



Pollinator Stewardship Council

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Celebrate Ohio Pollinators: June 19-26, 2016

Pollinator Stewardship Council in collaboration with Ohio State Beekeepers Association has developed a Celebration of Ohio Pollinators as part of National Pollinator Week June 19-26, 2016. Sponsored by an Ohio company, Scott's Miracle GRO, and featuring event partners the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden, and the Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, it promises to be a week of celebration, education, and fun about honey bees and native pollinators.

Tabitha Mansker, the 2016 American Honey Princess, will visit the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, June 19 as part of the Celebrate Ohio Pollinators event. Kim Kester, the 2016 American Honey Queen, will visit the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, June 25, and the Aullwood Audubon Farm and Nature Center in Dayton, June 26 as part of the Celebrate Ohio Pollinators event. The Honey Queen and Princess will speak to attendees about the importance of honey bees to the public's daily lives, and how honey bees connect us from coast to coast. They will also share information on the versatility and diversity of honey. Kim and Tabitha's visit to Ohio is sponsored by the Pollinator Stewardship Council and Scotts.

Kim is the 24-year-old daughter of Jim and Barb Kester of Nekoosa, Wisconsin. She is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin, where she double-majored in dairy science and poultry science. Kim began beekeeping in 2014 and now owns six hives. She is currently

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pursuing a master's degree in Agricultural Education at Iowa State University.

Tabitha is the 20 year-old daughter of Gary and Wanda Mansker of Nevada, TX. She is pursuing studies in business and marketing, and hopes to become a teacher. Tabitha stays busy helping to manage her family's 16 hives of bees, and extracting honey for many commercial beekeeping operations. As the 2016 American Honey Queen and Princess, Kim and Tabitha serve as national spokespersons on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States.

With Ohio being the historic home of the "father of *modern* beekeeping," A.I. Root; and *Bee Culture* magazine; as well as "the father of *American* beekeeping," Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth whose cottage is listed as a National Historic Landmark in Oxford, Ohio, it is fitting that Ohio be at the forefront of celebrating pollinators. Pollinator Stewardship Council is coordinating this Ohio Pollinator Celebration, working with Ohio State Beekeepers Association to increase awareness of the honey bee health crisis, improve the health of Ohio honey bees and native pollinators, and celebrate Ohio partners working together for Ohio agriculture, Ohio parks and forests, and Ohio backyard gardens.

The national value of pollination to agriculture is nearly \$30 Billion. According to Researcher, Krishna Ramanujan in the 2010 *Cornell Chronicle* Honey bees provide \$12.4 billion through pollination services to pollinator dependent crops, and \$6.8 billion of crop value to indirectly dependent crops. Pollination services are also contributed by our native pollinators who provide \$4 billion worth of pollination services to dependent crops, and \$5.9 billion in value to indirectly dependent crops nationally.

Pollination plays a vital role in the health of Ohio's forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities.

The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, published in May 2015 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/19/announcing-new-steps-promote-pollinator-health>) promotes wise conservation stewardship to protect and support pollinators and their habitats on working lands, wild lands, utility rights-of-way, public lands, and private land.

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Visit the website or Facebook pages of any of the partners for Ohio Pollinator Week activities at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, June 19; the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden Pollinator Palooza, June 25; and Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm Bees ‘n Aull, June 26.

- Ohio State Beekeepers Assn. <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/>
- Pollinator Stewardship Council <http://pollinatorstewardship.org/>
- Cleveland Botanical Garden <http://www.cb garden.org/>
- Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden <http://www.fpconservatory.org/>
- Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm <http://web4.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/aullwood/index.html>
- Scotts Miracle GRO Pollinator Promise <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/corporate-responsibility/pollinators/>