



Ahbléza

Lakotah word - one who observes or one who perceives

NEWS OF THE POLLINATOR PATHWAY, SOUTH COAST

Correction regarding the number of gynes (unmated female bees) produced by a colony. “In the Fall, between 10 and 50 gynes are produced by a successful colony as well as some drones.” Once mated, the gyne becomes a queen. Some smaller colonies or those impacted by pesticides may not reach the reproductive phase at all or will only produce males (drones).” Thanks Dave Kollen, Xerces Ambassador and “All-around Bee Guy” for bringing this to the Editor’s attention.



Bombus mixtus

Dave Kollen will speak about native bees on August 6th at the South Slough Estuary Visitor Center. Stay tuned for details.

“Lessons from a Pollinator Garden”

Free garden class, presenter Darcy Grahek
Saturday, **June 20**, 11 am – 12:15 pm

-Public garden at the USF&W offices. Bring a chair, a hat and your water bottle. Parking also available down below at Bandon Marsh Overlook; from there follow the tunnel trail up to the offices to find the class at the garden.

NPSO Garden Tour

Saturday was our local Native Plant Society of Oregon’s annual garden tour on a beautiful June afternoon. Our NPSO South Coast Chapter focused on gardens around Port Orford, Langlois and inland, up the canyons of the Elk and Sixes rivers. Such an incredible diversity of geology, and thus plant life, exists in this relatively small area. As we drove from site to site on this self-guided

IMPACTS OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

by Jazmin Lockwood, Stillwater Natives Intern

Invasive plant species are non-native plants that are introduced to an area where they do not naturally occur, causing harm to the environment, economy or human health. Not all non-native plants are invasive; only those that spread aggressively and outcompete native species are considered invasive plants. They often thrive because they lack natural predators, diseases or environmental limits that would normally keep their species in check.

Invasive plants are a serious problem for pollinators and other insects. Pollinators depend on a variety of native plants for nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. However, invasive species often replace these native plants, reducing the availability and diversity of food sources. Many invasive plants either do not provide adequate nutrition or bloom at times that do not match the needs of local pollinators. As a result, pollinators may struggle to find consistent food, leading to population declines.

One important concept related to invasive plants is monoculture. Monoculture refers to an area where a single species dominates and grows almost exclusively, crowding out all other plant life. Invasive plants create monocultures, spreading quickly and efficiently as seeds, roots or runners. Biodiversity is reduced and the balance of the ecosystem falls. This is especially harmful to pollinators, which rely on a wide range of plant species to survive.

In our area, several invasive plant species create monocultures. European beachgrass is one that was introduced to stabilize dunes. It spreads

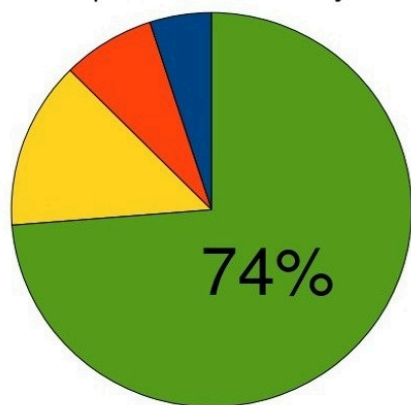
(Garden tour cont.)

tour, we were greeted at each location and walked through very different gardens. It was fascinating to see how the homeowners incorporated native plants into these landscapes. Some of the gardens were very challenged by wind, steepness or soil types. Besides providing habitat for pollinators, native plants are extremely resilient, and most are drought tolerant. There were also wet areas where Seep Spring Monkeyflower and Ninebark were thriving.

Founding NPSO member Maggie Daly does a great job organizing the tours and engaging volunteers to help out on each site. Tickets were only \$10, and funds help NPSO promote native landscapes and awareness of the diversity of our indigenous species. Scuttlebutt says next year's tour may be in the Coos Bay/North Bend area.

South Coast Bumblebee species

This local 2008 study found that various bumblebee species are conclusively better pollinators of cranberries compared to both honeybees and other native bees.



The Western bumblebee, once common across the western US, has seen a sharp decline in its population. The species has been greatly affected by diseases spread by commercially reared bumblebees. Pesticide use and loss of habitat along with our changing climate are compounding factors.

- *B. californicus* (Western bumblebee)
- *B. melanopygus* (Black-tailed bumblebee)
- *B. mixtus* (Fuzzy-horned bumblebee)
- *B. vosnesenskii* (Yellow-faced bumblebee)

Data from 2008 Bandon cranberry bog study, Melissa McKenney, Sujaya Rao and William P. Stephen. Dep't of Crop and Soil Science, OSU

Get on the Pollinator Pathway map! Watch their webinars to learn more about using native plants to make habitat and other pollinator supports.

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/webinars>

(Invasive continued)

aggressively and forms dense mats that prevent native dune plants from growing. An important concept related to invasive plants is monoculture. A monoculture refers to an area where a single species dominates and grows almost exclusively, crowding out all other plant life. Invasive plants frequently create monocultures because they spread quickly and efficiently, often through seeds, roots, or runners. When a monoculture forms, it reduces biodiversity and disrupts the balance of the ecosystem. This is especially harmful to pollinators, which rely on a wide range of plant species to survive.

In the area surrounding Bandon, Oregon, there are several invasive plant species, including gorse, that create monocultures. Another example is Scotch broom, a shrub that spreads rapidly and forms thick stands that crowd out native vegetation. Both of these species reduce habitat for pollinators and other wildlife by limiting plant diversity.

Another key term is species richness, which refers to the number of different species present in a given area. High species richness usually indicates a healthy ecosystem. Invasive species reduce species richness by replacing diverse native plant communities with a single dominant species. This loss of diversity weakens the ecosystem and makes it more vulnerable to further environmental stress.

Invasive plants are such a problem because they grow quickly, reproduce efficiently, and adapt well to new environments. They often use resources like sunlight, water and nutrients more effectively than native plants. This allows them to outcompete and displace native species, leading to habitat loss and reduced food sources for wildlife. Additionally, invasive plants can alter soil chemistry and fire patterns, further damaging ecosystems.

To help restore balance, plants native to an area can be used in place of invasive species that have been removed. By understanding invasive plants and their impacts, communities can make better choices that protect pollinators and maintain healthy ecosystems.

The Extraordinary Caterpillar (the movie) returns, Aug 14 at Mingus Park. 8 pm Thanks Coos WA!

Darcy Grahek, Editor -contact: darcygrahek@gmail.com