



## The Lodge at Woodloch Enhances the Local Eco-System with a New Pollinator Garden

With natural pollinators on the decrease, The Lodge establishes a pollinator Mecca

**For Immediate Release:** Hawley, PA, August 12, 2015- As the population of honey bees, monarch butterflies, other winged pollinators continues to plummet, The Lodge at Woodloch wanted to take all steps necessary to create a Mecca for these amazing members of our Eco-system. With a property lucky enough to be enveloped by wild flower dotted woodlands, a naturally-occurring cranberry bog, a 1.5 acre vegetable and herb garden and a new orchard, The Lodge counts on these mighty workers to help keep reproducing plants, flowers, herbs and vegetables and soon to be fruits.

"The new pollinator garden is a great way to not only help our environment but also to educate our staff and guests," explains Alison Peck, Master Gardener. "The goal is to create insectaries where beneficial insects move in. It is a major part of our integrated natural pest management efforts." The new garden will contain flowers and plants such as mountain mint, a beloved native plant, lantana, part of our annual flowers, and lavender, a hardy and attractive perennial. The nearby Chakra Garden contains host plants such as parsley and fennel. Additionally, humming bird feeders have been added to the garden to attract humming birds on their annual migration. Also an important (and beautiful) piece of the pollination puzzle, these beautiful and tiny birds pack an amazing amount of power. Hummingbirds flap their wings approximately eighty times per second and can even hover by flapping their wings in a figure-eight pattern. Hummingbirds have a specialized long, tapered bill that is able to obtain nectar from the center of long tubular flowers that many other animals and bugs cannot reach. Hummingbirds also eat sap, bugs and pollen. The garden team is currently training the humming birds to be comfortable eating with people observing them in the garden with the potential of the birds eating right out of the palm of their hands! The night helpers in the garden are the little brown bats. They help keep pests at bay and away from the pollinator friendly plants leaving more for the bees, butterflies and humming birds to choose from.

If sitting in the pollinator garden, lots of butterflies will also be fluttering around. Milkweed grows naturally in this region, and by not disturbing its growth cycle, it pops up everywhere on property. It is the only plant that Monarch Butterflies will lay their eggs on and the only plant their caterpillars will eat during that stage of growth. This "king" of the butterfly species has a dwindling population. Once covering over 44 acres of land in Mexico during their migration now only covers approximately 1.65 acres (at last count). The goal is simple, plant Milkweed! The Lodge at Woodloch has several locations where milkweed has been nurtured. Additionally, complimentary Milkweed Seeds can be found at the Front Desk and during Garden Classes if guest would like to do their share at home.

Bees are also an important component of the pollinator family. The garden team decided to double the amount of honey bees (and hives) on property this year. With an expanded garden and new orchard, the "work" has also more than doubled. The importance of keeping the property's honey bees happy took precedence and adding to the hives seemed to be a good decision. The apiary is now buzzing with over 100,000 honeybees that are hard at work each and every day.

Last summer, The Lodge at Woodloch had the honor of becoming a Certified Pennsylvania Pollinator Friendly Garden by Penn State University. One of only 331 locations (commercial and residential combined) in the state of Pennsylvania to meet the strict standards at the time the award was given. "The team was thrilled with the honor and has a renewed commitment to ensuring the eco-system surrounding The Lodge at Woodloch is a safe haven

for pollinators,” explained Robert Baldassari, general manager. “On a *wing and a prayer*, we can each make a difference to this vastly important part of our environment. With the power and drive to create the change we want to become, hopefully together we can make a difference,”

**About The Lodge at Woodloch:**

The Lodge at Woodloch is one of the finest all-inclusive luxury destination spa resorts in the U.S., offering complete spa programs, treatments, outdoor adventure activities, golf, classes and packages in a pristine mountain retreat environment. Located on over 400+ wooded acres with a private lake in the Lake Region of Northeast Pennsylvania, The Lodge provides an oasis for personal awakening and renewal just 2 ½ hours outside of New York City. The award-winning property features 57 luxury accommodations, a 40,000-square-foot spa, gourmet restaurant and more. Additional information and reservations are available toll-free at 1-800-WOODLOCH or visit [TheLodgeatWoodloch.com](http://TheLodgeatWoodloch.com), [Facebook.com/LodgeAtWoodloch](https://www.facebook.com/LodgeAtWoodloch), Twitter ([@LodgeatWoodloch](https://twitter.com/LodgeatWoodloch)) and Pinterest ([@LodgeatWoodloch](https://www.pinterest.com/LodgeatWoodloch)).

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