



Conservation of Native Pollinators

The 2008 Farm Bill makes 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.



Conservation of Native Pollinators

November 5th, 2008

Cost \$100

Chippewa Valley Technical College
Chippewa Falls WI

Conservation of Native Pollinators

tbd. Spring 2008,

Rockford Illinois

Registration Information:

Visit us at <http://conservationtraining.uwex.edu>

or contact

Kevin Erb at
kaerb@wisc.edu

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 and understand how biology plays a role in their management
- 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
- Knowledge of pollinator provisions within the 2008 Farm Bill, and how to implement those provisions in conservation programs such as WHIP, EQIP, and CRP
- Ability to assess the quality of pollinator habitat, and identify deficiencies
- Ability to make recommendations to farmers and land managers that conserve pollinators (including subjects such as tillage, pesticide use, irrigation, burning, grazing, and cover cropping)
- Ability to design and implement habitat improvements that maximize native bee populations, including the establishment of native plantings and artificial nest sites

Agenda

Module 1

2008 Farm Bill Provisions
Pollination Economics, and the Role of Native Bees in Commercial Crop Production
Pollination Biology

Break

Module 2

Basic Bee Identification
Pollinator Decline
Assessing Existing Pollinator Habitat

- Existing Plant Composition
- Nesting and Overwintering Sites

Break

Module 3

Farm & Land Management Practices

- Minimizing Pesticide Use
- Techniques for Minimizing the Impact of Pesticide Applications
- Minimizing the Impact of Mowing, Haying, Burning, or Grazing
- Protecting Ground Nesting Bees
- Protecting Tunnel Nesting Bees

Lunch

Module 4

Development of New Pollinator Enhancements

- Site Selection
- Habitat Design
- Plant Selection and Seed Sources
- Planting and Establishment Techniques for Forb Rich Habitat
- Creating Artificial Nest Sites

Ongoing Management of Improved Habitats

Break

Module 5

Pollinator Habitat and NRCS Practices

- Using NRCS conservation practices for pollinator conservation
- Consideration of pollinator habitat during implementation of practices for other ecological goals (e.g. water quality, erosion control, etc.)

Selection of Plants for Pollinator Enhancements

- Assessing Pollinator Syndromes
- Plant Genera for the Upper Midwest

Module 6

Pollinator Conservation in Natural and Urban Areas
Financial Resources
Additional Technical Support and Information Resources



Lead Instructor Bio

Eric Mader is the Xerces Society's National Pollinator Outreach Coordinator. In this role he works to raise awareness of native pollinator conservation techniques among growers and government agencies. His previous work includes commercial beekeeping and crop consulting for the native seed industry where he provided weekly insect and disease scouting on hundreds of native crops. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Department of Horticulture's Masters program, and has recently co-authored a book on how to manage non-Apis bee species for the USDA-SARE and the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service at Cornell University.

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.