

Grow Native massachusetts

Every garden matters ~ Every landscape counts®



June 2026 Newsletter

Pollinator Month 2026 Is Underway!

We have so many pollinator-related programs this month that we couldn't stick to just one Pollinator Week— so we're celebrating Pollinator MONTH! We are especially thrilled that the Massachusetts Pollinator Network and Lexington Living Landscapes are joining forces to co-host a mini film fest, focused on our wonderful insect friends. One film will be screened online, one will be in-person, and both will be entirely free for all to enjoy. We hope you will be able to join us for one or both of these exciting events:

POLLINATOR FILM FEST

Wednesday, June 10: An online screening of [*The Little Things That Run the World*](#)
7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

Tuesday, June 16: An in-person screening of [*The Extraordinary Caterpillar*](#)
7:00-9:00 pm at [*The Venue*](#) theater in Lexington, MA

Tickets to our July 11 POLLINATOR DINNER GARDEN PARTY at Herb Lyceum in Groton are available all month!

We will gather at the [Herb Lyceum](#) in Groton, MA, wander their beautiful gardens, and enjoy a dinner featuring foods we couldn't have without our native pollinators (and even a few dishes with invasive species!).

We will be joined by none other than [Nick Dorian](#) to talk about the pollinators we have to thank for the meal, and [Russ Cohen](#), who will give us insights on responsible foraging for edible natives. There will be an optional added wine pairing from local [Marzae Wine](#), as well as a cash bar and music from [David Thorne Scott](#).



[Get Your Garden Party Tickets Now!](#)

More Upcoming Programs You Won't Want to Miss...

WORKSHOP

Container Gardening with Native Plants

Instructor: Anna Fialkoff, [Connecticut College Arboretum](#)

When: June 11 | 6:30 - 8:00pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Fee: Member \$25/ Non-member \$35/
Workshop Sponsor \$100



Learn fun and ecologically meaningful ways to grow native plants in pots! You'll come away with design ideas for grouping species based on their preferred growing conditions and complimentary forms, as well as horticultural techniques that ensure happy, thriving plants throughout the season.

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)



NATIVE PLANT POP-UP MARKETS

[Ipswich River Watershed Association's RiverFest](#)

June 14 | 1:00 - 4:00pm

Ipswich River Park, North Reading, MA

[Brookline Farmers Market](#)

June 18 | 1:30 - 6:30pm

Centre Street West pkg lot, Brookline, MA

[Central Square Farmers Market](#)

June 29 | 12:00 - 6:00pm

76 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA

Get native plants from local growers, and bring them all your plant and garden questions! We will be joined by growers from our native nursery network, including [Checkerspot Farm](#), [Red Trillium Gardens](#), [Butterfly Effect Farm](#), [Hilltop Natives](#), and [Lady Fern Farm](#). They start much of their stock from seed (often local ecotype), and curate their inventory with an eye toward species of particular value to pollinators, caterpillars, and other threatened wildlife. All of them are passionate advocates for native plants and creating habitat in our gardens. Come get some great, locally grown native plants!

[Check Out Our June Pop-Up Markets](#)



ECOLOGY ACTION

Invasive Plant Removal at Dwelly Farm

Hosted by: [North County Land Trust](#)

When: June 16 | 3:00 - 5:00pm

Where: Dwelly Farm, Barre Rd,
Templeton, MA

Ecology Actions are volunteer opportunities that support the conservation efforts of our important partner organizations.

Join us for a session of invasive plant ID and removal at North County Land Trust's Dwelly Farm Conservation Area in Templeton. Throughout the season the “Invasive Erasers” will meet on alternating Tuesday afternoons to remove invasive plants on a drop-in basis, but this date is set especially for Grow Native Massachusetts involvement.

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)

SPECIAL EVENT

Moths after Dark: An Evening With The Caterpillar Lab

When: June 17 | 9:00 - 11:50pm

Where: New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

Fee: \$45 for members of Grow Native Mass and NEBG, \$54 for non-members



Step into the night and discover the beauty of moths and other nocturnal insects!

Join us for a special moth sheeting with The Caterpillar Lab at New England Botanic Garden. A white sheet illuminated by an extra bright lamp is all the encouragement the moths need to gather, and it's just the right time to see luna moths and giant silk moths. This will be a late night and space is limited, so register for your spot now!

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)



MAPN SPECIAL EVENT

Environmental Anthropology and the Nature-Culture Divide

Presenter: Lauren Keohane, Community Engagement Coordinator supporting [The Trustees'](#) Urban Outdoors Initiative

When: June 25 | 7:00 - 8:00pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Fee: Free

This talk explores how environmental anthropology challenges the common societal view that humans and nature are separate. Through discussions of Indigenous land stewardship, environmental justice, and cultural adaptation, we'll examine how protecting nature through thoughtful integration instead of separation will lead to reciprocal wellbeing.

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)

MAPN MONTHLY PRESENTATION

**Beyond Pretty Flowers:
Turning Pollinator
Watching into Credible
Citizen Science**

Presenter: Claire O'Neill, [Earthwise
Aware](#)

When: June 30 | 7:00 - 8:15pm

Where: Online via Zoom



Fee: Free

This talk will show how simple curiosity can lead to credible pollinator data. Starting with garden-level observations of who visits which blooms, the talk expands to include all beneficial insects and their ecological roles. Small changes in what, where, when, and how you record can turn casual sightings into meaningful data. (Photo: © Claire O'Neill)

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)

**For even more great programs, check out our
[Upcoming Partner Events](#) listings!**

You visit this interactive calendar anytime to catch up on what's going on around the state (and beyond!). You can also [SUBMIT](#) any native plant, ecological landscaping, or habitat creation/restoration events that are not already listed.

Bulletin Board



Dr. Robert Gegear to speak at Tree Talk Natives

Dr. Gegear, renowned specialist on at-risk native bees and the plants they need to survive, will discuss his work, the importance of creating habitat for these bees and other at-risk species, and answer your questions. This event, at [Tree Talk Natives](#) in Rochester MA, is free and open to all.



Everyone in Massachusetts deserves clean drinking water and access to nature

The time to act is NOW. Learn how we're working to win permanent funding for land and water conservation in Massachusetts! Stay updated about the Protect Water & Nature ballot initiative: natureforma.org.



Bring Us Those Plastic Pots and Trays!

We are upholding our now annual tradition of collecting “non-recyclable” horticultural plastic to send to East Jordan Plastics’ recycling facility in Michigan to create a circular economy of plant pots. Our [plastic recycling collection area](#) will be open until June 22.

Photo of the Month



Kalmia Miner Bee Visits Sheep Laurel

Photo credit: [Nick Dorian](#), CC-BY-NC via iNaturalist.

Sheep laurel is a small, evergreen shrub that thrives in environs with highly acidic soils, including woodlands and fields with thin, sandy soils, rocky barrens, and bogs. Though its clusters of magenta flowers are eye-catching to humans, it attracts relatively few insect pollinators. According to naturalist Matt Pelikan, this could be because it offers limited nectar rewards and its pollen is not very sticky and hard to collect. An exception to this is the specialist miner bee (*Andrena kalmiae*) which needs laurel pollen to reproduce, and seems to strongly (or perhaps exclusively) prefer sheep laurel. Learn more in Matt Pelikan's article in the [Martha's Vineyard Times](#).

Header Photo: Bicolored striped sweat bee (*Agapostemon virescens*) visits black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*).

Donate / Become a Member



We inspire people to action across Massachusetts, on behalf of native plants and the diversity of life they support.

We are passionate about our mission. Please join with us to make it a reality.
