

Southern Appalachian Creature Feature Podcasts

Act for Pollinators

Greetings and welcome to the Southern Appalachian Creature Feature.

There's a long list of reasons why we should protect our biodiversity – the variety of genes, species, and natural communities found in our world. One reason that's becoming increasingly understood and appreciated is that biodiversity protects ecosystem services. Ecosystem services is a somewhat obtuse way to describe all those things the natural world does for us – from plants producing oxygen to wetlands cleaning water.

One of the most important ecosystem services is pollination – fertilizing plants with pollen, a simple act that enables flowering plants to reproduce and provides us with nearly every fruit we eat. For a lot of species, animals play a key role in pollination, and though we often think of insects like honeybees or butterflies performing this role, pollination is done by a variety of animals, including bats and hummingbirds.

To help conserve these pollinators, the Fish & Wildlife Service is participating in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign's year-long "Take Action for Pollinators" Campaign to promote the health of pollinators. The Take Action for Pollinators website, found at pollinator.org/slash/TAP provides a list of actions people can take to help support pollinators in their community. The list includes a number of ideas that Southern Appalachian gardeners can include in their planning for spring gardens, including creating butterfly or hummingbird garden, or planting for bees.

For WNCW and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, this is Gary Peebles.