



Xerces Update

Donor Newsletter of the Xerces Society

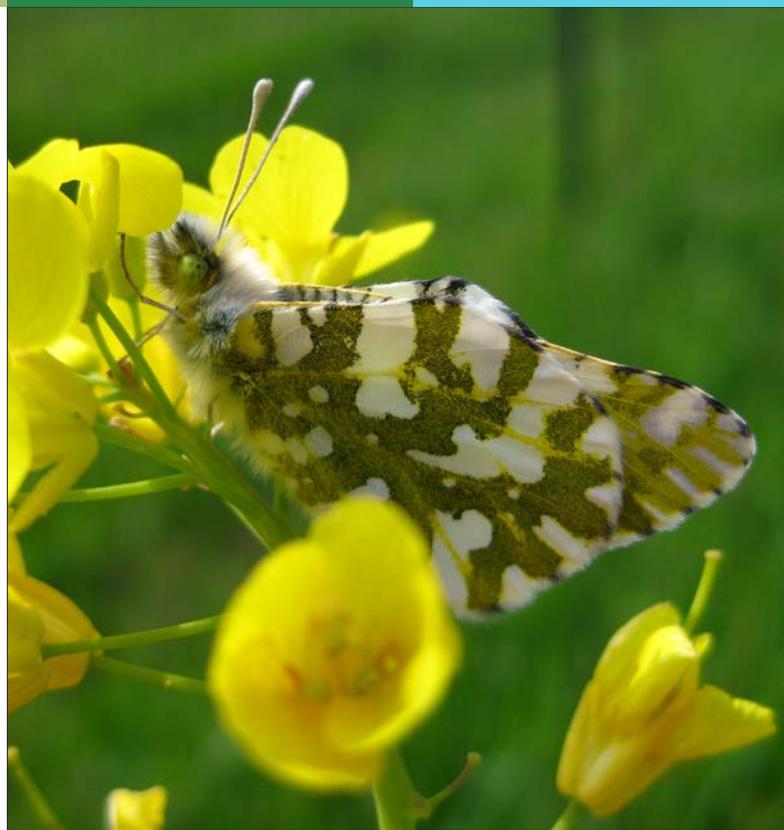
September 2018

Xerces staff are well versed in working in rural areas with farmers and land managers on habitat installments and pesticide mitigation. But as Xerces moves forward, we are expanding our efforts to towns and cities, talking to folks like you about how your actions in your yard have wider impacts and the many ways in which people can effect change either as individuals or by banding together with their neighbors. We have joined with our friends at Bee City USA to grow the network of pollinator friendly communities and will be offering more and more educational trainings as our capacity expands. Keep an eye out for Xerces in a city near you! If we all work together we can make the world a better place—wherever we live.

– Suzanne Granahan, Membership Director

*“We cannot do everything at once,
but we can do something at once.”*

– Calvin Coolidge, 30th President of the United States



Protected: In April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the island marble butterfly deserves protection as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The island marble is among the most imperiled animals in the world. Fewer than 200 adults were observed during surveys in 2017 and its habitat faces continued threats. It has already been extirpated from British Columbia, and now is only found on San Juan Island in Washington State.

The USFWS announcement came more than 15 years after the Xerces Society initially submitted a petition asking for federal protection. Such long-term dedication to protecting butterflies is only possible thanks to the generous support of our donors. Thank you!

(Photograph by Karen Reagan / USFWS.)



Connect, learn, discover

Our website contains a wealth of information about our work and what you can do to help invertebrates. Articles and updates are posted to our blog and you can sign up for our e-newsletter. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

www.xerces.org

Please note our new mailing address for donations and membership renewals:

P. O. Box 97387
Washington, DC 20090-7387

(855) 232-6639 www.xerces.org



Conservation in Concrete Jungles

Many people living in towns and cities are looking for ways to do more for conservation. With numerous species in decline and environmental issues widespread, making a significant difference can seem daunting and even impossible. When it comes to problems like climate change and endangered species, where do urbanites fit in? How can those of us living in suburbia and concrete jungles have a meaningful hands-on, positive impact on conservation?

Phyllis Stiles answered that question for us. She combined her passion for serving communities and desire to help pollinators, to create Bee City USA, an initiative that has grown into a nationwide network of more than 120 cities and college campuses. Bee City USA takes a practical approach to help bees by fostering a commitment by each participating city to increase public awareness, to create pollinator habitat using native plants, and to limit the use of pesticides. Its sister initiative, Bee Campus USA, does the same for colleges, but also requires them to find ways to bring pollinators into curricula and service learning programs. These cities and campuses not only help bee populations and improve local environments, they also build their own community by strengthening connections between people.

Now, after six years of galvanizing communities for pollinator conservation, Bee City USA has joined forces with Xerces. With just over 80% of the American population living in urban areas and that percent projected to rise, it is more timely than ever to build advocacy around pollinators in towns and cities. Moreover, pollinators have few habitat requirements, which are simple to provide in small spaces, making them the perfect focal species for urban habitat.

We welcome Phyllis to our staff and look forward to working with Bee Cities and Campuses to build and connect habitats—and communities—around the country!

For more information or to discover how your community can become a Bee City or Bee Campus go to www.beecityusa.org.



Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA

Nationwide Network – Nationwide Impact

Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA foster ongoing dialogue in urban communities to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our environment and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat.

Encourage your community to take action today!

beecityusa.org

73

Bee Cities

... and counting

50

Bee Campuses

... and counting

MONTHLY GIVING

No renewal notices,
convenient payment options,
a continued connection

...and our deepest gratitude.

Join the movement at
xerces.org/donate



Woodland skipper sipping nectar from pearly everlasting. (Photo: Matthew Shepherd.)

XERCES NEWS

Engaging Communities in Towns and Cities

For nearly 50 years, the Xerces Society has made huge strides for invertebrate conservation. With a focus on public lands and agriculture, we have increased pollinator habitat worldwide, reduced the use of pesticides, protected endangered species, and created citizen science programs. Although we have some involvement with towns and cities, we have been unable to accept many invitations that we have received due to limited capacity and resources. We're happy to say, however, that this is changing and we are steadily expanding to meet this unfulfilled demand. By engaging communities and volunteers, we hope to inspire and empower more people across the country to take part in invertebrate conservation, transforming cities and neighborhoods into pollinator havens.

To kick things off, this April we held our first urban short course in Santa Barbara, CA, where we provided tools to create pollinator habitat in an urban environment. The course was also held in Sacramento, CA, Boulder, CO, and, most recently, Beaverton, OR. Over the next year, we will gradually expand these courses to reach additional cities across the country. We don't have a list of locations to share just yet, but watch our social media or visit xerces.org/event for more information about these short courses.

Furthermore, we recently hired a Community Engagement Coordinator, Rachel Dunham. Rachel will be facilitating the development of this new urban program and managing it as we move forward. One of the most exciting components of this position is to create a new volunteer program to engage and utilize passionate and enthusiastic Xerces ambassadors. Volunteers will not only expand our capacity, but will build community both in and around our organization. We are thrilled to have the resources to develop a robust volunteer program and to reach new audiences. More information on volunteering will become available in the coming months.

As our supporters, you are vital to our organization and we invite you to embark on this journey with us. By engaging urban audiences in invertebrate conservation, we hope to extend our reach, creating a better world for people and pollinators.

Towns and cities offer endless opportunities for habitat and for engaging people in conservation. (Photo: Matthew Shepherd.)



Your donor newsletter from the Xerces Society!



692,000 acres
restored
since 2008

Can you help us
reach 1 million?

Xerces in the media

US News & World Report, 4/11/2018

U.S. agency wants to protect butterfly found only on island

"After years of delay, the Service must move quickly to implement conservation measures to reverse declines," Scott Hoffman Black, executive director of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, said in a statement.

San Francisco Chronicle, 7/10/2018

Ladybug, where have you gone? Aphid fighters tend to roam

"Not only do they not really work — there are lots of potential negative implications for beetles where they are collected and where they are released," [Xerces Executive Director Scott] Black said.

The Register-Guard, 8/18/2018

Eugene gets bee-friendly recognition

Eugene's bee-friendly policies have earned a little buzz.

[An] environmental group dedicated to protecting bees, butterflies and pollinators announced this week that it had given Eugene a Bee City USA designation. Eugene was the 71st city to get the honor from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

