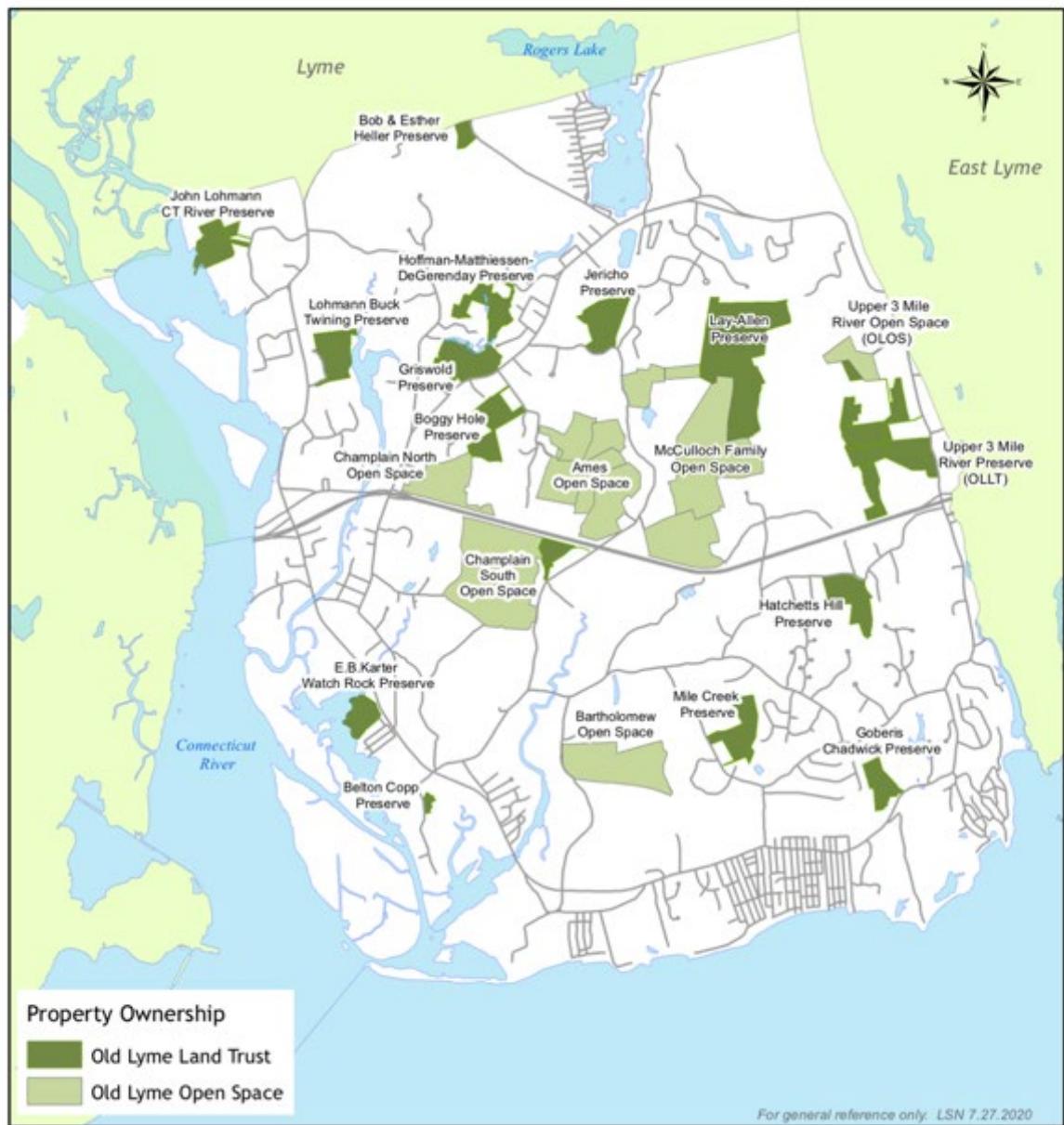
OLD LYME IS KIND
BUILDING COMMUNITY BY
SPREADING KINDNESS





Old Lyme Hiking Trails

Old Lyme Land Trust Preserves & Town of Old Lyme Open Space



Old Lyme embraces nature

Pollinator-supporting habitats

- Open Space/OLLT Preserves!
- Cross Lane Playground Wildlife Garden
- Florence Griswold Artists' Trail
- Lyme Art Association grounds
- RTPEC coming to Bee & Thistle
- Rogers Lake Barrier Garden

Education & Outreach

- Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library programs
- Duck River Garden Club speakers, civic beautification sites, plant sale
- Master Gardeners in town

Wildlife Habitat Garden at Cross Lane Playground





Invasives Education



NiptheKnotweed

@NiptheKnotweed - Home & Garden Website



Stewardship

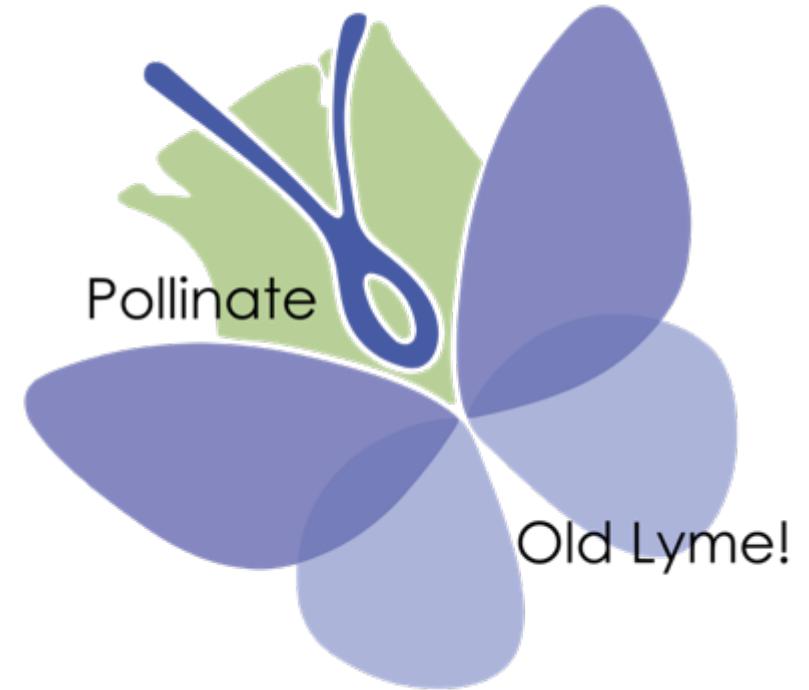


Old Lyme
Land Trust



What Can You Do Now?

- Like/Follow Pollinate Old Lyme
- Check out *Pollinator-pathway.org*
- Watch/Read Doug Tallamy
- Explore Native Plant Finder -
www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder
- Take in programs & webinars
 - Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter
 - Native Plant Trust
 - CT Audubon
 - Ctwoodelands.org – Wildlife in Winter series



1. Assess Your Yard

- Do you know what's growing in it?
- Where could you
 - Add a new pollinator bed, a tree, shrubs?
 - Add pollinator plants to existing beds?
 - Create a wood pile or rock pile?
- Take a soil sample – UConn or CAES Soil Test
- Leave your leaves/Don't rush spring cleanup



Give Native Trees a Chance



2. Get Ready to Remove Invasive Plants

Learn

- What they look like
- When and how to remove/control them
- What to plant in their place and when to do it

See CT River Coastal Conservation District's newest brochure

Go to cipwg.uconn.edu

Join NiptheKnotweed!



JAPANESE BARBERRY *Berberis thunbergii*

Deciduous Shrub
Flowers: April to May
Fruits: Late Summer

Japanese barberry is a spiny shrub with a dense twiggy form. It is dispersed to new areas by birds who eat the bright red fruits. Tolerant of a broad range of soil moisture and light conditions, it grows in various habitats, from open fields to shaded woodlands to wetlands.

IDENTIFICATION

- Small shrub, 2 to 5 feet tall
- Thin, single thorns on stems
- Alternate, teardrop shaped leaves that develop before trees leaf out
- Pale yellow flowers in clusters on the underside of branches
- Bright red berries that often persist into winter



MECHANICAL CONTROL

Hand pull seedlings and dig larger plants. Roots are shallow so infestations are fairly easy to control by physical removal.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Only use herbicides if mechanical removal is not possible. In early spring spray foliage with triclopyr, or from mid-summer to fall use either triclopyr or glyphosate. For larger plants, apply either triclopyr or glyphosate to freshly cut stumps.

Native Alternatives
Bayberry • Inkberry • New Jersey Tea • Silky Dogwood • Summersweet • Smooth Hydrangea • Winterberry

Photos from bugwood.org: top/left/bottom - L.J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut; mid - J.H. Miller, USDA Forest Service.

3. Explore/Hike Old Lyme!

- Look for oaks, maples, birches, mountain laurels and other native plants
- Take pictures of plants and settings you like
- Volunteer to help a stewardship crew!



Old Lyme
Land Trust

HOME PRESERVES & TRAILS JOIN US CONTRIBUTE CONTACT US

Let's Go Hiking!



Visit one of our many preserves –
we have over 800 acres to explore.

[Find your next hike here >](#)

We are pleased that so many people are taking to the Old Lyme Land Trust trails these days! If you are one of them, please consider joining OLLT as a member and supporting trail upkeep with your donation. Volunteers are also needed to perform trail work. Thank you!

[Learn how to join & volunteer here.](#)



Old Lyme Hiking Trails

Old Lyme Land Trust Preserves & Town of Old Lyme Open Space



4. Become a Citizen Scientist



Wild Ones



Monarch Larva
Monitoring Project



RTPEC webinars, bird
watches, Osprey Nation



FROG WATCH USA

FrogWatch CT
needs volunteers!



Bumble Bee Watch
– get the free app!



Habitat Network, Project FeederWatch,
Nestwatch, Great Backyard Bird Count

5. Explore Native Plants!



Everyone is encouraged to plant.
They don't have to be on any
Pathway.

Basic Pollinator Garden Planting Plan

Perennials

- 3 Seasons of bloom
- 3 Species for each season
- 3 plants of each species

Shrubs

- Early blooming species are key for queen bumblebees

Trees

- Oaks, cherries, willows, birches, & poplars are top larval hosts (caterpillar food!)

Wildflowers for Pollinators Through the Seasons

Wildflower	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i>	■	■				
Ohio Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>		■	■	■		
White Beardtongue <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>		■	■	■		
Milkweed <i>Asclepias</i>		■	■	■		
Anise Hyssop <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>		■	■	■	■	■
Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>		■				
Mountain mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>		■	■	■	■	■
Blazing Star <i>Liatris</i>		■	■	■	■	
Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>		■	■	■	■	■
Joe Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>		■	■	■	■	
Fall Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>			■	■	■	■
New York Ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>			■	■	■	■
Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i>			■	■	■	■
New England Aster <i>Sympyotrichum novae-angliae</i>				■	■	■

Wildflowers have habitat preferences for sun or shade, dryness or moisture, and soil type.

More plant lists for various conditions at Pollinator-Pathway.org.

List compiled with help from CT Agricultural Experiment Station.

More Resources Free to Download & Print

- Native Plant Lists
- Designing with Natives Examples
- Best Trees for Pollinators
- Invasive Plants Control
- Alternatives to Pesticides
- Landscape to Repel Ticks Naturally
- Safe Methods for Grub Control
- XERCES Society Wild Meadow Planting
- Yard Signs – purchase/donation

Available at Pollinator-pathway.org

Sample List of Trees and Shrubs for Bees Through the Season



Tree or Shrub	March	April	May	June	July	Aug
Canadian serviceberry <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>						
Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>						
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>						
Bearberry <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>						
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>						
Highbush Blueberry <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>						
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>						
Inkberry <i>Ilex glabra</i>						
Buttonbush <i>Cephaelanthus occidentalis</i>						
Sourwood <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>						
Shining sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>						
Sweet pepperbush <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>						

Note that trees and shrubs have habitat preferences for sun and shade, drainage and moisture, and soil type.



Rethink Your Lawn

With an estimated 40 million acres of cultivated grass in yards, athletic fields and golf courses nationwide, these pristine mowed areas may look pleasing to some eyes, but to the eyes of a pollinator they are vast, useless deserts void of any pollen or nectar sources. To make matters worse, these deserts frequently are laced with chemical fertilizers and pesticides which are harmful to pollinators, and in many instances harmful to pets, children, water supplies including your well, and the soil itself.

What Can Be Done?

1) **Mow less frequently.** Studies have shown that lawn mowed every two weeks – or better yet, every three weeks – resulted in the presence of more bees and a wider variety of bee species. A bonus is that keeping the grass longer encourages growth of root systems making your lawn more resilient to drought and other stressors.

NOTE: For reduction of ticks it is often recommended that lawns be cut short. Remember that there are other ways to discourage ticks such as removal of blueberry, use of tick boxes, and personal protection procedures.

2) **Let part of your yard go natural.** By not mowing a section of your yard you may be surprised to find a number of wild flowers which previously were not seen. You are creating a mini-meadow, which you could augment by actually adding a few native plants.

NOTE: Any invasive plants should be identified and pulled before they go to seed. Other methods of control should include only natural organic products.

3) **Plant part of your lawn as a pollinator garden.** This could be done by expanding established flower beds using native plants which are most beneficial to pollinators. Lists of native plants can be found at Pollinator-pathway.org and PropPollinators.org, or if unsure, ask your nursery for them.

Digging up lawn areas is labor intensive, so a good way to avoid this is by placing cardboard, newspapers or mulch over the new garden area in the fall. This makes digging in the spring much easier.

Many garden designs are available as well as lists of native plants. Plan to have varieties which bloom at different times throughout the seasons. Also pollinators prefer flowers to be planted in groups rather than single species scattered throughout the garden. Flowering trees and shrubs which benefit pollinators should be considered as well. Once established they provide denser floral resources and are easier to maintain.

Why you should not use chemicals on your lawn.



Pollinator Pathways

Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife

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Resources

Audubon - Native Plants - How to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly. Grow a beautiful garden that provides a safe haven for birds in the face of climate change. Find native plants for your region by entering your zip code here.



Protect Our Pollinators is a nonprofit organization devoted to public education and to the conservation of pollinators and their habitats based in Bethel, CT.

The Pollinator Pathway idea was first founded by Sarah Bergmann from Seattle Washington.

POLLINATOR PATHWAY



The XERCES Society has worked to protect invertebrates and their habitats since 1971.

[Pollinator Information](#) from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station



Help Spread the Word



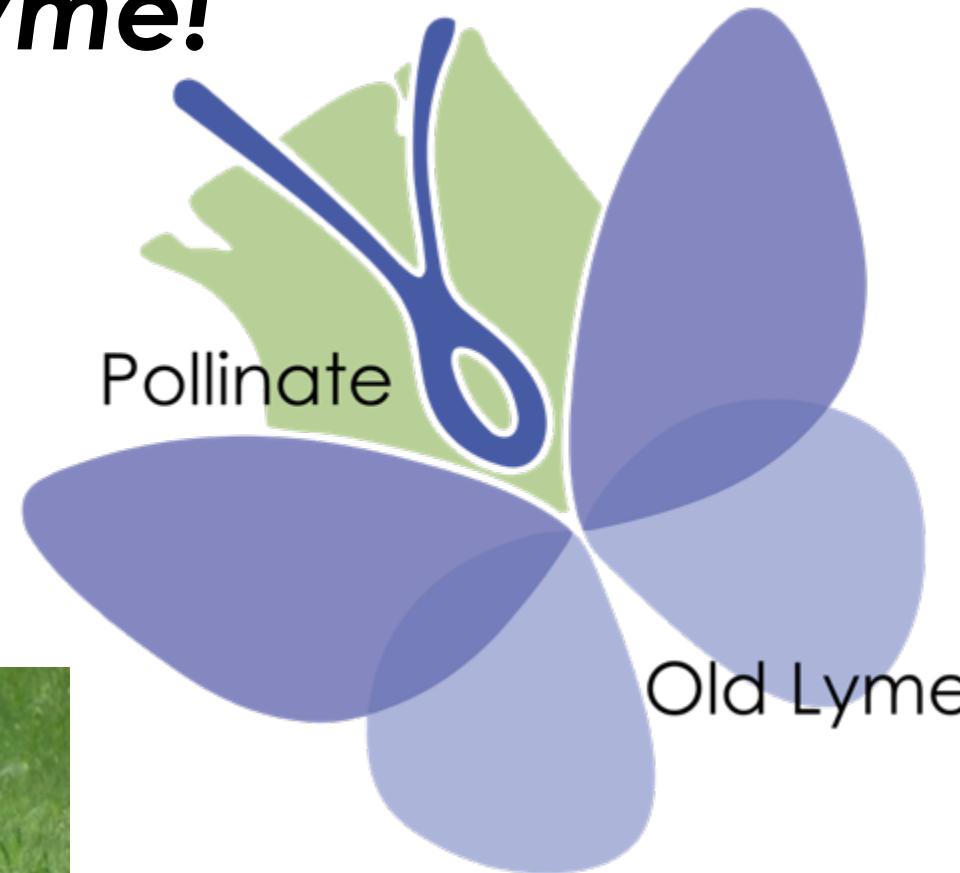
- Like/Follow *Pollinate Old Lyme!* Facebook page
- Watch for *our* Page on Pollinator-Pathway.org
- Tell your friends and neighbors, encourage them to join in
- Watch for upcoming programs & speakers
- Send us your questions, we'll look for experts & speakers
- Info coming soon on Logo yard signs

Be a part of *Pollinate Old Lyme!*

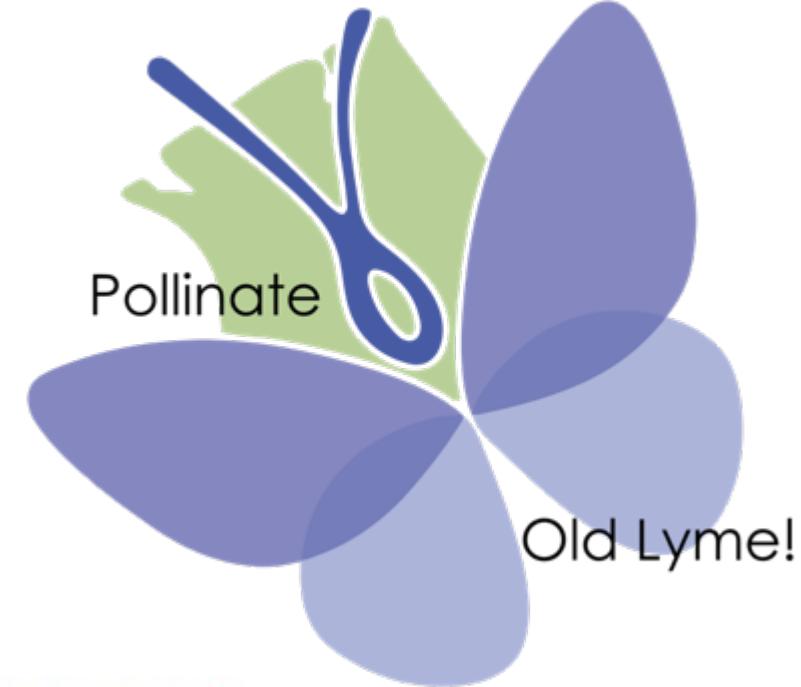
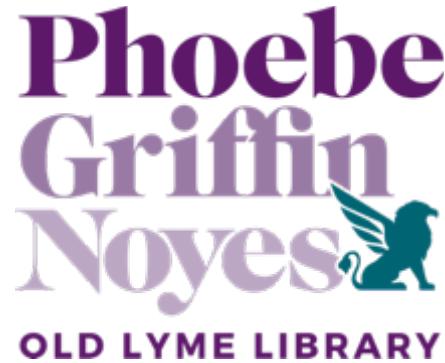
Pollinate Old Lyme! Facebook – please Like/Follow

Send questions to PollinateOldLyme@gmail.com

www.Pollinator-Pathway.org – Old Lyme page coming soon,
look under “Pollinator Pathways,” “Connecticut”



Pollinate Old Lyme! Team



Old Lyme
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Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center

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BUILDING COMMUNITY BY
SPREADING KINDNESS

