



Conservation of Native Pollinators

The 2008 Farm Bill made pollinators and their habitat a conservation priority for every USDA land manager and conservationist. This training session provides an overview of the pollinator-specific language within the Farm Bill, and how to translate that language into on-the-ground pollinator habitat conservation.

This day-long workshop will equip conservationists, land managers, educators and agricultural professionals with practical science-based approaches to increasing crop security and reversing the alarming trend of pollinator decline, especially in heavily managed agricultural landscapes.

Introductory topics include the basic principles of pollinator biology, the economics of insect pollination, recognizing native bee species, and assessment of pollinator habitat.

Advance modules will cover farm management practices for pollinator protection, the development of pollinator habitat enhancements, incorporating pollinator conservation into existing NRCS programs, selection of plants for pollinator enhancement sites, management of natural and urban landscapes, and the additional funding sources and technical support available to land managers.

Throughout the workshop these training modules are illustrated by real case studies of pollinator conservation efforts around the country.

Course Training Skills and Objectives:

- Awareness of various state and federal programs and potential funding available for pollinator conservation
- Identify approaches to increase and enhance pollinator diversity on the land how biology plays a role
- Knowledge of the current Best Management Practices (BMP's) that minimize landuse impacts on pollinators
- The awareness of short and long range management strategies for improving the health of our native bee populations
- Ability to identify bees, and distinguish them from other insects
- Understand the economics of insect-pollinated crops, and the effects of pollinator decline
- Ability to assess the quality of pollinator habitat, and identify deficiencies
- Ability to make recommendations to farmers and land managers that conserve pollinators
- Ability to design and implement habitat improvements that maximize native bee populations, including the establishment of native plantings and artificial nest sites



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August 3th, 2010

UW Arboretum, Madison, WI

<http://uwarboretum.org/>

August 5th 2010

Lake Wisconsin State Park,
Chippewa Falls, WI

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/lakewissota/>

August 12th 2010

Agriculture & Energy Resource Center,
Bayfield, WI

<http://www.wisconsinarc.org/research-station-facilities.html>

August 18th 2010

Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee, WI

<http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/>

August 19th 2010

Peninsula Agricultural Research Station,
Door County, WI

<http://door.uwex.edu/researchstation.html>

Cost \$25 includes registration materials and lunch

To Register

online go to

http://conservation-training.wisc.edu/course_listing/

[list_sections?course_id=7](http://conservation-training.wisc.edu/course_listing/?list_sections?course_id=7)

For general registration questions call

920-391-4610

or email

iwest@wisc.edu

Agenda (9:30 am - 3:00 pm)

Module 1 Introduction

- Pollination economics, and the role of native bees in commercial crop production
- Pollination biology
- The role of native bees in commercial crop production
- Colony Collapse Disorder and the loss of honey bees

Module 2 Basic bee biology

- Bee identification
- Identifying pollinator nest sites

Module 3 Pollinator-friendly farming

- The role of farm habitat
- Mitigating pesticide damage
- Protecting ground-nesting bees in cultivated fields

Module 4 Open Laboratory

- Field observation and land-use discussion (outdoor activity)
- Examination of pinned specimens, artificial nests and display materials

Module 5 Habitat Restoration

- Habitat design considerations
- Plant selection and seed sources
- Planting techniques for native wildflowers
- Long-term habitat management
- Artificial nest sites

Module 6 2008 Farm Bill provisions

- Using NRCS programs and practices for pollinator conservation
- Conservation case studies

Module 7 Additional resources

Instructor Bios



Regina Hirsch, PhD. Regina Hirsch, PhD. is the Native Pollinator Outreach Specialist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS). She

is working with the Xerces Society in conjunction with NRCS and their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to develop native pollinator plant lists and habitat establishment guidelines appropriate for farmers growing pollinator-dependent crops. Regina also works with her colleagues at CIAS on the Eco-Fruit Project which brings a team of fruit growers, University researchers, grower associations, NRCS, and consultants to develop educational and funding opportunities to aid growers in reducing their reliance on high-risk pesticides and research new approaches to pest management. Regina received her PhD in Wildlife Ecology with a minor in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jennifer Hopwood is the Xerces Society's Midwest Pollinator Outreach Coordinator. In this role she works to provide resources and training for pollinator habitat management, creation, and restoration to agricultural professionals and land managers. Jennifer holds a Master's in Entomology from the University of Kansas, where her research focused on bee communities in roadside prairie plantings and prairie remnants. Contact: jennifer@xerces.org.



Co-sponsored by The Xerces Society

The Xerces Society is an international non-profit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. Xerces Society's Pollinator Conservation Program was initiated in 1996 as part of the Forgotten Pollinator campaign, and, today, is a growing collaboration with scientists around the world to translate the latest research findings into conservation practices that can be implemented in agricultural, urban, and natural settings.

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

(CIAS) Provides leadership for building a diverse, sustainable agriculture in Wisconsin. We seek creative production and marketing solutions for small and medium agricultural and food enterprises.