



THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

P.O. BOX 1557 • WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980 • 540-942-WILD • FAX 540-943-WILD

THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA CREATES BUZZ ABOUT POLLINATORS

Kick off spring with outdoor activities, gardening ideas, and educational programs that celebrate these humble heroes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – March 18, 2022 Spring is just around the corner, and this year the Wildlife Center of Virginia is encouraging members of the public to learn more about the wild animals that pollinate native plants in their area, share the importance of their roles within healthy ecosystems, and take action to protect them. Bees, beetles, flies, moths, butterflies, birds, bats, and other small mammals are just a handful of the many species of wildlife that are responsible for up to 90% of flowering plant pollination. 87 out of 128 of the most important global food crops humans depend on pollinators to reproduce, according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Pollinators across the globe are “keystone species” -- organisms that help define entire ecosystems.

Now is the perfect time to participate in the Center's [National Pollinator Bingo](#), a nationwide project that encourages people to plant native pollinators in their gardens. The Wildlife Center of Virginia created this free game (with prizes) to celebrate native plants and their pollinators across the country! Bingo cards guide participants in choosing commercially available native vegetation to plant, no matter where they may be living in the United States -- all fifty states and Puerto Rico are represented with individual and regionally appropriate bingo cards.

National Pollinator Bingo
DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Common Yellowlegs Migratory wading bird that breeds in wetlands and marshes.	Cerulean Flycatcher Small flycatcher that breeds in deciduous forests.	Crested Flycatcher Small flycatcher that breeds in deciduous forests.	Wild Bluebird Small songbird that breeds in open areas.	Blue Jay Large bird of prey that breeds in deciduous forests.
White-throated Sparrow Small songbird that breeds in open areas.	Mississippi Bluebird Small songbird that breeds in open areas.	Red-eyed Vireo Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.	Northern Oriole Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.	Indigo Bunting Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.
Wild Turkey Large ground-dwelling bird that breeds in open areas.	Green Heron Medium-sized wading bird that breeds in wetlands.	Share With A Friend No bird.	Green Heron Medium-sized wading bird that breeds in wetlands.	Wild Turkey Large ground-dwelling bird that breeds in open areas.
Cardinal Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.	Indigo Bunting Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.	Eastern Bluebird Small songbird that breeds in open areas.	Blue Jay Large bird of prey that breeds in deciduous forests.	Black-crowned Night Heron Large wading bird that breeds in wetlands.
Hairy Woodpecker Small woodpecker that breeds in deciduous forests.	Red-eyed Vireo Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.	Needle-pine Tanager Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.	Smoky Woodpecker Small woodpecker that breeds in deciduous forests.	Black-eyed Vireo Small songbird that breeds in deciduous forests.

Plant the above pollination vegetation and submit pictures to Kai Medina (kai@wildlife.org) for prize drawing entry!

See the next page for more information.

National Pollinator Bingo Participation

WHAT DO I PLANT?
Anything on this Bingo Card! All the vegetation listed are native to the listed region and planted here provide excellent habitat for a wide range of birds. This collection of plants are excellent choices for your garden and pollinator garden. Look for plants such as trees, shrubs, and flowers. Some plants are all purpose, which means they can be used in many ways. Email this bingo card to kai@wildlife.org to see how you can use it.

HOW DO I PLANT IT?
During the spring we recommend planting seeds indoors a few weeks before the last frost of the season (see the map below). After the risk has passed, you can move your plants outdoors. Look for plants that are native to your region. Make sure you are planting the right plants in the right place. Ensure that everything planted is safe for your area.

Look up useful growing tips online for each plant. We recommend checking out www.wildlife.org/plants & www.pollinator.org for some resources.

Prizes

SIGN UP BINGO!
If you plant even just one plant from the bingo card in your region, fill out the form below and gain instant entry into a drawing for a Wildlife Center of Virginia Producers Certificate and tickets to a special program on July 16, 2022 at 12pm EDT. This program will allow you the opportunity to see the center and ask questions, while we celebrate the wildlife pollinators!

CLASS
If you are a teacher leading a class or a group, contact us at the bottom email. Just by participating, your class will go on the bingo card. The drawing will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Wildlife Center of Virginia Producers Certificate and tickets to a special program on July 16, 2022 at 12pm EDT. This program will allow you the opportunity to see the center and ask questions, while we celebrate the wildlife pollinators!

More Details

SHARE WITH A FRIEND
Bingo also enables you to get on the Bingo Card, just share this activity with a friend! That's how we reach more people! Email kai@wildlife.org for more information.

WANT TO HELP?
If you are an organization who would like to work with us to promote pollinators, please contact us at kai@wildlife.org. We would be happy to help you get started!

One of the Last Spring Feeds
April 16th 2022 @ 12pm EDT



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On March 22 at 2:00 p.m. join Connor, the Center's outreach coordinator, and Amber, the Center's office manager (and avid beekeeper) as they host [Piedmont Master Gardener](#) Michelle Mrdeza for a fun discussion about the project, how you can become involved, and tips & tricks to get started with your own pollinator garden. Free and open to the public, the virtual program will be streaming on both the Center's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Creating a backyard habitat that benefits wildlife – including pollinators – is easy, affordable, and rewarding. By providing shelter, food, and water sources, gardeners can attract and sustain a wide variety of wildlife. In 2014, the Wildlife Center of Virginia became an official [National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat](#) site. Visit the Center's [website](#) for ideas, tips, and resources to get started.

For more information and to arrange an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung. A collection of high-quality photographs of pollinator species seen at the Center are available upon request.

Press Availability: To schedule an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung. Wildlife Center of Virginia staff are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours for virtual interviews about bird patients, online events, and their education and outreach work. A collection of high-quality photographs of patients and ambassador animals are available upon request.

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PRESS CONTACT

Alex Wehrung

Public Affairs Manager

awehrung@wildlifecenter.org

540.942.9453

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The nonprofit Center has cared for more than 85,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center's public education programs share insights gained through the care of injured and orphaned wildlife, in hopes of reducing human damage to wildlife.