

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

January 19, 2013

Governor Deval Patrick
State House, Office of the Governor
Room 360
Boston, MA 2133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Thank you for previously declaring Massachusetts Pollinator Week. With your help, Massachusetts contributed to the tremendous success of the "Pollinator Week" movement which emphasizes the growing concern for pollinators.

I am writing to ask for your continued support in helping to protect pollinating animals, which are vital to our food supply and a key to global sustainability, by declaring "Massachusetts Pollinator Week," June 17-23, 2013.

In just six years Pollinator Week has grown into an international celebration of invaluable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. In 2012, 38 states declared their own state Pollinator Week. In 2013 we hope to reach 100% state participation. One recommendation of the landmark National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council study, *Status of Pollinators in North America*, was an immediate increase in public awareness of the vital roles pollinators play in our lives. By again declaring your state's Pollinator Week, you will be helping to do exactly that.

Please visit www.pollinator.org for more information about events surrounding Pollinator Week and to see *Selecting Plants for Pollinators*, a series of pollinator-friendly bioregional planting guides, available free of cost and designed to assist in choosing plants to support pollinators. Establishing pollinator-friendly plantings can increase production of crops and other flowering plants, provide important resources for wildlife, maintain natural ecosystems, and reduce the need for chemical control of pest species.



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We post the proclamations online and we display them at major Washington D.C. events.



Pollinator Week events range from nature hikes, movie screenings, picnics, and more.

The growing concern for pollinators is a sign of progress, but it is vital that we continue to maximize our collective effort. Please continue your commitment to this movement to protect one of the foundations of life that has been largely ignored. A sample proclamation is enclosed.

Thank you for supporting Massachusetts and its citizens through your advocacy for pollinators.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Tsang
Pollinator Week Coordinator

State of Massachusetts

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

WHEREAS, pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the State of Massachusetts has managed wildlife habitats and public lands such as Massachusetts forests and grasslands for decades; and

WHEREAS, the State of Massachusetts provides producers with conservation assistance to promote wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Patrick, Governor of the State of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of June 17-23, 2013 as

Massachusetts Pollinator Week

throughout the State of Massachusetts, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

NOTE - Please send a copy of your proclamation to:

Jennifer Tsang
Pollinator Partnership
423 Washington Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
415-362-1137
jt@pollinator.org

Your State proclamation will be posted on www.pollinator.org to publicize National Pollinator Week.

Thank you for helping pollinators!