

VOL.1 ISSUE 2 · JUNE 2024

# ILLINOIS GREEN CONNECTIONS

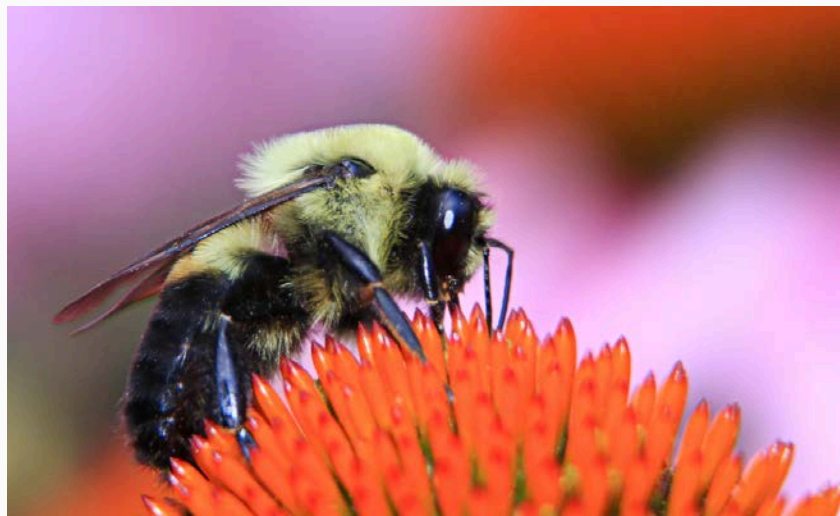
Extension Master Volunteers Newsletter  
Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties



## June is Pollinator Month

BY NICOLE FLOWERS-KIMMERLE

Summer of 2024 will start with a lot of attention on insects. The 13 year and 17 year periodical cicada broods will emerge at the same time in Illinois. This hasn't happened since 1803, when the United States completed the Louisiana Purchase, the Napoleonic Wars began and palladium was discovered. So make observations, listen to their unique "song," and enjoy this once in a life-time natural occurrence. June is also Pollinator Month where we pay attention to these creatures that keep our food productions systems running and support biodiverse ecosystems. So don't let these insect friends "bug" you. Find out ways that we can support and appreciate "the little things that run the world."



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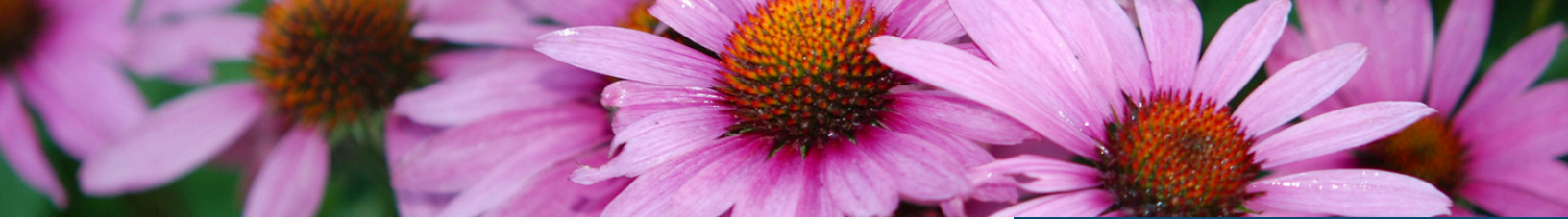
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## Pruning Perennials for Longer Lasting Blooms

BY NICOLE FLOWERS-KIMMERLE, [ILRIVERHORT BLOG](#)

Pruning perennial flowers takes a garden from looking fair to fabulous. Deadheading, cutting back, and pinching are all pruning techniques that can keep perennial plants looking well cared for, healthy, and colorful.

Pruning perennials is a complex topic because different plants need different kinds of pruning. Experience, developed with practice and close observation of the plants, helps to determine when and what type of pruning is required.

[READ MORE](#)



Photo by Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle



## Growing number of tick bites

A tick bite can happen anywhere: a park, your backyard, a farm field. The uncertainty can be scary. Do you pull it out? How? What do you do with the tick? What if you get sick?

New research from a multi-department team of university scientists explored the role Illinois Extension has in educating communities about ticks and preventing risky encounters. These videos about [Ticks and Tickborne Disease](#) are available online.

[READ MORE](#)

Deadheading,  
cutting back, and  
pinching will keep  
your perennials  
looking great all  
season long.

NICOLE FLOWERS-KIMMERLE



Photo by Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle

## Quail comeback

BY CARLA RICH MONTEZ, EMN

Almost everywhere you look on Brent Fowler’s farm, a restored habitat is visible. But it hasn’t always been that way.

Fowler grew up during the era of farm modernization when agriculture expanded in nearly every way. Fields got larger. Machinery got bigger. The crops shifted to more profitable grains and clean farming practices that reduced weedy vegetation in agricultural fields.

As farming changed, so did the landscape. Fencerows and hedgerows were removed. Small grains like oats and wheat were replaced by corn and soybeans. Much of the grazing land was converted to cropland. In the transition, habitat started to disappear.

[READ MORE](#)

This story originally appeared in Outdoor Illinois Journal, May 1, 2024

“My favorite nature activity is walking through prairie and looking at all the bees and butterflies and knowing they are there because of me.”

BRENT FOWLER

Photo by Anita Wilkinson



Photo by Anita Wilk

## little gardener’s day - July 30

BY JENNIFER BASS, EMG, EMN & C@H

In July, ICC becomes a haven of children and adults learning, exploring and having fun in the sun. ICC and Master Gardeners partner together to make a day for younger children and an accompanying adult to engage in activities while learning about a various interests found in the garden. Individuals can walk freely throughout the ICC grounds, learn about a variety of subjects, make crafts, take time for stories, taste vegetables from the garden, participate in a scavenger hunt, and discover more about the world in which they live. Come join us July 30, from 9 to 11 a.m. at ICC. Our theme this year is insects. We hope to see you!

Photo by Anita Wilkinson



Photo by Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle



# The cicadas are coming! Periodical cicadas in Illinois in 2024

BY KEN JOHNSON, [GOOD GROWING](#) BLOG

Can you hear them? Soon, Illinois will be awash in the songs of periodical cicadas. This year (2024) is a big year for periodical cicadas in Illinois, where Broods XIII and XIX will be emerging throughout much of the state at the same time. This is the first time this has happened since 1803, and it won't happen again until 2245! Despite some talk of an impending insect apocalypse, cicadas don't pose a threat to humans (or pets), although that newly planted tree or shrub may be a different story.

[READ MORE](#)



## Learn more about pollinators



This month check out the [the Illinois Pollinators Website](#). This site is devoted to everything pollinators in Illinois.

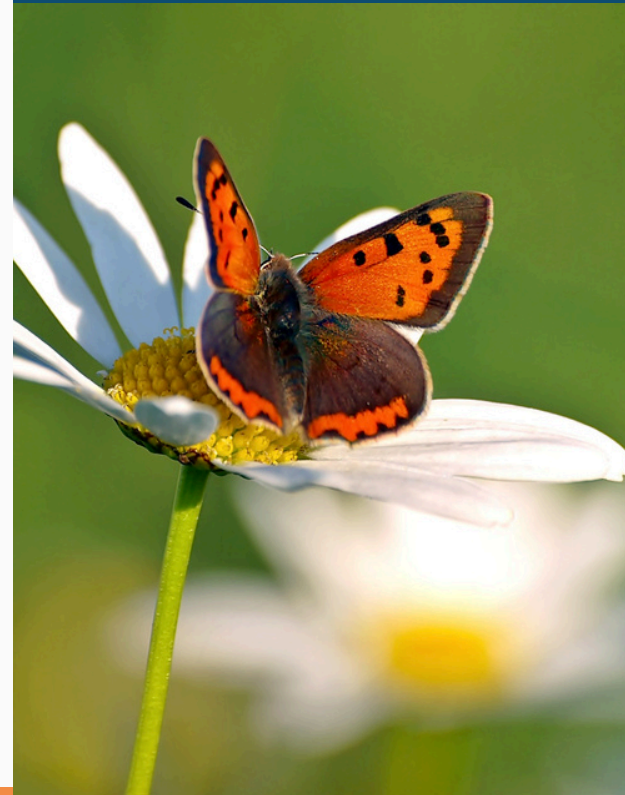
Pollinators are a group of amazing insects that are vital to both plant life and human life on earth. In recent years, pollinator populations have been declining dramatically which has prompted an immediate need for their protection and perpetuation on the landscape.

Explore the website to learn more about the fascinating relationship between these important insects and the plant life we all depend on.

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

“Female periodical cicadas lay eggs by cutting branches, causing flagging. This damage does not kill healthy, mature trees.”

KEN JOHNSON





## Bus trip to the Quad Cities - June 20

On June 20 2024, join us as we take a bus trip to the Quad Cities. We will leave from the Illinois Extension Tazewell County office at 7 am, begin boarding at 6:30 am. First stop is the River Side Park where we will meet Extension Master Volunteers from Rock Island County to find out more about their volunteer work. Next stop, the Deere-Wiman House for a tour of the house and gardens. From there we will visit the Vander Veer Botanical Park and Conservatory. Then on to lunch and shopping at Green Thumbers/Aroma Cafe. Last stop is the Quad Cities Botanical Gardens. We hope you can join us for a day of learning and new experiences. \$35 fee includes transportation, entry fees and snacks. Pre-order lunch on the registration and pay \$16 when boarding the bus. Thank you to the Extension Master Gardeners in Tazewell County for hosting this educational bus trip. Special thanks to Bill and Kathy Baker for planning the trip and Suzanne Cook for providing bus ride activities.

**REGISTER**



Photo by Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle

## Weekend volunteer opportunity: Riverfront Market info. table

Looking for a fun way to get volunteer hours on the weekend this summer? Join fellow Extension Master Volunteers at the Riverfront Market in Peoria. Share information, answer garden and nature questions, browse the market, and share in the fun. If you would like to help make the Riverfront Market Table a success by volunteering, contact Ainsley Olsen. Everyone has something they can share to get the market goers the information they are looking for. Saturday mornings in June through September. Set up at 7:45. Market opens at 8 am. Finish around noon. Come one Saturday or all of the Saturdays and enjoy the Riverfront Market. Talk to Ainsley about the schedule that works best for you.

### Bus Trip Sites

- Riverside Park
- Deere-Wiman House
- VanderVeer Botanical Park and Conservatory
- Green Thumbers
- Quad Cities Botanical Gardens





## Upcoming Events

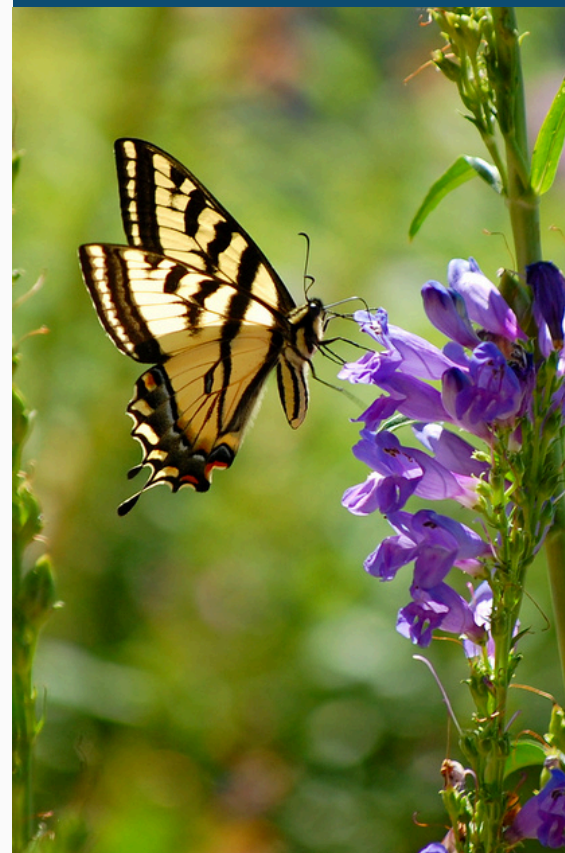
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **June 3 at 6 pm:** Invasive Species of Illinois with Ainsley Olsen at the [Brimfield Library](#).
- **June 5 at 6:30 pm:** Flower Island of Mainau, Germany with May Bach at [Bartonville United Methodist Church](#).
- **June 10-14, 9 am to 3 pm:** [Core Naturalist Training](#). University of Illinois Extension Naturalist Core Education. Training is designed for adults of any age who love to learn about the natural world.
- **June 17 at 6 pm:** Native Pollinators at the [Brimfield Library](#).
- **June 19 at 6 pm:** Gardening with Wildlife at the [Fondulac Library](#), East Peoria.
- **June 20 at 1 pm:** [St. Anne's Garden of Hope](#) project visit with Mike Brooks.
- **June 20, 7 am to 7:30 pm:** Bus Trip to the Quad Cities. Bus leaves from [Illinois Extension office in Pekin](#) to visit the Deere-Wiman House, Vander Veer Conservatory, and Quad Cities Botanical Garden. \$25 fee. [Register here](#).
- **June 27 at 10 am:** Make a Bee Hotel at the [Fondulac Library](#), [Registration Required](#).
- **June 29 at 9 am:** [Elwood Nature Preserve](#) guided hike with with EMN Ed Coleman.
- **July 16 at 5:30 pm:** [Fulton County Farm Bureau Building](#): Dr. Mike Wiant will share information about "Native American Use of Plants."
- **July 18 at 2 pm:** Vermiculture 101: Making Dirt with Worms at the [Fondulac Library](#) [Registration Required](#).
- **July 22 at 5:30 pm:** Conservation on the Farm with Brent Fowler at the [Illinois Extension office Tazewell County](#).
- **July 22 at 6:30 pm:** Bird-Friendly Yards with Holly Teig at the [Brimfield Library](#).
- **July 30, 9 to 11 am:** Little Gardener's Day at [ICC Horticulture Land Lab](#).
- **September 17 at 5:30 pm:** Log Room, [Wildlife Prairie Park](#), Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle will share information about Invasive Species and Wild Spotter.
- **October 7-11, 9 am to 3 pm:** [Extension Core Horticulture Education](#). The 5-day course will include hands-on learning at gardens throughout the four-county unit and digital learning on your own.
- **December 10 at 5:30 pm:** [Wallace Park](#). End of the Year Gathering. A time to enjoy each other's company and celebrate all of the accomplishments and experiences of 2024.

## Details

Check online for more information about upcoming events

- [Illinois Extension FMPT Events](#)
- [U of I Extension ILRiverHort Facebook Page](#)





## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Riverfront Market:** [Ainsley Olsen](#), Saturday morning.
- **Pekin Giving Garden:** [Megan Steier](#)
- **Morton Giving Garden:** [Pam Scott](#), Monday & Thursday am.
- **Tazewell County Health Department Garden:** [Trudy Yazujian](#), Tuesday & Friday, 8 am - noon.
- **4-H Learning Garden:** [May Bach](#), Tuesday & Thursday 9 - 11 am.
- **Holy Family Church's St. Fiacre Gardens:** [Bob Reading](#), Wednesday & Saturday 9 am - noon.
- **Rt 150 Garden:** [Polly Wagner](#), Tuesday from 7 - 9 am.
- **Kim St John Butterfly Habitat:** [Randy Huber](#) and [Louise Bassett](#), Wednesday from 8:30 - 11:30 am.
- **ICC Demonstration Garden:** [Jennifer Bass](#), Tuesday 9 - 11:30 am.
- **Morton Public Library:** [Janine Donahue](#) and [Sarah Smith](#)
- **Jubilee Butterfly Garden:** [Patricia Melaik](#), Thursday 9 - 12 pm.
- **Mission of Hope Community Garden:** [Carol Cihla](#)
- **St. Anne's Garden of Hope:** [Mike Brooks](#), Please sign up on our [website](#).
- **Peoria Academy's Vegetable Garden:** [Laura Hertz](#), Wednesday 9 - 11 am.
- **Peoria Zoo Pollinator Garden:** [May Bach](#), Tuesday &/or Wednesday am.
- **Friendship House:** [Kendra Belk](#)
- **Lettuce Share Romain:** [May Bach](#)
- **Spring Creek Work Days:** [Mike McGraw](#), 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- **Elwood Work Days:** [Ed Coleman](#), 3rd Sunday & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9 am - noon.
- **Rocky Glen Work Days:** [Steve Maxwell](#)
- **Gardening Helpline:** [Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle](#)
- **Conservation@Home Evaluator:** [Tara Heath](#)
- **Speaker's Bureau:** [Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle](#) and [Chris Schmidt](#)
- **Newsletters:** [Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle](#) and [Jennifer Bass](#)

## Project Stoplight Video

KIM ST JOHN BUTTERFLY HABITAT

Master Volunteers Louise Bassett, Randy Huber and Karla Kane share with us about the Kim St John Butterfly Habitat at Wildlife Prairie Park and the work they are doing to support pollinators with habitat development and education. Stop in to see pollinators at work during Pollinator Month.

WATCH

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## Work Days

Check with project lead about specific dates, work days can change due to conflicts and weather issues.



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