

THE BULLETIN

Belterra Community News

April 2020 Volume 2, Issue 4

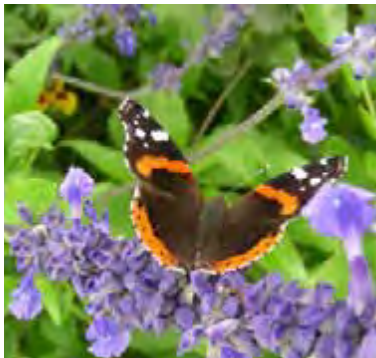
News for the Residents of Belterra

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Pollinators



There are many animal pollinators with most of those being insects. Probably the most well-known of pollinator insects are bees and more specifically, honey bees. Honey bees are pollinators, but only make up a small portion of the bee population around the world. Most bees are solitary and nest in the ground. Solitary bees

are not aggressive and many are stingless, so people should not be afraid of them.



Butterflies and moths are also important pollinators. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction and other factors, their populations are on the decline. If you want to provide habitat for butterflies and moths, you need to ensure to fulfill the requirements of all life stages. Host plants are needed for egg laying and caterpillar

feeding; nectar plants are needed for adult feeding; and overwintering sites are needed for various stages.



Flies are an often overlooked pollinator. With their poor reputation for carrying diseases, many people consider flies to be pests. Flies can be beneficial by fitting into food webs, breaking down waste material, feeding on other insects (some species), and pollinating plants (including some food crops such as apples and peppers).

Ideas to help conserve pollinators:

- Plant native plants that provide nectar blooms spring, summer, and fall
- Provide a variety of colors
- Provide a variety of flower/ bloom shapes
- Provide multiple levels of plants (groundcover, shrubs, trees, etc.)

(Continued on Page 2)

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 Walnut Springs Elementary 512-858-3800
 Rooster Springs Elementary..... 512-465-6200
 Dripping Springs Middle School..... 512-858-3400
 Dripping Springs High School 512-858-3100

UTILITIES

Water – WCID # 1 & 2 512-246-0498
 Trash – Texas Disposal..... 512-246-0498
 Gas – Texas Community Propane..... 512-272-5503
 Electricity – Pedernales Electric 512-858-5611

OTHER

Oak Hill Post Office 512-892-2794
 Animal Control..... 512-393-7896

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(Continued from Cover)

- Plant in clumps of the same plant to make it easier for pollinators to find
- Reduce turf and replace with flowering plants
- Plant native bunch grasses to provide food and shelter for insects
- Allow fallen leaves to remain on property to provide shelter
- Create areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees (choose sunny areas that will provide dry soil)
- Use IPM (integrated pest management) to reduce pesticide use
- Provide water in a SAFE manner for insects
- Use shallow dishes with rocks, stones, sand, or some substrate to allow insects to drink without drowning

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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EARTH DAY 2020 Celebrating 50 Years

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



April 22nd marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental support. Earth Day was founded by Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, when in 1969 he witnessed the destruction caused by a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. He came up with the idea of a “national teach-in on the environment” and presented it to the media. Congressman Pete McCloskey was persuaded to serve as co-chair. A Harvard student named Denis Hayes was named the national coordinator and with a staff of 85, it was promoted across the country. The date of April 22nd was chosen because it falls between spring break and final exams.

The first Earth Day was very successful. Over 20 million Americans demonstrated, gathered in parks and auditoriums and held rallies to demonstrate for a healthy environment. It was indeed the beginning of a movement and by the end of 1970, the United States Environmental Protection Agency was created and the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were passed.

Between 1970 and 1989, Earth Day celebrations and activities grew and in 1990, again under the direction of Denis Hayes, the concept was introduced globally. More than 200 million people in 141 countries celebrated Earth Day. Today, it is the single-largest day of action in the world with 193 countries participating.

There are many ways you can help our planet. Plant a tree, pick up trash, start a compost bin, switch to earth-friendly cleaning products, start recycling, carpool, stop using plastic products, just to name a few. Celebrate the beauty of our world by taking a walk in the park.

Although Earth Day is celebrated only one day every year, our earth needs protecting every day. Make saving the planet a part of your lifestyle.

Cities and communities across the globe are celebrating with Earth Day events. Check to see what your city is doing.

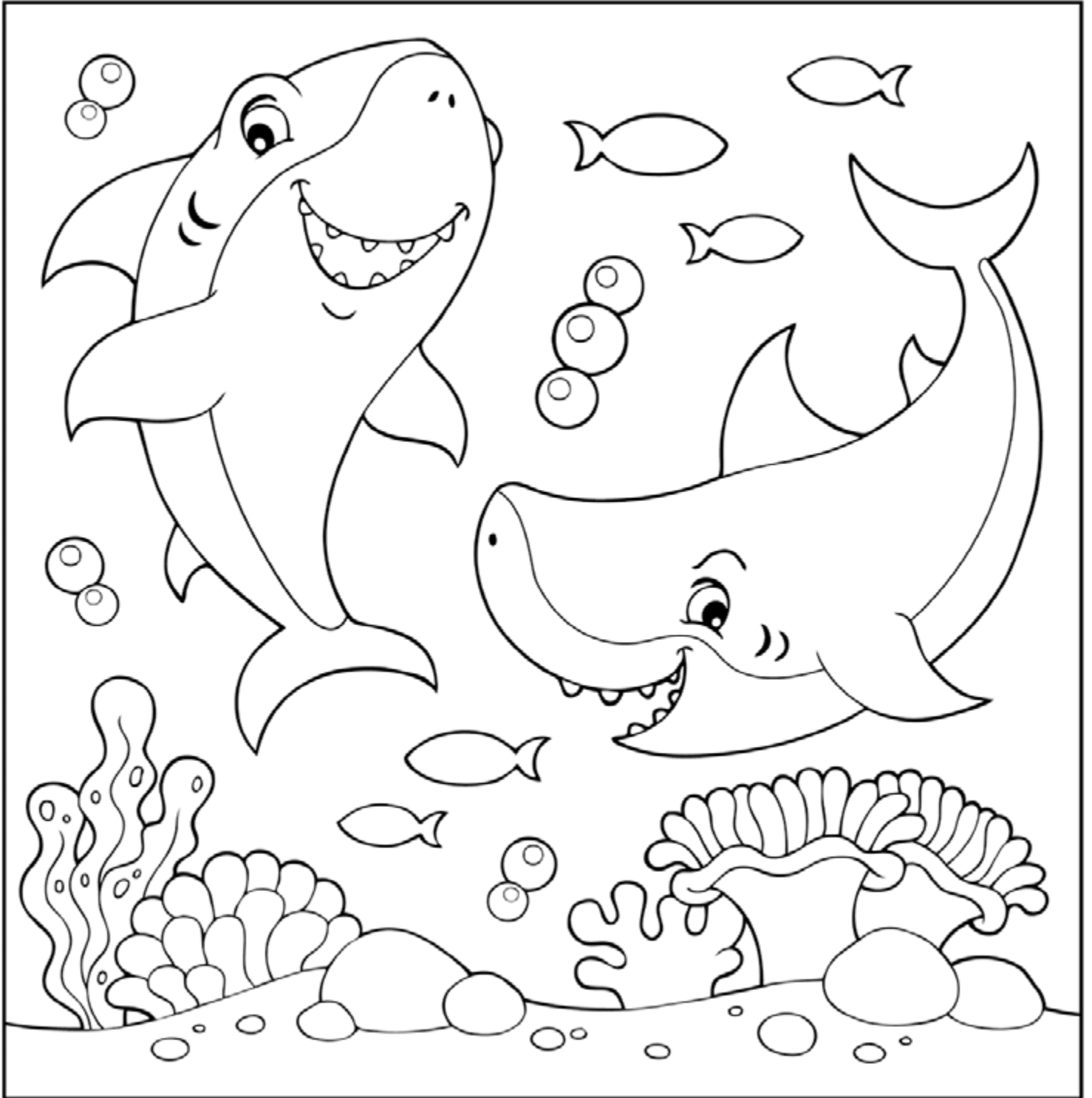
TWRC Wildlife Center's contribution to our environment is by rehabilitating injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife with the goal of returning healthy animals back to the wild. If you'd like to find out how you can help, contact berri.moffett@twrcwildlifecenter.org

50
YEARS
EARTH
DAY 2020

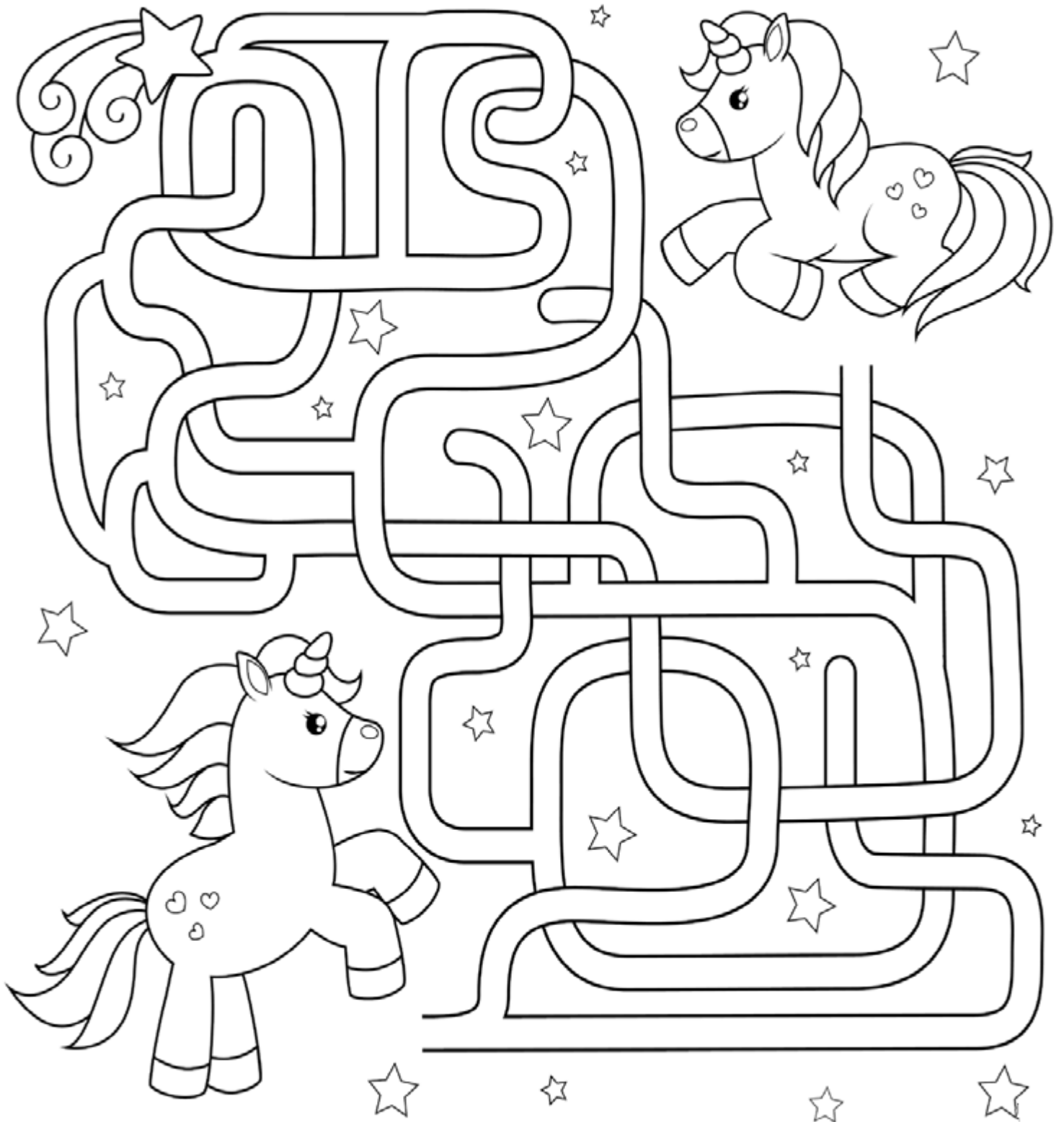


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If you want more information, contact Liz Jensen at 512-301-6966 or lizleej@gmail.com or Peter Berardino (The King of SWING) at 512-695-2334 or peterberardino@gmail.com.

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