Growing Habitat and Awareness in NJ Through State Legislation

Megan Tinsley, Policy Director
New Jersey Audubon

- Privately supported, not for-profit, statewide membership organization
- Making New Jersey a better place for people and wildlife since 1897
- Education & Programs, Research, Stewardship, and Government Relations
- State affiliate of NWF

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Pollinator & Plant Bill Package

Complimentary bill package of 25 total pieces of legislation to better provide for and protect pollinators and other wildlife
Approaches

- Raising Awareness
- Creating a Program
- Providing Incentives
- Regulatory
Barrier to Improved Habitats

Municipal Codes Restrict Vegetation Height

- Pine Beach, Ocean County
- Violation of borough property maintenance ordinance
- Prohibits vegetation over 10 inches in height

- Branchburg, Somerset County
- Ordinance forbidding “obnoxious growth” on private property
- Homeowner spent $7000 on defense
Habitat Certification Bill

Provides landowners the ability to develop and certify habitat on their properties and afford them protection from spurious nuisance claims through an affirmative defense at the municipal level.
Benefits of Habitat Certification Bill

• Encourage individuals to better steward their own piece of the natural world through a voluntary program
• Create a corridor of connected habitats offering resources and refuge for wildlife
• Educate people on the value of creating habitat; increase participation
• Reduction of chemical and water use
• Increase demand for native plants in the marketplace!
Vegetation Bills

• Designates June as “Native Plant Appreciation Month”
  ➢ Signed into law – 12/5/16

• Bill to ban sale of certain invasive plant species

• Regulates planting and sale of running bamboo: unlawful for spread beyond property, violators fined
Roadside Vegetation Bills

• Requires transportation agencies to use only native vegetation for landscaping, land management, reforestation or habitat restoration

• Establishes “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program”: best practices for long-term control of harmful insects, invasive plants, and weeds; includes cost-effective maintenance with emphasis on native plants

• Both signed into law this May!
Pollinator Bills

- Establishes a penalty for destruction of man-made native bee hives
  - First ever legal protection for native bees!
    ➢ *Signed into law 7/31/15*
- Designates one week each year as “Pollinator Week”
  ➢ *Signed into law 1/9/15*
- Designates the Black Swallowtail as the State Butterfly
  ➢ *Signed into law 1/11/16*
- Designates Common Eastern Bumblebee as NJ State Native Pollinator
- 3 bills that provide corporation business tax credit to taxpayers/public utilities/farmers who develop qualified native pollinator habitat
Monarch Butterfly Bills

- Habitat Improvement for Monarchs
  - Adoption of monarch waystations on public lands
    - Authorizes groups, organizations, businesses and individuals to adopt portions of land to develop and maintain monarch butterfly habitat, and calls for the creation of educational materials on monarch decline
  - Milkweed planting in detention basins and drainage ditches on public lands
    - Authorizes adoption of unused basins for the purpose of planting swamp milkweed, providing vital resources to Monarchs along their migrations

- Both passed Senate – 5/9 and 6/30 of 2016
- Establish Milkweed for Monarchs month to encourage planting of milkweed
Pesticide Bills

• Requires training for pesticide applicators regarding bees
  \textit{Passed Senate} – 9/15/16

• Requires pesticide applicator to notify beekeeper when applying pesticide within 3 miles of registered honey or native beehive or beeyard
  \textit{Passed Senate} – 12/19/16

• Requires notification to beekeepers prior to mosquito spray applications

• Directs DEP to classify neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use
Questions?

Megan.Tinsley@njaudubon.org