

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge



The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is dedicated to reviving the populations of many pollinators by creating a pollinator box. The Refuge's first pollinator box is located behind the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center.

Great Swamp National
Wildlife Refuge
Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center
32 Pleasant Plains Rd.
Harding Township, NJ

Fun Facts

- Over 75% of all flowering plants are pollinated by animals.
- There are over 200,000 different animal species that serve as pollinators.
- Pollen can come in many different colors.
- Honey bees are not native to the United States.
- Approximately 1/3 of a human's daily nutrition is supplied by pollination.
- The U.S. has lost over 50% of its managed honey bee colonies over the past 10 years.
- Chocolate is just one of many products that is dependent on the pollination by animals.

Learn more about pollinators and solutions to their decline here:

<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html>

<http://www.pollinator.org/>

Revised June 2014



Pollinator Boxes

One Solution to the
Pollinator Decline

What Is Pollination?

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the flower's stamen to its pistil. This process fertilizes the plant and creates new seeds.

Both wind and many animals can initiate pollination. Most of the time, plants are pollinated accidentally by animals as the pollen clings to their bodies when they travel to and from plants. These pollinators are crucial to the reproduction of flowering plants and the production of many fruits and vegetables.

What Is Its Importance?

The fruits and seeds of flowering plants are very important to humans and to wildlife. The pollination of these plants is responsible for the production of many foods and crops.

Without pollination and pollinators, the economy and the production of many crops would suffer.

What Are Pollinators?

Pollinators are specific insects and animals that either directly or indirectly spread pollen so that seeds may be produced for plant reproduction.

Fertilization is carried out by the plant itself once the pollen has spread.

Some of these pollinators include:

- Bees
- Wasps
- Beetles
- Bats
- Birds
- Butterflies



Populations of many pollinators, especially honey bees, have been steadily declining in recent years. This reduction of pollinators influences both humans and wildlife.

Though it is not entirely clear, habitat loss, degradation, misuse of chemicals and even disease are linked to the decline in pollinator species. Since about one third of human nutrition is due to animal pollination, the economy, human diets, and natural ecosystems would be greatly affected.

What Is a Pollinator Box?

Though not all pollinators have the same nesting habitats, many insects, such as bees, wasps, and some flies, use tunnels and holes to lay their eggs, raise their young, and hibernate during the winter. Pollinator boxes are wooden structures lined with holes to attract insects to build their nests inside. Insects tend to use these boxes year-round. These boxes allow pollinators to live and thrive in the area and to help their population grow.

A pollinator box is just one of many solutions to the growing problem of the pollinator decline.

