SUGGESTIONS TO EARN POINTS

DISTRICT 6650 OP CHALLENGE

*In order of Action Items*

**Action 1 –** Invite someone to speak about Operation Pollination (OP) or a related topic for a program.

* Invite district committee chairperson or member to talk about the district challenge.
* Invite a master gardener from your community to talk about native plants and how to use them in your yard and garden.
* Invite an entomologist, biologist, naturalist, fish and wildlife expert, or professor, to talk about the importance of pollination.
* Have two or more of you club members use an app such as [i-naturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/) or [e-butterfly](https://www.e-butterfly.org/) to observe, record, share, and discuss their findings with club members.

**Action 2 -** Create and promote OP with Brochure or Flyer. (Remember to share with club members, on website and at events). This may be high level about OP or specific to an action such as how to build a bee or bird house.

* Create an awareness brochure or flyer highlighting why pollinators are important and need our help.
* Create a specific brochure detailing how to plant milkweed.
* Create an information sheet on native plants in your community and where they can be purchased.
* Create an infographic with photos and descriptions of pollinators and basic steps we can take to help them.
* Create a brochure that highlights all the local nature/pollinator events in the area.

**Action 3 –** Suggested Books (kids and adults)

*Takeaways can be very simple including quotes that resonated with you*

* Nature’s Best Hope, Doug Tallamy
* The Nature of Oaks, Doug Tallamy
* Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201-Mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration Hardcover – April 13, 2021
* What If There Were No Bees?: A Book About the Grassland Ecosystem (Food Chain Reactions) Paperback – August 1, 2010

by [Suzanne Slade](https://www.amazon.com/Suzanne-Slade/e/B001JRZQQQ/ref%3Ddp_byline_cont_book_1) (Author), [Carol Schwartz](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Ddp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&field-author=Carol+Schwartz&text=Carol+Schwartz&sort=relevancerank&search-alias=books) (Illustrator)

* The Mighty Pollinators (Step Gently, Look Closely) Hardcover – Picture Book, March 26, 2024

by [Helen Frost](https://www.amazon.com/Helen-Frost/e/B001H6GPWI/ref%3Ddp_byline_cont_book_1) (Author), [Rick Lieder](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Ddp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&field-author=Rick+Lieder&text=Rick+Lieder&sort=relevancerank&search-alias=books) (Illustrator)

* Alternative pest control, natural enemies and resilient gardens
* [Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: a Natural Approach to Pest Control](https://www.jessicawalliser.com/books/attracting-beneficial-bugs-garden-natural-approach-pest-control/), by Jessica Walliser
	+ it ties together home landscape management with invertebrate conservation. It has a beautiful layout, tons of photos, generous profiles of great plants and great bugs, interesting facts, and anecdotes about the author’s evolution as a horticulturist and entomologist.
* [Carrots Love Tomatoes](https://www.workman.com/products/carrots-love-tomatoes/paperback), by Louise Riotte
Learn how to have your vegetable garden be more resilient by better understanding how plants work together in a system.
* [Farming With Native Beneficial Insects](https://xerces.org/publications/books/farming-with-native-beneficial-insects), by the Xerces Society.
Useful for growers and home gardeners alike, this book is filled with information on different types of beneficial insects and strategies to conserve them in your landscape.
* [Smarter Pest Management: Protecting Pollinators at Home](https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/smarter-pest-management-protecting-pollinators-at-home), by the Xerces Society
Only have a few minutes of time? This Xerces Society factsheet provides a quick overview of the risks pesticides pose to pollinators and steps you can take to protect these species at home.

**Invertebrate conservation**

* [A Sting in the Tale](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/goulsonlab/astinginthetale), by Dave Goulson. This is a must-read for fans of bumblebees.
* [The Solitary Bees: Biology, Evolution, Conservation](https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691168982/the-solitary-bees), by Bryan Danforth. A deeply informative book on the life history, evolution, and biology of the different groups of solitary bees, including great tidbits on interesting diets and nesting habits.
* [Chasing Monarchs](https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300203875/chasing-monarchs/), by Robert Michael Pyle (founder of the Xerces Society). Through vibrant storytelling, Bob shares monarch butterfly lives, threats and what we need to know to cherish and help conserve them.

**Nature inspiration**

* [Iwígara: American Indian Ethnobotanical Traditions and Science](https://www.workman.com/products/iwigara/hardback), by Enrique Salmón. This beautifully illustrated and annotated reference book profiles the traditional indigenous uses, meaning, and key identifiers for eighty North American plants.
* [Braiding Sweetgrass](https://milkweed.org/book/braiding-sweetgrass), by Robin Wall Kimmerer. “Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices.”
* [The Hidden Life of Trees](https://greystonebooks.com/collections/peter-wohlleben/products/the-hidden-life-of-trees), by Peter Wohlleben. You'll never walk through the forest in the same way again. After reading this book, you will have a whole new level of respect for trees and the systems they are a part of.

**Action 4 -** Build or purchase a bee’s house for your backyard or complete another suggested project.

* Make your garden friendly to overwintering pollinators. Take any or all (points for each individual step) of these easy steps:
	+ Leave the leaves. Leaves provide nutrients, insulation and important cover for overwintering caterpillars and eggs.
	+ See the soil. A sunny spot of bare, mulch-free soil can host ground-nesting pollinators, such as bumblebees. Leave some soil uncovered.
	+ Aim for early and late blooming plants. Selecting some plants that bloom early and others that keep their flowers late in the season helps ensure food for pollinators when other sources are scarce. Grow plants in clusters so pollinators can easily find them and conserve energy in gathering food.
	+ Save the stems. Stems and twigs provide nesting sites for solitary bees and other insects. Hold off on pruning and snipping until late spring or just let stems naturally decompose.
	+ Let logs be and save the snags. Snags (dead trees or stumps) and logs provide burrowing chambers for insects. They also attract winter birds.
* Mulch less, mulch different. If you must mulch, consider using compost or shredded leaves instead of chipped wood products. These alternatives will have the same weed suppression, water retention, and other properties – yet be light enough to allow ground nesting bees to pass through. Additionally they release nutrients and provide organic matter that actually improves your soil quality! Also consider mulching just the parts you see. It’s often sufficient to mulch just the first two feet or so into a bed, leaving areas in the back uncovered to allow access for pollinators.
* Reduce skyglow at home:
	+ Color matters: use warmer colored light bulbs and minimize blue-violet light (light bulbs with a temperature of no more than 3000 kelvins).
	+ Use outdoor light where and when you need it: control your lighting through motion detectors, timers or dimmers. Use motion-triggered lights to address safety concerns.
* Provide different types of water vessels for your friends. Place [shallow basins](https://www.buddhabeeapiary.com/blog/bee-watering-station) such as birdbaths or ceramic saucers near potential nesting sites. Be sure to put marbles or stones in the bowl for bees and wasps to perch on, and run the stones up one side of the bowl so if someone falls in, they can climb out. Bees are terrible swimmers, after all.

**Action 5 -** Grow a native plant or milkweed in your yard, window box, or pot or try one of these:

* Create a moon garden. Choosing native plants for your moon garden is an invitation to see a different side of a flower’s beauty.  Flowers that display in vibrant pale shades take on a new personality when viewed under moonlight.  Plants to consider for your moon garden are native plants with flowers that are shades of white, cream, silver, pale pink, and pale lavender.  To create a striking moon garden, and enhance the moonlight’s glow, plant flowers with the same shade of white in the same area or zone.  Otherwise, intermingling bright white blossoms with creamy blossoms can make the subtler colored blossoms appear dull. Visit the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](https://www.fws.gov/) for more information.
* Plant an oak tree at home, in a park or a community space.

**Action 6-** Participate as a club in Bee/Pollinator/Moth/Butterfly/Hummingbird Day/ Week/Month or any pollinator related awareness day or week. Club members may participate in an event, include the topic in fellowship, host a special club meeting, etc.…

* Use fellowship or newsletter for a “Did You Know?” series about a relevant topic.
* Hold a local event that focuses on habitat like a walk in a butterfly garden, a photo exhibit, a hummingbird feeder workshop. Check with your local nature center, museum, zoo or other educational institution to see if experts are available for nature walks.

**Action 7-** Host an event for your community. This may be educational and include inviting community members to a meeting with a relevant speaker. Have a mixer or club meeting to invite prospective members and serve pollinator cocktails. (recipes in Google Drive folder!)

* Host a pollinator-themed meal or mixer.
* Screen a pollinator film.
* Host a pollinator festival.
* Host a native plant sale.
* Host an educational event at a local library.
* Host a pollinator themed club, district, or county mixer.
* Host a seed collection event. Contact a local naturalist, Fish & Wildlife or start at https://www.pollinator.org/wingspanat for more information.
* Be inspired by other community events such as those listed under Action 9.

**Action 8-** Promote OP topics on social media consistently. At least ten.

* Share photos of events hosted by or attended by a club member.
* Use the awareness calendar to highlight a monthly awareness date.
* Create a did you know series.

Find Inspiration

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2019/10/bee-influencer/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/QuietOrganicYards/>

<https://grow.gardenmediagroup.com/the-buzz-on-pollinator-week>

**Action 9-** Have members of your club participate in another club’s OP project/event or collaborate on a project/event. Participating in a district related event such as In Our Nature, counts for points! Rotarians can take a short road trip to participate in local community events.

* Check the district newsletter for upcoming events.
* Take a road trip to participate in community events. Google pollinator events. Any one club member counts.
	+ *Use these examples of what your club can do too!*

*Don’t forget about*

***In Our Nature***
August 11, 2024
4-7pm
Fellows Riverside Gardens, Youngstown

* Join your fellow Rotarians for a beautiful summer afternoon of fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Over 20 pieces of artwork from around our district will be on display with a silent auction that evening.
* Tickets are $60 per person and include dinner and dessert. There will be a cash bar. Entertainment will be provided by the Kentland Strings.
* District Governor Elayne Bozick has asked each club to participate by raising or donating $2,500 to this event.  Every Club that gives a minimum of $1,000 to the event will receive Foundation Points to give a Paul Harris Fellow to a member of their club or from the community.
* Proceeds from this event will help fund pollinator projects including the Pollinator Garden “The Garden With Wings” in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago and environmental projects within our district.

**Action 10-** Plant a pollinator’s garden (at least 8 varieties of native plants) in your community or in a club members yard.

**Action 11-** Include an OP dedicated page on your club’s website.

* If your club does not have a website, consider a Facebook Page.

**Action 12-** Invite media to an OP event, project, or program.

* If media is not present, send a press release to local media. Try submitting to the community page.

**Action 13-** Include an OP section in your newsletter at least once per quarter.

* If your club does not have a newsletter, contribute 4 articles to the district newsletter or collaborate with another club that does have a newsletter. Some local “good news” papers will also take articles.

**Action 14-** Develop an environmental committee for your club. If you already have one you will still get the points. Must have at least 2 people on the committee and meet at minimum 4 times.

**Action 15-** Have club members purchase an Operation Pollination t-shirt. $20.00 per shirt from the Rotary Club of Youngstown.

Questions – Call Christine Cope at 330-207-2065 or

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