



Pollinator Stewardship Council

1624 Idlewood Ave., Akron, OH 44313

www.pollinatorstewardship.org

832-727-9492

Feb. 28, 2017

Jeff Mehn, Executive Director
Above & Beyond Children's Museum
902 North 8th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Mr. Mehn,

Ms. JoAnne Friedman has shared with me her collaborative activities with your museum. The Pollinator Stewardship Council is supportive of local leaders and their efforts to improve the health of honey bees. Ms. Friedman shared with us your "change of heart" in planting clover in the museum lawn to feed the bees. It is through community institutions such as yours where the next generation will be taught to think, be creative, and appreciate and protect the world around them. With pollinators making possible one third of our food supply, it is important that we all work together to protect and feed the 95% of insects that are beneficial to us and the ecosystem.

Thank you for learning that grass lawns feed nothing. They do not conserve water, their upkeep adds eleven times more carbon emissions than a new car, and water quality is reduced from the run-off of lawn care chemicals. A clover lawn feeds the bees. Diverse plants within a lawn are healthier for the soil, reduce water run-off, and help to protect our water when lawn chemicals are reduced or cease completely. Changing lawn maintenance to sustainable practices also leads to a more sustainable budget for any business. You may wish to investigate the *Creating Sustainable Buildings and Grounds Project* at <http://www.beyondpesticidesohio.org/creating-sustainable-grounds-and-buildings-project.html>

With the publication of the **Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan** (<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PPPCComplete.pdf>) it will take all Wisconsin residents, institutions, government, community groups, and businesses to truly protect Wisconsin pollinators. These state pollinator protection plans are educational tools that need the support and action of individuals such as Ms. Friedman, and cultural and educational institutions such as the Above and Beyond Children's Museum.

Thank you for working with Ms. Friedman; for adding clover to the lawn, and educating Wisconsin children about the value of pollinators.

Sincerely,

Michele Colopy
Program Director

The Pollinator Stewardship Council's mission is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.