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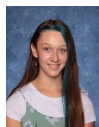
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Spring 2022

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Pollinator Garden an EASY Way to Help the Earth!



By Alexa Stuppelbeen
Tusker Tribune Staff

As the school year comes to an end, it's time to start planning your summer! Will you have an hour free? How about four hours? Yes?... Perfect! You have time to help improve your community, from the comfort of your own backyard.



If you've read my other articles, you may have guessed what I'm about to suggest – it's time to support pollinators in your outdoor space with a POLLINATOR GARDEN!

Whether you have a flowerpot on your patio, or a large garden space available, you can help improve your environment to better assist pollinators by landscaping using native plant species.

Now that you're ready to get started, make your first stop the Pollinator Pathway, at pollinator-pathway.org. They provide incredible resources on their site that can be extremely helpful when building or expanding a pollinator garden.

From planning your backyard and designing your garden, to native pollinator species lists and a directory for sourcing native plants, it's all there.

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The Debate Continues: Pros And Cons of Homework

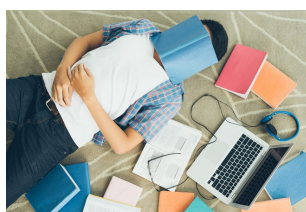


By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Homework. It has its pros and cons. Do you think homework should be involved in classrooms?

Homework, while a good practice for students, can create more stress than needed. Students have after school activities and some just don't have time to do homework.

Now I get it. We should be able to make time for our work, but 56% of students say that homework is the number one cause of their stress. It also causes physical health problems and lack of balance in kids' lives.



Homework also leads to lack of sleep and lack of drive to learn for students. Less homework also means less learning for the teachers.

However, limited amounts of homework can be good exercise for the brain. Little amounts of homework at a time can help students keep their minds sharp but too much can do the exact opposite. Having homework helps reduce screen time, encourages the enabling of time management and provides more time for the learning process. Which side do you stand for? Homework or No homework?

Sources (Ctrl, Click) [HTTPS://vittana.org](https://vittana.org)
SanDiego.edu

Splendiferous Summer Suggestions!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

Want to have the "Best Summer Ever"? Here are some fun activities to ensure that happens.

- Go to the beach! There are tons of beaches to go to with family and friends this summer! Some of them are Canopus Beach and Lake Taghkanic.
- Pick up a new activity. Start to play a new sport or pick up a new hobby, like gardening, painting, and biking.
- Go swimming! At your own home or even at a



local pool. Make sure to bring your friends and family along!

- Binge watch your favorite shows. Not a fan of the outdoors? That's ok! Cozy up in a blanket on the couch and binge watch some of your favorite shows or even some new ones!
- Have a picnic! Gather up all your friends and family, some treats, and a blanket. Let's get this picnic started!

A few other ideas are chalk, sun-screen tattoos, and a pizza party. I hope you use some of the ideas from this article. Have a great summer!

We Can All Help Endangered Species



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Polar bears, tigers, blue whales, rhinos, and turtles.

These animals are some of the many endangered animals on earth. An endangered species is a species that is likely to go extinct in the near future. Some animals are at risk because of poaching and habitat loss. Others are threatened because of invasive species.

As the number of sea turtles declines so does the number of sea turtle eggs. Fewer eggs on the beach mean fewer nutrients. Dune vegetation would lose this major source of nutrients and would not be strong enough to maintain the dunes. Which would result in in-



creased erosion.

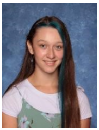
Source:
<https://conserve-turtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-why-care/>



Just like the number of turtles, the number of other endangered species are declining. Polar bears and tigers provide the control of other species populations. There are so many bad things that would happen to our ecosystem if even one animal goes extinct. It would cause a chain reaction and lead eventually to a collapse of many different food chains.

How can you help? Try to recycle everything you can and use reusable plastic and try to create less waste. You can also "adopt" an animal and donate to different wildlife nonprofit organizations

Invaders All Around Us



**By Alexa Stupplebeen
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Look around. Do you see them? The invaders. They grow and propagate all around us – and most of us don't even notice. Invasive plants! They can cause ecosystems to become unbalanced. Invasive plant species are those not indigenous to a region and they prevent the growth of native species by spreading rapidly. By preventing growth, invasive plants reduce the ecosystem diversity needed for a healthy habitat.

To understand the issue, imagine you have a garden in your yard. The space available in the garden is fixed, so any plants can be grown, but they must fit within the space. If an invasive plant species made its way to the garden, it may start small, but it typically expands to crowd out other plants as though it's a competition to take over the garden.

Now imagine the invasive plant flowers. It now occupies a third of the garden. The pollinators (insects, birds) come to your garden to feast, but the non-native plant species aren't their ideal food. Generally, non-native plants don't meet the nutritional needs of native pollinators as efficiently as native plant species. So, the pollinator in your garden needs to work harder to get the same amount of nutrition from non-native plants. Now the pollinators are spending too much time at



work. They have less time to tend to their offspring, someone ate their babies, and now the population is in decline! This happens to several pollinator species. The ecosystem in your garden is now out of harmony – off balance. Tragedy!

But this isn't simply an article of doom and gloom. Positive change is underway. Local groups have taken note of the impact of invasive species and are taking steps to help decrease their presence in the Somers area. Somers Land Trust is one of these groups. At Angle Fly Preserve and other town parks they manage, Somers Land Trust is working to restore native plant species within the parks.

To see an example of gardens with native plant species, take a trip to Angle Fly Preserve. At the entrance to the park, Angle Fly Preserve features pollinator gardens in the process of becoming fully native—not an easy task once the invaders have taken root.

While you're there, stroll through the fern garden, memory forest, or spend time walking their trail system and exploring the natural environment of Somers.

Preventing the growth of invasive species is essential to balance the ecosystem. Look around your hometown for sources of inspiration and try to be mindful of the choices made when adding to your gardens or landscaping. The steps you take today save the pollinators of tomorrow.

Relax This Summer With One or Two of These Books!



By Akosua Adobea-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hey guys! I'm going to give a few book recommendations because, why not? But this is with a little twist. I'm going to list books that are on my list that I haven't read YET. I'm using the summaries at the back of the books for reference.



First starting with Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson. That book is apparently about a girl named Monday who went missing, but nobody

seemed to acknowledge the fact that she's missing. Kinda creepy, right?

The next one is I Know Your Secret by Daphne BenedisGrab. *Shivers* This book is about a bunch of kids who don't know each other and who get messages from an anonymous blackmailer. The black-mailer has secrets against



them, which is why they have to follow him/her. I feel like I'm going to be hiding in the corner of my room by the time I finish that book.

The next book is called Heartless by Marissa Meyer. It's about this girl who the King loved in Wonderland and there was this secret jester who she met at the ball and a lot happens. (According to Sierra Deo-

dhari). She said this book is really good and I trust her judgment.



For the last book, it's Everything Ain't Your Friend by Tanisha Stewart. That book is also a "stalker creeps you and black-mails you till you lose your mind" type. I really like the cover and that's what caught my attention.

But overall, these are a few must-read books that I'm gonna read and that you guys should read, too!



STRINGSTRAVAGANZA 2022

FEATURING ORCHESTRA STUDENTS FROM
SIS, SMS, and SHS



FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022
6:00pm

Somers High School Auditorium
Join us to celebrate the accomplishments
of our Somers String Players.

Pollinator Garden From Page 1

Once you've completed your plan, stop by the seed library at Reis Park. Didn't know it existed? It does, and it's a great concept. You borrow native plant seeds and replenish their stock with seeds from your newly grown plants at the end of the summer.

If you prefer a more immediate pollinator garden, find a native plant nursery to get fully grown plants for the garden. Whichever way you choose, it would be able to help pollinators and it is a great thing to do outside to get some fresh air.

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