

Proposed Pollinator Garden Club

Member goals are to gain knowledge and skills required to create and maintain attractive native flower gardens or meadow plots that optimally provide nectar and pollen forage and that strive to appeal to aesthetic standards in the landscape. Based on nature's requirements, native plants will dominate the plant palate with special attention to midsummer dearth and fall bloom times, realizing that spring delivers abundant forage from trees.

Advisors and consultants will coach the methods of design, and habitat issues for ground and stem nesting bees. These resource people from several institutions are engaging in their passion for the issues. Club members may adopt a portion of the church demonstration garden for practice and bragging rights.

The core motivation for the club is to promote the concept of replacing lawn space, which is a zone practically devoid of natural life, with habitat that enriches the environment, pleases the observer and provides the owner with deep satisfaction.

Plant selection and care will share stage with the study of **the pollinators themselves**. We will keep records on pollinator populations and bloom appeal as citizen science work. Most of the club attention will be on native bees because of their critical relationship to our native plant environment and vice versa. And when studied up close, the stunning beauty of the individual species tends to demand its own attention. We will understandably include other Hymenoptera and, of course, the beautiful butterflies and moths. A related group, Delaware Beewatchers, will help coach in this monitoring endeavor.