## Schroeder Homes Receives Award for Wildflower Meadows

DeWitt Millennium Garden Club, Inc. (a member of Regional, Michigan and National Garden Clubs, Inc.) recognized Schroeder Homes for their groundbreaking work creating Pollinator Gardens around the entire perimeter of Wildflower Meadows (at the corner of Herbison and DeWitt Roads).

"Schroeder Homes efforts have a huge potential to make a lasting difference and fundamental change in how the public thinks about pollinators and connects them with the health of our environment," stated Peggy Brown, Co-President, DMGC.

Coupled with the award, the Schroeder family was presented with numerous "Michigan Garden Pollinator" signs that can be posted around the perimeter of the Wildflower Meadows property.



Pictured from left: Deb Logsdon, Peggy Brown, John Dahl, Bernadine Bennett, Keith Schroeder, Duff Schroeder, Vicki Schroeder.

The property now becomes listed among the Pollinator Gardens of the United States in an online registry.

When Keith and Duff Schroeder built Wildflower Meadows in DeWitt, they were required to keep all of the storm water on site. This led to them creating rain gardens and using the the soil to build rolling hills that surround the entire community.



Keith and Duff chose to seed these hills and rain gardens in indigenous wildflowers, plants and trees with input from natural planting specialists, Pollack Design Associates. It has created a lovely landscape within the property with approximately 15 acres of planted natural habitat.

Every few years they conduct a "controlled burn" to encourage the native species. This process burns off the shallow rooted weeds and grasses allowing the native flowers to thrive. "It is a unique concept," stated Duff Schroeder. "These native plats grow root systems up to 36 inches deep so they are not killed by the fire."

"We would like to thank the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club and their affiliates for this award," said Keith Schroeder. "We are very pleased with the work of all involved to have Wildflower Meadows be recognized for our efforts to preserve the environment with this natural habitat. We will proudly display these Michigan Garden Pollinator signs around the property and encourage anyone to come out and roam the paths through this lovely Michigan Wildflower Habitat."

