

Monthly Pollen

April 2022



Native Pollinator



Photo Credit: Frank Peairs

Common Stonefly, *Perlidae* Family

Description: Dark or olive brown with two overlapping wings with dark veins that cover two tails, antennae and three sets of legs.

Reproductive Requirements: Females lay eggs on or just above water's surface in cold, well-oxygenated streams, they hatch into naiads or nymphs which breath through gills located behind each leg.

Emergence: April to September for a few weeks.

Life Cycle: Eggs 2-3 weeks to hatch, Nymphs develop over 1-3 years depending on species, Adults live only 1-4 weeks before dying shortly after mating.

Foraging Habitat: Naiads feed on algae, and diatoms. Adults feed on algae, lichen, nectar or pollen.

Native Plant



Photo Credit: Claire O'Neill

Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*

Description: 4-6" inch hood-like spathe with pointed apex with narrow opening, red to maroon with mottles or streaks of yellow or green, inside 2-5" inch spadix of yellow to dark purple with clustering of small flowers.

Bloom Time: March-June.

Native Habitat: Moist habitats including deciduous woods, wet thickets, swamps, near springs, along streams, wetlands and bogs.

Smell: Putrid, skunk-link scent.

Value: One of first blooming plants of spring that generates its own heat.

Water Quality



Photo Credit: Bolete Jones

Water Quality Indicators

Biotic Index: is a scale that shows the quality of an environment as indicated by the species able to survive and thrive within it.

Aquatic Indicators: Stoneflies spend the majority of their life cycle in streams and rely on clean, cold, oxygen-rich waters for reproduction and the nymph stage of development. They are sensitive to pollution which make them an indicator of good water quality.

Food Source: Stoneflies are also an important food source for various fish species, but are a favorite of trout which also require clean, cold, oxygen-rich waters to thrive.