



June 30, 2015

Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter – the LINK!

What do you have to contribute for the next issue of this newsletter? Consider sharing events, follow-up on past meetings, info on member accomplishments, etc! Please direct your ideas and comments to Gretchen Sabel, at gpsabel@yahoo.com. Deadline for submittal of material for the July issue is noon, July 29. Thanks!

Also, - remember to check our Facebook page for meeting information, too!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-ABC-Minnesota/423643367725301>

Our Next two LWV ABC Meetings – Field Trip! Picnic!



July 13 – Tour of Coon Rapids Recycling Center- 6pm at 1831 111th Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

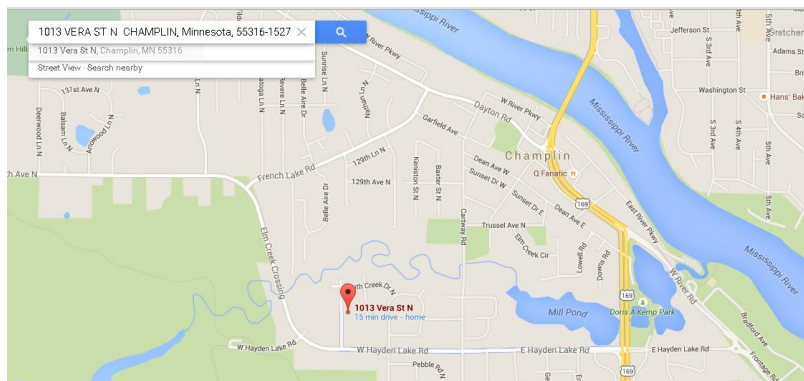
Did you know that Coon Rapids is the only city in our area that can accept Styrofoam packaging materials? Colleen Sinclair from Coon Rapids will lead us on an exploration of this facility. Things that we don't want or need any more become materials for new things, and the need for waste disposal is avoided. **Come tour this facility, bring a kid. It will be fun! Meet at 6pm.** Read about the recycling center here:

<http://coonrapidsrecyclingmn.localplacement.net/#overview> .

August 13 – LWV ABC Picnic at Geri and Darby Nelson's in Champlin – 6pm

1013 VERA ST N CHAMPLIN, Minnesota, 55316-1527

Come and see how the native plantings and raingardens have grown! When we were here last year, the construction work had just been done and the little plants nestled in their woodchip beds. Now adapted to their new homes, these plants are taking off and becoming a vital part of the ecosystem. We are also trying to arrange a speaker on monarch butterflies, we will confirm this in our July newsletter. Please bring a potluck item to share, beverages will be provided.





Report from the LWV MN Convention in Duluth, July 12-14

LWV ABC sent five members to the State Convention. We will provide a report on what happened in the July newsletter!

Congratulations to Gene Merriam for Environmental Stewardship Award



Gene Merriam, a member of LWV ABC, was recently honored with the *Willard Munger Award for Distinguished Environmental Stewardship*. His award was presented at the Minnesota DFL's Humphrey-Mondale Dinner in Minneapolis on June 6.

Gene, a resident of Coon Rapids, is a former Coon Rapids city councilman and state senator, served as commissioner of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and most recently led the Freshwater Society for six years. During his time in the Minnesota Senate, Gene was involved with numerous pieces of important environmental legislation including the Waste Management Act of 1980, which set new parameters of what to do with solid and hazardous waste; Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982; the Minnesota Super Fund Law to clean up hazardous waste sites; and the Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995.

Gene has served on the boards for the Minnesota Zoo, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Audubon Minnesota and the Minnesota Parks and Trails Commissions. He remains involved with a number of environmental groups, including appointments by

Governor Dayton to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and the Clean Water Council.

Watch a short You Tube tribute to Gene's accomplishments

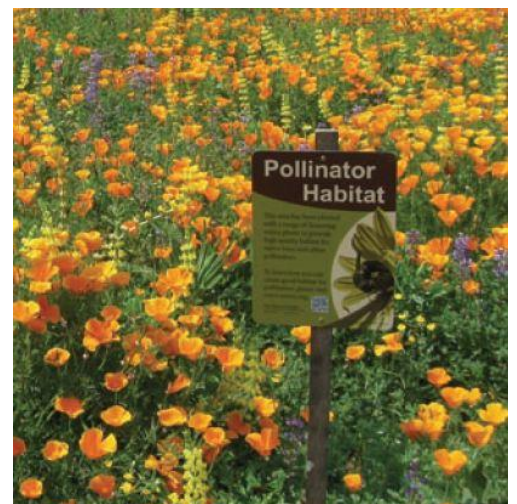
at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDUSU8G38mM&feature=youtu.be> You can also read more about Gene's accomplishments at: <https://www.dfl.org/dfl-news/2015/05/gene-meriam-to-receive-the-willard-munger-award-for-distinguished-environmental-stewardship-2/>

Other events of note:

Anoka County Maters Gardeners July 8 Walk in the Garden Class – Bunker Hills Activity Center (outside, just south of building)

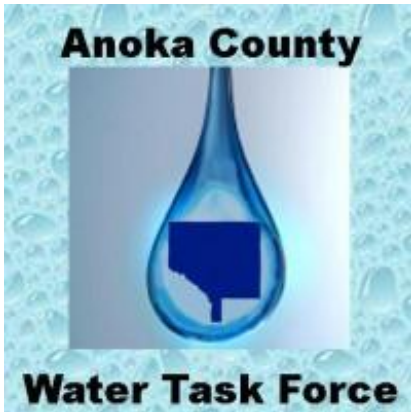
Two very experienced Master Gardeners, Eva Knudsen (who is also a beekeeper) and Kim Billings, will talk about pollinators in the garden and what types of plants and flowers can be planted to attract them. There has been a lot of information in the media in recent times about this subject, so come to this class to learn how your efforts in gardening can also help to support habitat for pollinators. If you have any questions, or would like to register for this pollinator class, please call 763-755-1280.

Classes are held at the Bunker Hills Activities Center, 550 Bunker Lake





Blvd NW, Andover, 7-8 PM, in the Veteran's Peace and Memorial Garden. Classes are free but pre-registration is required.



Smart Irrigation Forum – July 16 at 6pm, Bunker Hills Activity Center.

<http://www.knowtheflow.us/event/smart-irrigation-forum/>

Dr. Sam Bauer from the U of M will discuss plantings that are less maintenance-intensive for our area, including tall fescue lawn grasses that need almost no watering. A panel discussion by local experts will follow; the evening will wrap up with questions and discussion. This event is geared to homeowners who water their lawns as well as commercial and institutional lawn irrigators. It is sponsored by the Anoka County Water Task Force, there is no charge for the program. Incidentally, WCCO had a story on Dr. Bauer's research on tonight's news:

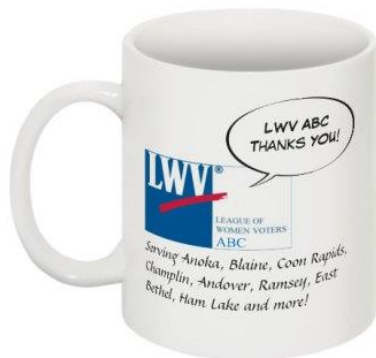
<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/06/08/u-of-m-researcher-pushes-for-drought-resistant-grasses-on-campus/>

GARDEN TOUR -- Andover Pollinator Awareness Project

On **Saturday, August 8, 2015** from 9 am until 3 pm, residents will have an opportunity to visit properties in the City of Andover that have pollinator-friendly landscapes. Folks will be on hand at each address to answer any questions visitors may have. The tour will allow residents to learn how, why and what types of landscapes and plants benefit our pollinators and other wildlife, are aesthetically appealing and help to improve storm-water quality.



*Please note that a **Map** with the list of properties on the tour will be available on the Andover Pollinator Awareness Project website by JULY 15: <http://www.andovermn.gov/407/Andover-Pollinator-Awareness-Project> Stay tuned, as the tour will be updated frequently.*



LWV ABC "thank you" mugs for sale

It takes all of us pulling together to keep our League vital and relevant. You can purchase an LWV ABC "Thank You" mug for just \$10 to remind you of all the great things we accomplish together! Contact Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com if you are interested in getting one.



Pollinator Successes:

Congratulations to the **City of Champlin!** Now the 6th city in the US to proclaim that it is BEE FRIENDLY!



**PROCLAMATION
CITY OF CHAMPLIN**

Proclaiming Champlin as a “Bee-Safe City”

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are essential to the success of growing a large variety and quantity of our food, including many fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and,

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are currently facing a grave situation because of habitat loss, pesticides, pathogens, and parasites; and

WHEREAS, pesticides, especially systemic pesticides, cannot be avoided by pollinators and pesticides have contributed to the decline of pollinators; and

WHEREAS, public and private property may easily provide pollinator and bee-friendly habitat; and

WHEREAS, pollinator and bee-friendly habitat includes plants blooming in succession that offer abundant nectar and pollen; and

WHEREAS, pollinator and bee-friendly habitat includes both native species and garden species of annual and perennial flowers, shrubs and trees; and

WHEREAS, pollinator and bee-friendly habitat may include designated zones in public spaces with signage that builds awareness of pollinator and bee-friendly habitat; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the Champlin community understand the vital role that bees and all pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them; then

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that the City of Champlin, Minnesota resolves to encourage city staff and residents to implement Bee-Safe City practices when practical, including:

1. Designating pollinator and bee friendly habitat property as “Bee-Safe Areas.”
2. Planting pesticide-free plants and seeds.
3. Refraining from using pesticides that harm bees and other pollinators.
4. Assisting in providing the public information about the benefits and needs of bees and all pollinators, including their essential contribution to our food supply.



Here's a testimonial sent to LWV ABC member Geri Nelson, thanking her for her work with the Bee Friendly Champlin team:

Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2015 08:58:59 -0500
 Subject: Bee Friendly
 To: geri_nelson454@msn.com



Geri,

I just received you email about disbanding the task force. I want to say thank you on behalf of myself, the citizens of Champlin, and most of all the Bees. My wife and I have planted a pollinating garden due to your education efforts. I have talked with many people who are more aware because of your efforts. Please thank all those involved for a job well done.

City of Anoka – LWV ABC member Zilla Way met with the Anoka Parks Commission and gave a presentation on the importance of pollinators and the peril they are facing today. Anoka staff informed Zilla that pesticides are not used on Anoka city lands. Then staff moved ahead quickly with recommending to City Council that a proclamation be passed. Congratulations to Zilla and Sandra Shanley for their work here!



City of Andover – check out the city's Pollinator Awareness Project website:

<http://www.andovermn.gov/407/Andover-Pollinator-Awareness-Project>



Also, consider being part of the LWV ABC unit in Andover's Family Fun Fest parade on July 11. We will be passing out stickers and talking with people along the parade route, spreading the word about pollinator protection! Bring a kid or two – it's lots of fun! Email Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
ABC

Learn How to Help Pollinators

When you first see the book, *Pollinators for Native Plants*, it draws you in quickly through its 1,200 color photos of flowers, insects, and their interactions.

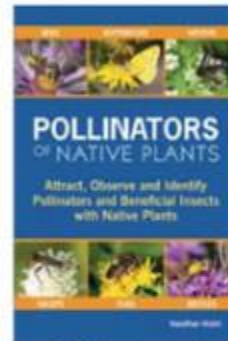
Just as Doug Tallamy's book *Bringing Nature Home* was an eye-opener for many folks in the understanding of the relationships of native plants and insects and how gardeners could have a positive role in the environment, Heather Holm's new book carries the discussion to the role that pollinating insects play in the life of a plant and why that is important.

Holm, of Minnetonka, has done a fabulous job of organizing the complex and



A great spangled fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*) on a pale coneflower. Photo by Heather Holm.

technical subject of pollination. This is a book that will be read and enjoyed for its illustrations, tidbits of information, and the larger view it presents. But, more importantly, it's a book you will want to study. It's small enough to fit the hand as a field guide, yet ambitious enough to cover the subject as portrayed through 65 perennial flowering native plants. My recommendation is to spend a preliminary hour with the book to understand its organization. The vocabulary of the opening chapter will cause many readers to refer to the word glossary in the back of the book. You might even want to read the glossary first before starting page one. You'll notice the color tabbed sections for a visual glossary and indexes, the suggested pollinator planting plans, and the common bee genera and conservation guides.



**Pollinators of
Native Plants**
by Heather Holm
Pollination Press, 2014
306 pages, \$29.95

Purchase this beautiful book for \$25, proceeds benefit LWV ABC Pollinator work. Contact Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com if you are interested in taking advantage of this offer.