



September 2018

Fall/Winter Events & Presentations

September

29 – **Wild Birds Unlimited**, Route 7
Brookfield, program: *Overwintering
Bees and other Critters*

October

7 – **Bent Fest at Bent of the River**
Audubon, Southbury
Pollinator table & kids-crafts

January 2019

9 – **Easton Garden Club**, Easton Library
Presentation: *We Need Our Pollinators*

March

9 – **NOFA Winter Conference**, WCSU,
White Street Danbury
14 – **New Britain Garden Club**, Shuttle
Meadow Country Club, Kensington
We Need Our Pollinators presentation

**Go to our website for event details
and additional program dates:**
www.Propollinators.org



Butterflies & Pollinators were the topic of our presentation at Hagaman Memorial Library in East Haven on Thursday, August 23rd.



Our 3rd Annual Pollinator Poster Challenge was held during National Pollinator Week, June 18 – 24. Student posters were on display at the Booth Library in Newtown.

Glyphosate Herbicide is Unsafe - Risks Human Health & Environment

A popular herbicide, RoundUp, and its active ingredient glyphosate have been in the news lately. A landmark federal court ruling required Monsanto, the manufacturer, to pay almost \$300 million to a school grounds keeper who is dying of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, having been repeatedly exposed to the herbicide.

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the U.S., its use ever increasing for application to genetically engineered corn and soybeans. It is also used as a spray for wheat, oats, barley and beans just before harvest. Homeowners also buy RoundUp to control grasses and unwanted weeds on their property. (cont. on page 2)

Federal Court Bans Chlorpyrifos –Insecticide is Harmful to Children

On August 8 a federal court determined that EPA broke the law by allowing continued use of chlorpyrifos, despite scientific evidence linking it to harmful impacts on children's developing brains. From that date, EPA has 60 days to finalize its ban of this highly-volatile neurotoxic pesticide.

In 2016 EPA's own scientists published an assessment of health risks that, through their diet, infants were being exposed to the pesticide at levels 140 times what could be considered safe. In the same assessment, the scientists found that farm workers were exposed at unsafe levels in the field – the chemical routinely sickening workers and sending them to the hospital.

In 2015 chlorpyrifos had been slated to be banned on all food crops, but in 2017 the new administration did an about-face and extended any reviews to 2022.

In the absence of national action, Hawaii recently passed a ban on chlorpyrifos which would have taken effect in January 2019. Now the court decision will take effect before that date.

The suit was brought by a number of farm worker and environmental health organizations including Pesticide Action Network, the National Resources Defense Council, and Earth Justice.

This win highlights the importance of the courts under a federal administration which seems to prioritize corporate interests over public health.



Concert for Pollinators – a Huge Success

Protect Our Pollinators held a concert fundraiser at New Morning Market in Woodbury on Saturday, May 5th. Musical numbers with a bee, butterfly or environmental theme were performed by Jackie Gaudet, Joe Jacovino, Kristen Ryan, and rising star, Sadie Baimel. Also taking the stage were Polly Pollinator and Friends performing their hilarious song, *Pollination*. The evening also included a silent auction, scrumptious appetizers, and audience sing along. Proceeds from the event will help us continue our many educational outreach projects.

Mosquito Misting Devices Banned in Connecticut

Good news! This past spring the Connecticut General Assembly voted to ban both the use and installation of residential automatic mosquito misters. These devices are timed-release outdoor misting systems frequently installed around the perimeter of a property, which automatically dispense insecticides at predetermined intervals. Since the resulting mist cannot effectively be controlled, neighboring yards would be affected, putting people, pets, wildlife and pollinators at risk as well as non-target and beneficial insects.

The ban becomes effect January 1, 2019. Before that time, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will adopt implementing regulations, which may include a fine for violating the ban.

The bill does not restrict usage of these misting devices in commercial nurseries or for agricultural application. Nevertheless, this legislation is a victory for responsible stewardship of our land and the creatures which depend on it.

Protect Our Pollinators, other concerned environmental groups as well as local legislators supported this legislation.



Glyphosate Herbicide is Unsafe (continued from page 1)

And as the use of glyphosate (which had previously been thought to be safe) sky rockets, more and more studies highlight the risks that it poses to human health and the environment.

- 1) Human health: The World Health Organization in 2015 concluded that glyphosate is a “probable carcinogen”. California has gone one step further and lists it as “known to cause cancer” and requires that it be labeled as such.
- 2) Now, the courts have supported the conclusion that glyphosate is a carcinogen and have held Monsanto liable for damaging health effects.
- 3) Glyphosate is a registered antibiotic and as such can have an effect on human bacteria in the gut and elsewhere in the body.
- 4) As an antibiotic it has an adverse effect on soil microbes and earth worms.
- 5) Other ingredients in RoundUp, the inactive ingredients, increase the toxic effect of the active ingredient, glyphosate.
- 6) Testing done by the manufacturer is done on glyphosate alone, not the product, so that test results are not reflective of real world conditions.
- 7) Glyphosate accumulates in the top layers of the soil where it is subject to run-off into adjacent water courses.
- 8) Glyphosate binds up essential minerals in the soil, and over time results in poor crop production.
- 9) Resistance to glyphosate over time results in “super weeds”. This creates the need for stronger herbicides or combination products which may be even more toxic than glyphosate.
- 10) Large tracts of farm fields in the mid-West once supported milkweed and other “weeds”, essential habitat for pollinators. These “weeds” are no longer available which is partly responsible for the sharp decline of Monarch butterfly populations.
- 11) Independent studies have found high levels of glyphosate in most brands of oatmeal, oat cereals and other foods that are readily available and consumed. Government testing has been limited and results not easily found.
- 12) The State DOT sprays a glyphosate product along guard rails near state highways.

Clearly, government agencies must be more involved in conducting testing, disseminating information and taking the lead in protecting the health of its citizens. It is our hope that the Connecticut General Assembly will develop a bill to ban or otherwise control the use of glyphosate in our state. If and when such a bill has been written, at either the state or federal level, we will let you know and hope that you will write or phone your representative in support. And as election season nears, you may want to ask candidates about their views on a number of environmental issues.

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