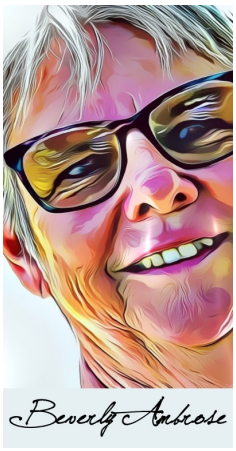
THE COASTAL NC DAYLILY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022 No. 119

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Nationals – all I can say is WOW!!! It was my first and I'm going to say that everyone needs to do it at least once. It was a great trip and everyone had a blast! Pat and I will be putting together a presentation to share with our members at our next meeting. If anyone who went has pictures/stories to share just let us know and we will add it!

Our next meeting will be Sunday, August 21st at the South Mills Fire Station on Keeter Barn Road in South Mills at 2PM.

We are going to experiment with a FACEBOOK LIVE stream of the meeting for those who are unable to physically attend.

For everyone else, hope to see you there!!

POLLINATORS ON THE JOB

by *Donna Stewart*

There's a lot of buzz (pun intended), about pollinators. Examples of pollinators are a variety of bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, hummingbirds and even bats. A bee locates a flower, slips inside to gain nectar for food, while pollen adheres to their body, legs, etc. As they move from flower to flower, the pollen grains are transferred within a flower and to other flowers. Pollen is moved from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of a flower, assisting in bringing about fertilization of the ovules. This transfer enables the plant to produce offspring by making seeds.

Who is the BEST pollinator? Bees. Honeybees are responsible for pollinating over 110 crops that we consume every day, such as apples and strawberries, approximately 80% of all the world's food crops. Bees do not pollinate grain crops, such as wheat, rice or corn.

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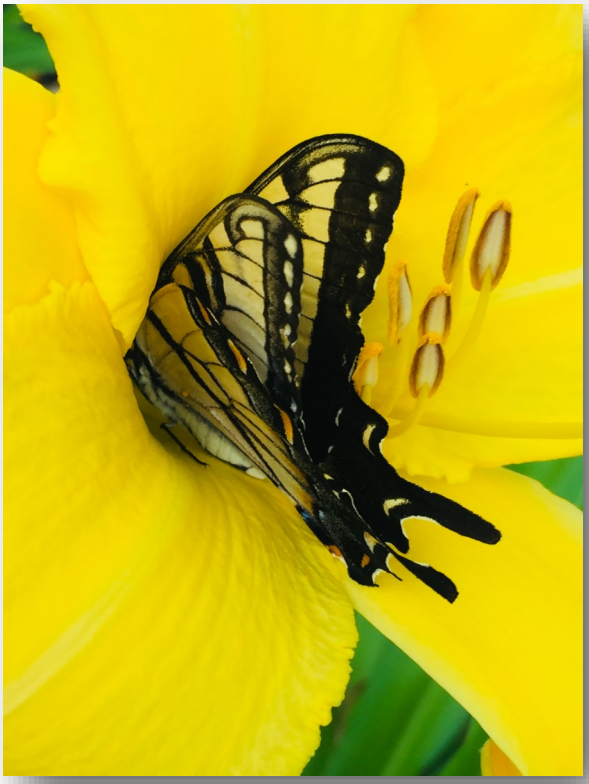

NECTAR… the gold at the end of the rainbow

The size of the pollinator may determine the type of flower it seeks for nectar. Hummingbirds use their tongues, which stretch 2/3 of the length of their body to reach deep inside a trumpet shaped flower. Bee tongues are about ½ to ¾ of their body size. They usually choose a flower suited to their size. Butterflies and moths use a proboscis, 1.5 times their body length to obtain nectar, but their feet are their taste-buds! Daylilies are well suited for feeding butterflies, who prefer large open flowers. Nectar may not always be available. There are special cells at the base of each flower, near the ovary, which secrete the sugar to the nectar.

Some plants renew their nectar in a matter of 20 minutes, but some make take a full day to provide another drink. Have you ever noticed honeysuckle? The bloom may be lovely and white, but it is usually later in life when it turns golden that you can pull the stamen and find the sweetest taste of nectar.

Pollinators have a big job to do. Numbers of pollinators are dwindling, due to a variety of factors, including habitat fragmentation, pesticide use, climate changes, parasites and predators. Ditch banks used to be covered in wild native wildflowers, and this is no longer the case, due to the wide-spread use of weed control.

What can we do to help?

Bee aware of the problem
Plant more native plants, which have blooms from early spring to late fall
Reduce or eliminate pesticides
Use Garden Chemicals responsibly. Research products and determine what is safe and when to apply. Preferably, very early in the morning or late in the evening, when pollinators are not foraging. When we know better, we do better.

Let's take a second look at these amazing creatures and welcome them into our gardens with a safe habitat to thrive!

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF INSECTS… by *Ken Ferguson*

Want a warning when **PESTS** are heading towards **your** garden? Then get involved with the Big Bug Hunt research project! Report any bugs you seen at **BigBugHunt.com**.

Even if you don't want to get involved with this research, the site is pretty neat.