



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article August 29, 2016

HCMGA Offers Free Conference on Pollinators by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) is pleased to announce its Fall Conference on Thursday, September 8, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Senior Citizens Center, 3344 Hwy 31 E, Athens. This presentation is free to the public.

HCMGA's Fall Conference is traditionally organized by the current year's interns. Interns have completed the Master Gardener training course and are working toward their certification. This year's conference topic is on pollinators and will host three speakers.



Bill Baxter is the Assistant Chief Apiary Inspector for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service in the Entomology Unit of Texas A&M AgriLife Research. While some plants may be pollinated by the wind, most need the help of a pollinator to set fruit. Baxter will explain the importance of pollinators in the production of our food supply.

Robert Cole, a local beekeeper and member of East Texas Beekeepers Association, will also be featured. He will tell you what you need to begin one or more beehives in your own backyard. An explanation of equipment needed, initial cost and the basics of beekeeping will be given.

Carol Clark, a Conservation Specialist with Monarch Watch will be speaking on attracting monarch butterflies to your garden. She is also a Texas Master Naturalist and past President of the Native Plant Society in Collin County. Learn about milkweed's role in the Monarch butterfly's multi-generational journey as they migrate across the United States and how to add this host plant to your garden.

Several vendors will be on hand selling garden related products such as plants, honey, and milkweed seeds. Door prizes will also be given.

There are numerous types of pollinators: honey bees, native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, wasps, and bats to name just a few. Come learn what you can do to help pollinators survive so they can continue this valuable role in our ornamental and vegetable gardens.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.