



THE BUZZ

ABOUT POLLINATORS

Simple steps can turn your yard into an oasis for bees and butterflies

GEORGE WEIGEL | OVER THE GARDEN FENCE



Somehow along the road of growing up, many — if not most — children learn that bees are evil buzzing creatures that will sting you if given half a chance. They're pests to be swatted, certainly not to be welcomed or even tolerated in any civilized backyard.

Over the past two or three generations, humans have done an effective job at knocking back bee populations, not to mention many other bugs that dare to fly or crawl around our roses and azaleas. It turns out our yard-sanitizing efficiency might be coming back to bite us instead of sting us.

Bee, butterfly and other pollinator populations have dwindled to the point where it's starting to threaten food production and prices.

Even at home, gardeners are starting to notice fewer berries on their ornamental plants and slimmer yields of tomatoes, cucumbers, blueberries and squash.

"I don't believe the average person knows that moths, flies and native bees play a major role in pollination or the welfare of our ecosystem," said Connie Schmotzer, a York

County Extension educator who also works with Penn State University's Center for Pollinator Research. "Getting folks to understand that very few insects do economic damage is difficult, especially in the face of the pesticide advertising out there."

On the flip side, she cites research showing that one of every three bites of food we eat can be traced to the work of pollinators.

Some of the pollinators' plight is the result of the rampant roadside and backyard spraying we've been doing since World War II. But loss of habitat is at least as big of a factor.

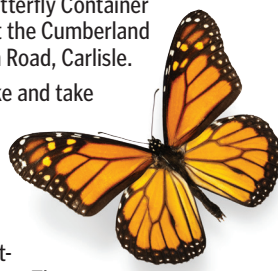
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BUTTERFLY CONTAINER WORKSHOP

National Pollinator Week is June 15-21, and to mark the occasion, Penn State Master Gardeners in Cumberland County will host a Butterfly Container Workshop 10 a.m.-noon June 13 at the Cumberland County Extension office, 310 Allen Road, Carlisle.

At the workshop, you can make and take home a container with butterfly nectar and larval host plants. Learn about the lifecycle of butterflies and the best plants for attracting them to your garden. The workshop will be outdoors, weather permitting, and master gardeners will provide a 14-inch container, potting soil and plants, including parsley, lantana and colorful flowering annuals.

Register by no later than Wednesday; class size is limited. The registration fee of \$15 includes all of the materials for your container. To register, call the Cumberland County Extension office at 717-240-6500. Visit extension.psu.edu/cumberland for more information about this and other gardening programs, or find them on Facebook at [CumberlandExtension](https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandExtension) and [CumberlandPerryMG](https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandPerryMG).



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- » Don't have room for a garden? Help pollinators one flowerpot at a time.
- » Pick the perfect planter for your porch or patio.

Summer brain drain is real, not just for kids

School's out and summer is here! Let the brain drain begin!

Back when I was a kid (my five favorite words for annoying my children), no one talked about "summer brain drain," also known as "summer learning loss."

When I was a kid, our teachers didn't hand out math packets to complete over the summer. We didn't have summer reading lists filled with depressing works of literature about war and famine and dead family pets.

No, our teachers accepted that, at the last bell, our student brains would turn to mush.

Instead of fighting brain drain, our teachers actually helped ease us into our summer zombie state. During the last week of school, every



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day was a class party with grape juice and cupcakes. We watched filmstrips and movies, and recess lasted for three hours. On the final day, we cleaned out our desks with buckets of soap and water, said good-bye and fled education.

We did read, but only a little. We hung out at the library and paged through a few of the more scandalous Judy Blume books. We traded comics and Tiger Beat magazines.

Almost no one was picking

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ON SALE SOON

Souvenirs mark pope's first visit to Philadelphia in fall

The Associated Press

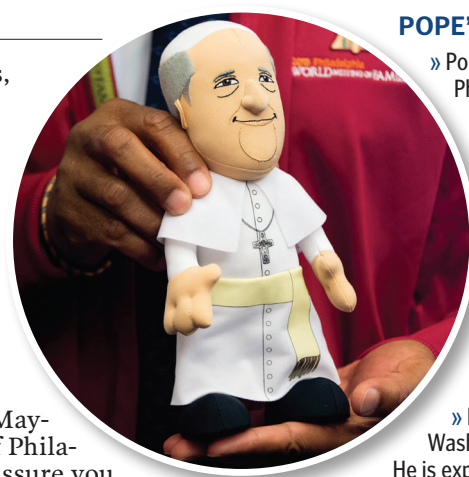
PHILADELPHIA • Keychains, rosaries, T-shirts and even a miniature plush doll of Pope Francis will be among the souvenirs for sale to commemorate the pontiff's upcoming trip to Philadelphia.

Officials on Monday gave the public a peek at some of the keepsakes to be sold online starting this month. More than 200 items will be available, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$500.

"I'm looking forward to soon making my first purchase," said Mayor Michael Nutter, an alumnus of Philadelphia Catholic schools. "I can assure you, it will be for my mother."

The pope plans to visit Philadelphia in September for the World Meeting of Families, an international gathering for Roman Catholics focused on strengthening family bonds.

Much of the memorabilia— such as cups,



POPE'S U.S. ITINERARY

» Pope Francis will be in Philadelphia for the 2015 World Meeting of Families, which will be Sept. 22-27, though he won't arrive in the city until Sept. 26. He will celebrate a papal Mass on Sept. 27 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

» Francis will arrive in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 22. He is expected to visit the White

House, celebrate a private Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and address a joint meeting of Congress.

» Francis will arrive in New York on Sept. 24. He will address the U.N. General Assembly and visit the site of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

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