

Resolution to Support Pollinator Habitat, Education, and Awareness in Wisconsin

Whereas, pollinators are essential for the production of food, provide essential ecological services, promote clean air, water, and soils because of enhancing plant growth, increase plant and animal diversity in ecosystems, and provide intrinsic value overall to our world;

Whereas, pollinators across the state are facing a major decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticides, colony collapse disorder (CCD), arthropod pests, and pathogens;

Whereas, providing suitable native habitat for pollinators will reduce habitat fragmentation and thereby increase pollinator population and diversity as well as provide habitat for birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and beneficial insects;

Whereas, such native habitat would allow growth in native pollinators thereby benefiting crops as well as promote habitat for species that are natural predators of pests that harm crops, thereby reducing the need for pesticide use;

Whereas, the creation of such habitat through the use of native plants can be done on a small scale in farm field borders, urban areas and small scale gardens and thereby reduce habitat fragmentation for pollinator habitat;

Whereas, careful use of pesticides should be promoted such as spraying in the evening to avoid the majority of the pollinators that are active throughout the day and avoiding spraying during the blooming season of plants;

Whereas, such careful use should avoid the use of dust or microencapsulated pesticides that pollinators would more likely bring back to their larvae and should avoid systemic use of pesticides that incorporate the chemicals into the plants themselves;

Whereas, the National Wildlife Federation has created a Certified Wildlife Habitat programs that encourages the creation of habitat for pollinators and additional species;

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting assembled April 10-11, 2015 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin urges the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Legislators, and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation affiliates to promote the above-mentioned practices in order to promote the increase of native pollinators in Wisconsin;

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation create and implement public outreach programs similar to, or in conjunction with, the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat program.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps.

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