



## How Green Is Your Garden?

Homeowners looking for a guide to ecologically sound landscaping practices will want to own a copy of the newly published 40-page booklet titled *“Earth-Friendly Gardening – One Yard at a Time.”*

This informative and readable guide was written by members of Protect Our Pollinators (POP), a Newtown-based group that advocates for sustainable gardening methods to benefit native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Not only do these insects pollinate trees, flowers and vegetable gardens, their caterpillars may also provide a critical food source for nesting birds and their young.

Guide topics include managing soil health, caring for fruit trees, conifers, and roses, rethinking lawn care and fall clean-up, maintaining an organic vegetable garden, selecting deer resistant plants, choosing native perennials, and removing invasive species. Full-color photographs accompanying each article will help readers identify the various plants, flowers, shrubs, trees, beneficial insects and garden pests as they are discussed.

Designed for handy reference, this guide came about after a yearlong effort by POP members to research environmentally safe ways to address landscaping issues most frequently encountered by Connecticut gardeners.

“We decided we should put all this useful information into one place,” said POP organizer Mary Wilson, “while at the same time generating income to support ongoing POP projects.”

These efforts include the addition of native plants to existing POP gardens such as Tammy’s Garden at the Municipal Building, the Pollinator Pathway garden at the Fruit Trail (Fairfield Hills), the garden at Newtown Animal Control Center, and the Cherry Grove Schoolhouse garden. Signage at these sites is also planned. Future initiatives may include a Nip The Knotweed drive to control the spread of that invasive plant, the addition of native plants at the High Meadow, and educational efforts to reduce pesticide use on lawns and other green areas in Newtown.

Copies of *“Earth-Friendly Gardening: One Yard at a Time”* are available for a suggested donation of \$20 each and will be mailed to your home, postage paid.

Contact [propollinators@gmail.com](mailto:propollinators@gmail.com) for ordering information. Copies for sale are also available in Newtown at the Booth Library and the Queen Street Gift shop.