

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

This is a program endorsed by the Herb Society of America (HSA). If you decide to sign up and join this effort, let me know. If you have problems copying the application, I can send you then you one. I'm working on this project for the Society.



Dear Unit Chair:

The GreenBridges™ committee is excited to provide you with this educational package on the GreenBridges™ program. GreenBridges™ is one of The Herb Society of America's signature programs and we want you to have the tools to spread the word. Educate your unit and then educate your community. Everything you need to get started is in this package!

Why is GreenBridges™ important?

The GreenBridges™ program helps to create opportunities for the safe passage of plants and pollinators and to avoid habitat fragmentation. Each GreenBridges™ garden is a link in the chain across the nation, providing safe movement for the plants and pollinators that help maintain healthy ecosystems.

Get involved in creating GreenBridges™ and you will...

- Learn best practices from a network of GreenBridges™ gardeners
- Grow the native herbs unique to your own region
- Share information with other GreenBridges™ gardeners
- Work toward a more sustainable gardening style

Working together by connecting our gardens to our neighbor's garden and then to community green spaces we can effectively create GreenBridges™ across the nation! Our plants, the pollinators and we will be the beneficiaries of the healthy ecosystems we create.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Debbie

Deborah Boutelier
HSA Past President & GreenBridges™ Chair
abacus@sprintmail.com
334-365-7806

Scroll

to next page.....my computer is insisting on adding this page... 🙄

down



GreenBridges™

The Sustainable Garden Initiative
of The Herb Society of America

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION

DIRECTIONS: Every garden, no matter the size, is eligible for certification as a GreenBridges™ garden. Creating an environment for safe passage of plants and pollinators is key to a successful GreenBridges™ garden. This means eliminating pesticide use, encouraging wildlife by providing water and shelter, and choosing plants attractive to native pollinators. Thank you for taking the first step towards a sustainable, pollinator-friendly garden!

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR GARDEN DESCRIPTION: (check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> level ground | <input type="checkbox"/> gentle slopes | <input type="checkbox"/> steep slopes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> open and sunny | <input type="checkbox"/> wooded and shady | <input type="checkbox"/> native grass lawn | <input type="checkbox"/> cover for wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> container garden | <input type="checkbox"/> patio garden | <input type="checkbox"/> rain garden | <input type="checkbox"/> rock garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mostly dry | <input type="checkbox"/> average moisture | <input type="checkbox"/> mostly wet | <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain below) |

OTHER COMMENTS: Please use this section to describe any special aspects of your garden, or how it is beneficial or friendly to plants and animals. Proximity to undisturbed, natural areas, such as state, local, or federal lands, or other undeveloped areas, is crucial to the ability of plants and animals to freely travel and re-populate.

Distance and type of natural areas that are close to your garden, if applicable _____

Total Garden Size: _____ Approximate % of native plantings _____ Approximate % of lawn/grass _____

Native Herb Conservation Practices:

(Check all that apply – GreenBridges™ gardens should be compliant in at least 4 of these areas)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> invasive plant removal | <input type="checkbox"/> composting | <input type="checkbox"/> peat free (no products containing peat) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> use of rain barrels | <input type="checkbox"/> use of soaker hoses/hand watering | <input type="checkbox"/> provide water and shelter for wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> minimal lawn grass | <input type="checkbox"/> use of local native herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> use of reputable nurseries (no wild collected plants) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> provide nectar & host plants for pollinators | <input type="checkbox"/> avoidance/limited use chemical pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers | |

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

Current Native Plants in Your Garden:

Please list plants that you know are pollinator-friendly, as well as local to your area. Please use Latin names, if you know them, rather than common names, when listing plants. Many "weeds" are considered beneficial to insects, and can be included. A mix of all natives, both large and small, is useful in developing a garden considered beneficial to plants and animals. Use a separate sheet, if needed, to list the plants in your garden. If you are uncertain about whether or not a plant is considered a native, please check the regional list of native plants on the website. It is not a totally inclusive list, but will give you a starting point.

Canopy Trees (these are the large trees such as elm, oak, maple, pine)

Understory trees (these are usually under 20' – dogwoods, redbuds, etc)

Shrubs

Woodland Herbs

Meadow or open area herbs

Vines

Ground covers

Ferns, Moss, Lichen, Bog plants

Other

Are you willing to allow visitors to your garden?

Herb Society members only General public Public garden Not at this time

You may attach additional sheets with your application, including site maps, extra plant information, etc. All applicants are encouraged to send at least one photograph that we can retain in our files. Application processing will take 3-4 weeks and you will receive your certificate and GreenBridges™ sign by mail.


Application Fee: \$15.00 HSA member \$25.00 non-member

Please send completed application and appropriate fee to:
GreenBridges™ HSA, 9019 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland, OH 44094

For more information about the application, or if you have questions, contact Debbie Boutelier, Chair of GreenBridges™ at abacus@sprintmail.com or 334-365-7806.

For more information about membership or The Herb Society of America, visit <http://www.herbsociety.org>

The Herb Society of America is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of its members with the community.

Skip to next page... Oh my, computers... 

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

How to control garden pests: Within the article: “in the last couple of decades the importance of eliminating the use of more toxic insecticides in order to maintain a good balance in the garden

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

of beneficial insects and the pest insects they prey upon has become more accepted by most home gardeners.....”

<http://www.fresnobee.com/living/home-garden/article207340114.html>

“Years of eavesdropping on insect sex-talk is starting to pay off for grape growers”:

<https://ensia.com/articles/insect-sex-talk/>

CNN: Pruitt Now Taking Sole Control of Clean Water Act:

[http://www.newsmax.com/politics/scott-pruitt-epa-clean-water-act/2018/04/04/id/852493/CNN:Pruitt Now Taking Sole Control of Clean Water Act](http://www.newsmax.com/politics/scott-pruitt-epa-clean-water-act/2018/04/04/id/852493/CNN:Pruitt-Now-Taking-Sole-Control-of-Clean-Water-Act)

A sperm whale, (an endangered species),...was found dead on the coast of Murcia in southern Spain was killed by gastric shock caused by ingesting 29 kilos (64 lb.) of plastic waste, authorities in the region said on Friday.

The young male’s stomach and intestines were found to contain rubbish including plastic bags, raffia sacks, pieces of nets and ropes and even a plastic jerry can, marine experts said following an autopsy.” Another reason for us all to end the use of plastics which cannot be recycled and end where it shouldn’t be.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/06/sperm-whale-killed-plastic-pollution-washes-spanish-coast/>

Hurray! A major advance in our efforts toward environmental hygiene!

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/fridayfact-worlds-first-plastic-free-supermarket-aisle-has-opened>

Video very compelling:

<https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsZinc/videos/559571920910145/UzpfSTQ3MDI4MTEyOTgzOTIyNTpWSzo1NTk1NzE5MjA5MTAxNDU/>

Can’t get more “old school” or mainstream than the National Geographic

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/04/sponsor-content-changing-the-way-we-think-about-plastics/>

The fight against the Emerald Ash borer in Lincoln Nebraska may have lessons / suggestions for us:

“City of Lincoln would get expert advice on treatment chemicals under emerald ash borer plan”

http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/city-of-lincoln-would-get-expert-advice-on-treatment-chemicals/article_2ed40278-d34d-5b82-b642-5a59e51440b8.html

This article was written in Phoenix Arizona, but with the change of a few words could be applied to our area.:

“Birding Today: Attract local birds with local plants, fruit”

http://www.muskogee phoenix.com/news/lifestyles/birding-today-attract-local-birds-with-local-plants-fruit/article_621952cd-62e0-5b68-9dee-43a4cf17fc31.html

Dracula, Anyone!

“It’s the Latest in Conservation Tech.
And It Wants to Suck Your Blood.

In the digestive tracts of leeches, scientists find evidence of elusive forest species.”

<://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/09/science/leeches-conservation-biodiversity.html>

For every \$1 U.S. invested in renewables China invested \$3

<https://qz.com/1247527/for-every-1-the-us-put-into-renewable-energy-last-year-china-put-in-3/>

More discussion of 2016 discover of enzyme eating plastic: to be used in recycling process.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/plastic-eating-enzyme-pollution-solution-waste-bottles-bacteria-portsmouth-a8307371.html>

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

Colorado is exploring ways to tighten their pollution standards beyond Federal limits:

<http://aspenpublicradio.org/post/colorado-air-pollution-group-meet-rifle>

Earth Day 2018 devoted to facing surge of Plastics:

<https://atlantaintownpaper.com/2018/04/earth-day-2018-ending-plastic-pollution/>

World scrambling for alternative sources now that China has banned imports of certain waste products:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/04/16/climate-change-china-bans-import-of-foreign-waste-to-stop-pollution.html>

Science confirms observation that even our existing air pollution standards are insufficient and not appropriately enforced:

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/04/16/even-brief-increases-in-exposure-to-pm2-5-air-pollution-are-associated-with-rise-in-lung-infections-amongst-children/>

Europe struggling to reclaim public interest in water sources:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2018/04/drop-secret-water-war-europe-180402084125467.html>

As later crisis in Flint comes to an end, the observations regarding what to do about private hook-ups to the public mains and the need to restore trust in public officials is instructive to other municipalities facing similar problems:

<http://fortune.com/2018/04/16/flint-michigan-water-crisis-safety-rick-snyder/>

Effects of climate change and water shortage studied and community helps deal with change:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/04/180416142503.htm>

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

Aquatic Moss ((Warnstorfia fluitans) is capable of removing arsenic from water. Discovery in Sweden near mining facilities:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/04/180416104255.htm>

This report seems to support reducing California forest size. I'd like to see it confirmed by another scientific group and NGO.

https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=245128

I heard a talk on NPR a few weeks ago discussing the threat of a loss of water in Cape Town, South Africa . The Washington Post is now reporting tat the crisis has beeb pushed back to 2019.However, it still remains:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/04/23/cape-town-still-has-water-for-now-this-may-take-political-solutions-as-well-as-technical-fixes/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.1b7f214b0af

California is also facing deferred water problems.

The 4th and the 9th circuit courts defend the Clean Water Act:

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/senate-committee-holds-hearing-on-clean-50517/>

Along with Lindsay Leisenring Zone V Conservation Chair and other GCA clubs we joined in commenting on the effort by this administration to roll back the Clean Power Plan below are the comments offered:

Please work to keep in place the necessary EPA regulations to protect our environment via the Clean Power Plan. I am responding to the request for comments on Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355 - Repeal of Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.

I am submitting comments strongly opposing EPA's proposal to repeal the Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources, the Clean Power Plan (CPP).

Conservation in the News - April, 2018

“I encourage timely action to address the growing global threat resulting from changes to our climate and believe the Clean Power Plan as originally proposed by EPA is a major and important step in this direction. I urge the agency to maintain key tenets of this proposal by reducing greenhouse gases by 20 percent by 2030, at a minimum. It is essential for the health and future welfare of our citizens that we aggressively pursue reduction targets established under the Clean Power Plan. This will help protect biodiversity, especially highly vulnerable plants, and animals, and will safeguard habitats and protect our communities. These plants and animals are essential components of our life protecting infrastructure design over millennia but natural selection. We destroy them at our peril.

I strongly recommend that EPA maintain stringent federal standards consistent with the original Clean Power Plan. It is critical that EPA apply and enforce the Clean Air Act in the most efficient way possible.

Reducing GHG emissions from existing power plants is a significant first step. I support efforts to tackle this complex and challenging issue and demonstrate to the world that the United States is committed to curbing climate disruption.”

Effort to plant 10,000,000 trees in Pennsylvania. The map I saw showed tree planting events largely along the Susquehanna

<http://www.tenmilliontrees.org/>

Seabin Project:

Invention that skims trash off surface of the sea:

(this link won't link, cut and paste it into your browser)

<https://www.facebook.com/InTheKnowInnovationAOL/videos/1855050981454223/UzpfSTE2OTk0OTg0MzkxMDoxMDE1NjlxMDQwNzgzMzkxMQ/>

Small business and public land/ conservation are hand in glove.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/compass-points/2018/04/30/conservation-of-public-lands-helps-small-businesses-thrive>

Walmart and Target work to reduce waste in Baby products:

<https://mediapost.com/publications/article/318439/walmart-target-recycle-baby-gear.html>