

Iowa DNR News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2024

- [Enjoy the buzz – support the local bees and butterflies by adding pollinator friendly plants around the house](#)
- [Iowa's Scholastic Clay Target Program hosts largest youth trap shooting championship in Iowa](#)

Enjoy the buzz – support the local bees and butterflies by adding pollinator friendly plants around the house



A young monarch caterpillar takes a break from dining on butterfly milkweed that was planted last year in a west facing rock garden under a deck. Monarchs lay eggs on milkweeds; the only food monarch caterpillars eat. Photo courtesy of the Iowa DNR.

If you enjoy eating apples, peaches, blueberries, tomatoes, squash and more, thank a bee. Or, better yet, plant some pollinator friendly native plants in a pot, or flower bed or garden and support the local bees and butterflies.

National Pollinator Week is June 17-23.

“If you live in a neighborhood, look at what your neighbors have and try to build on that,” said Stephanie Shepherd, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity program. “Look at it on the landscape level. If

everyone added just a few pollinator plants, think of the impact that could have on the bee and butterfly community.”

Native species are preferred because they are adapted for Iowa’s environment and are familiar to the local butterfly and bee community. Adding plants to a section of the yard will be much more beneficial than no-mow May. Planting single species in groups, and groups of plants near each other will benefit certain types of pollinators that will often focus on one plant type at a time when gathering food. Be sure to include species diversity and blooming diversity so something will be in bloom from April through October.

“Bigger plantings are always better, but simply replanting a wet part of the yard to native plants, or putting natives in the rock garden around your deck can benefit pollinators,” she said. “And don’t just get stuck in the flower garden! Landscaping with certain kinds of shrubs and trees can really raise the benefits for pollinators. Small steps, when added together, can have a huge impact.”

Cherry trees and willows flower really early in the spring – and willows thrive in wetter soils. Basswood is a popular nectar producing option for shady areas.

Information on native plants is available from the Tallgrass Prairie Center at UNI at www.plantiowanatives.com or from the Iowa DNR at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Wildlife-Landowner-Assistance> and <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry>

Five ways to support the local pollinators

- Reduce the amount of lawn that you have! Lawn, even a messy one with weeds, is never going to be as beneficial for pollinators as an area of diverse flowering plants, or better yet, a little wild patch of prairie.
- Don’t use pesticide, especially insecticide. Or if you do, use it in as targeted a manner as possible. Most insecticides are not formulated to only impact the pest insect eating your plants, but will negatively impact all insects visiting the plant, including pollinators! Some of those insects eating your plants (think caterpillars) will turn into pollinators, so being discerning about what is truly a pest and planning for some damage to your plants is a good strategy.
- Flowers, all kinds, everywhere! You want flowers that provide nectar, you want flowers that provide pollen, you want flowers (and grasses) that caterpillars like to munch on, you want flowers that bloom spring, summer and fall. The best way to meet these needs is to plant a lot of different kinds, and not just herbaceous plants. Shrubs and trees can also be valuable food sources! Have mostly shade? That’s okay, too! There are many plants that thrive in shade that are also important for many pollinators.
- Use mostly native plants. These are hardy (and beautiful) plants that are adapted to our environment and are most familiar to our pollinators.
- Where do our pollinators go in winter? Often nowhere! They stay right on your property and in your garden. Bumble bee queens hibernate shallowly underground and many other bees, as well as caterpillars, and fireflies, overwinter in the leaf litter, in tall grass or on the plants themselves – burrowed into the stem perhaps. The best plan is to have an area that you just let be! But if that’s not possible, save your cleanup, for at least some areas until things warm up in spring.

Here's a short video of the ways to support your local pollinators. <https://youtube.com/shorts/KHbtICcvaGk?feature=share>

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Iowa's Scholastic Clay Target Program hosts largest youth trap shooting championship in Iowa



Athletes from 120 teams across Iowa converged on the Iowa State Trapshooting Homegrounds, north of Cedar Falls, June 3-9 for the 2024 Scholastic Clay Target Program State Trap Shooting Championship.

More than 3,000 athletes ranging from 4th grade through high school shot nearly 780,000 clay targets for the week. Athletes competed in three different competitions; singles trap, doubles trap, and handicap trap. The Ankeny Centennial Jaguars were the top Varsity squad in Singles and Handicap, while the Pleasant Valley Trap Team were Varsity Squad Champions in Doubles Trap. Individual honors are also awarded by age group for each discipline.

A complete list of the results can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/2024TrapResults>.

The All-State team for singles trap is determined by the combination of the athlete's league score and the Championship Event Score.

All-State Teams

Ladies Singles Trap - All State Team

1. Lacey Gangwish, Underwood Youth Trap Team, Captain
2. Quincy O'Donnell, Underwood Youth Trap Team
3. Natalie Gibson, I-35 Roadrunners
4. Evelyn Erhardt, Cedar Valley Shotgunners

5. Abbie Hill, Gilbert Clay Commanders
6. Lexi Henning, Wilton Trap Team

Men's Singles Trap - All State Team

1. Logan Sease, Ankeny Centennial Jaguars Shooting Sports, Captain
2. Matthew Eilers, Pleasant Valley Trap Team
3. Hunter Strong, Davenport Youth Trap
4. Ethan Swehla, New Hampton Youth Trap
5. Kail Schmelzer, Cresco Area Clay Crushers
6. Preston Feuerbach, Xavier High School

The High-All-Around Trap team is determined by the combination of the athlete's Trap Singles, Doubles, and Handicap Championship Events Scores.

High-All-Around Trap Teams

Ladies Trap High-All-Around

1. Quincy O'Donnell, Underwood Youth Trap Club, Captain
2. Lexi Henning, Wilton Trap Team
3. Lacey Gangwish, Underwood Youth Trap Club
4. Addison McGehearty, Mt. Pleasant Panthers
5. Evelyn Erhardt, Cedar Valley Shotgunners
6. Lily Jennings, Ankeny Centennial Jaguars Shooting Sports

Men's Trap High-All-Around

1. Matthew Eilers, Pleasant Valley Trap Team, Captain
2. Hunter Strong, Davenport Youth Trap
3. Grant Yuska, Pleasant Valley Trap Team
4. Logan Sease, Ankeny Centennial Jaguars
5. Robert Curtis, Pleasant Valley Trap Team
6. Mason Goche, Bettendorf Bulldog Trap Team

The Scholastic Clay Target Program is the largest, fastest growing, and most exciting youth clay target program in the U.S. Student athletes from elementary through high school and college have the opportunity to compete in sports such as trap, skeet, and sporting clays, as well as Olympic disciplines like bunker trap and international skeet.

The Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) are youth development programs that promote shooting sports and competitive shooting. The program's goal is to instill personal values and character traits, such as fair play, compassionate understanding, individual responsibility, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and personal commitment in young people.

For more information on the Scholastic Clay Target or Action Shooting Programs in Iowa, contact Marty Eby at 515-313-8048 or Marty.Eby@dnr.iowa.gov.