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News Release

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Pollinator Advocates Will Gather in Kerrville Sept. 19-20

Anyone interested in pollinators and Monarch butterflies are invited to the Texas Pollinator Pow Wow on Sept. 19-20, 2015 at the Schreiner University, Event Center, 2100 San Antonio Highway, Kerrville. Cost is \$75 for both days and includes buffet lunch. To register by Sept. 5, visit www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org. One day tickets are available for \$45.

Past workshops have drawn attendees from across Texas and the U.S. to network with fellow enthusiast and learn about pollinators, their habitats, native plants, and the work being done to improve pollinator and Monarch butterfly habitats and how to overcome the decline of species.

About three dozen pollinator-related exhibitors featuring live bats, honey bees and a monarch butterfly tent, will be on hand to answer questions, showcase their pollinator resources and share their organization's work. A raffle of pollinator-related items will also be held, with funds going towards hosting future events.

Carrie McLaughlin, a Texas Master Naturalist, who is moderator and one of the coordinators, said the events have sold out, mainly due to word of mouth. "These sell outs and willingness of folks to attend from across the U.S., shows how critical the pollinator issue is and how it's coming to the forefront of the public eye with the passion being generated from pollinator advocates."

According to one of the Pow Wow's event partners, the Pollinator Partnership, approximately 1,000 plants grown worldwide for food, beverages, fibers, spices and medicines need to be pollinated by animals in order to produce the resources on which we depend. In the U.S. alone, pollination by honey bees and other species, produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually.

"With one in every three bites of food dependent on a pollinator, most farmers depend on these creatures to keep them in business," said Ricky Linex, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wildlife biologist and one of the event coordinators. Linex will moderate a Question and Answer panel of landowner conservationists who will share their practical experiences on land programs and techniques with the audience. Linex's popular plant identification book, *Range Plants of North Central Texas*, will also be available at the pollinator conference.

For a schedule of speakers, hotel and more information on the Texas Pollinator Pow Wow, visit www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org or <https://www.facebook.com/texaspollinatorpowwow>.

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