



Ahbléza

Lakotah word - one who observes or one who perceives

NEWS OF THE POLLINATOR PATHWAY, SOUTH COAST

EPA Failure of Duty

The Environmental Protection Agency is allowing deregulation of dangerous pesticides putting the future of our living world at risk in a most irreversible way. These pesticides contain PFAs, the forever-chemicals and they are water soluble. They will merge, carried by rainfall or irrigation, into our waterways. They will enter the groundwater and the food web, affecting wildlife and humans. PFA (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are known as “Forever chemicals” because they persist for thousands of years in the environment, causing harm.

“Current PFAS policies fail to protect human and environmental health. Developing a clear, consistent national strategy for managing these chemicals, one that is informed by emerging scientific evidence and long-term public and environmental health considerations, is essential for protecting our food, water, and community well-being.”

Quote from author Alexina Cather, MPH

If a government cannot protect its' butterflies then we must wonder about it's ability to protect the humans as well. - Miz Bizbee

Planting a Pollinator Patch - Final Steps

Time to plan the design that restores any amount of pollinator habitat, using mostly native plants.

See page 2 for third of a 3 part series, read step by step of “how-to” create a pollinator patch.

Previous steps inside July and Aug Ahbleza newsletters, <https://www.stillwaternativesnursery.com/newsletters>



Common Buckeye by Vicki Affatati
Pollinator show at Bandon Public Library

TWO IMPERILED LOCAL SPECIES

The Monarch butterfly requires Milkweed on which to lay it's eggs, the only food for its caterpillar. Two local butterflies, the Seaside Hoary Elfin and the Coastal Greenish-Blue, also require “host” plants. Like the two butterflies, these flowering



Seaside Hoary Elfin

plants are native to our south coast of Oregon and adjacent northern coast of California. Critical loss of habitat has deprived these butterflies of these unique plants that support their caterpillar phase.

Cont. on page 2

POLLINATOR PATCH WORKSHOP

“ALL ABOUT NATIVE FLOWERS”

Oct 24, 2026 at Bandon Public Library

by Darcy Grahek of Stillwater Natives Nursery

Register by emailing Darcy at -
info@stillwaternativesnursery.com

Planting a Pollinator Patch - Final Steps

VII. After-care

You have just finished planting. Mulch areas to conserve water and prevent weeds. This can make it difficult for tiny annuals seeds to germinate. Either leave bare dirt areas for seeding in annuals or adding them in later as additional bedding plants. Mulch an inch or two with non-rich, decomposing organic matter such as leaves or bark. Keep mulch well away from the plant stems and trunks. In contact with wet mulch, this could lead to decay of the plant's crown (center of growth) or trunk.

VIII. Years 2 and 3

In year 2, you can divide and move some of the more assertive perennials, waiting until late Fall or Winter. Bare dirt is a must to put down annual flower seeds, great for increasing the biodiversity. Leave species with pithy-center or hollow stem dead twigs as these are frequently utilized by stem-nesting bees. Species such as Red Elderberry, Thimbleberry, Cow Parsley, Checkermallow, Big Leaf Lupine, Fireweed, Goldenrod, or Western Yarrow. An extensive list of Oregon's south coast native plants suitable for microhabitats can be seen at www.pollinatorsouthcoast.org.

After Year 3, lightly prune flowering shrubs just after they flower. A vase-shaped look gives maximum light exposure to increase blooms. Set a height that works for your maintenance plan. These species evolved with deer and elk constantly pruning them, this helps plants regenerate.

PLANT SALE - Native plants ONLY

STILLWATER NATIVES NURSERY

Many perennials, 1 gallon, \$10

Oct. 9 and 10, from 10 am- 4 pm

53701 Beach Loop Rd, Bandon, OR

Editor - Darcy Grahek: darcygrahek@gmail.com

Cont. from page 1

These plant species are becoming hard to find in patches large enough to support the butterflies' populations. For the sake of genetic diversity, a supporting host plant most occur in numbers large enough to support a population of butterflies, not just a few. For the Coastal Greenish Blue, Cow Clover (*Trifolium wormskioldii*) is the main host plant and for the Seaside Hoary elfin, the only host is Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*).



Coastal Greenish-Blue

Due to human impacts, there are scarce locations in our ecoregion where scientists can find these host plants in order to study the butterflies. A huge problem is invasive plant species that outcompete these host plants, which are groundcovers, only about six inches tall.

Development of the land of these coastal edges reduces habitat by changing the landscape. The introduced businesses and homeowners usually select a non-native landscape design and often use herbicides and insecticides as a maintenance tool. Off-road vehicle use and climate change also add challenges to this critical habitat.

Here is a link to a blog written by one of the two scientists who traveled the coastline between Newport, OR and Crescent City, CA looking for and finding these two tiny and elusive butterfly species.

<https://xerces.org/blog/searching-for-rare-butterflies-on-oregon-and-california-coasts>