

# Boxford cleans up on Earth Day

Pollination, recycling  
and energy conservation  
encouraged

By Kathryn O'Brien

The roadsides and woodlands of Boxford are in better shape this week after more than 150 residents and families joined together to clean up the trash last Saturday to celebrate Earth Day.

Special displays on pollination, recycling and energy conservation were presented by local civic groups who were happy to talk about the environment and the many changes that can be made to improve it.

The Girl Scouts from Troop 66398 - Madeleine Mahoney, Lena Shahin and Jacqueline Tanner - gave out packets of milkweed seeds in their effort to help save the monarch butterfly and ultimately enhance the pollination process. They also recommended that milkweed plants are available at Paisley Farm and Greenhouse, Nunan's and Corliss Brothers in Ipswich.

Many interactive displays, presented by both the 4-H Kids Club and the conservation group from the Boxford Village Garden Club (BVGC), encouraged visitors to test their recycling knowledge and suggested ways to cut down on the use of plastic products.

"What a great day! What a good turnout," said Karen Sheridan, chair of the Boxford Recycling Committee, who worked closely with BVGC Earth Day Chairperson Patty Hojnowski-Diaz to organize the town-wide event.

Several of the same families participate in the town-wide cleanup every year, added Sheridan, who was volunteering at the Recycling Center along with Nancy Woolford and Joanna Daniel.

Over 135 cups of ice cream were scooped, said Hojnowski-Diaz, who chairs the Earth Day programs that have been taking



**Troop 66398 Girl Scouts Madeleine Mahoney, Lena Shahin and Jacqueline Tanner promote a "Save the Monarch Butterfly" campaign by passing out milkweed seeds during the Boxford Earth Day celebration.** [WICKED LOCAL PHOTO / KATHRYN O'BRIEN]



**Masconomet High School volunteers Sonia Scarfo and Abbey Ouellette scoop ice cream for Sandy Cox.** [WICKED LOCAL PHOTO / KATHRYN O'BRIEN]

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place for 25 years in Boxford. Everyone who takes part in the clean-up is entitled to an ice cream treat on Earth Day.

"A special thank you goes out to Benson's for donating the ice cream sundae treats," said Hojnowski-Diaz.

Among those participating were: five members of the Gore family who cleaned up along Main Street, including the Lord property; Holly Langer who diligently filled up nine bags with trash and collected many loose auto parts along the Middleton Road and Lockwood Lane areas of town; and Nancy Merrill who spruced up the area around Depot Road and Cross Street, joining many family and civic groups who

did the same across town.

Participants filled 144 bags with trash collected from the roadsides, Sheridan said. Among the items collected, she said, were liquor bottles, cans, bags, water bottles and plastic bags.

"Even a microwave was discovered and brought in by a diligent resident," she said.

Another 39 containers of shredded paper were processed on Earth Day outside

of Town Hall where Garden Club member Diane Gori was assisted by seven student volunteers, including six sophomores from Masconomet High School and one student from the Clark School. JRM, the town's trash hauler, was on site during the afternoon to do the shredding.

Bud Tackett of Greenworld Vision manned a table where he initiated energy-related discussions with residents.

Tackett signed up several people who were interested in free energy audits, and he informed locals about community solar and roof-top solar programs offered by National Grid and others.

Among the several Boxford community groups present at the 2018 Earth Day celebration, offering advice and information to town residents, were: the Boxford Village Garden Club Conservation Committee

and Earth Day Committee, which provided free seeds; The Boxford Recycling Committee; the Girl Scouts, who offered milkweed seeds to encourage pollination; The 4-H Kids [Goat] Club; BTA/Bolt; The Boxford Village Library; and Green Works.

Kathryn O'Brien is a member of the Boxford Village Garden Club.