**Building Bridges for Pollinator Conservation**

**This talk will cover the recent research on pollinator decline, biology, and habitat needs, along with strategies the Xerces Society -a national non-profit conservation organization- is taking to restore populations of these critical animals. Sarah will focus on her work with farmers across the Midwest, including innovative approaches to habitat restoration ranging from insectary strips & cover crops to native hedgerows & wildflower meadows. She will also discuss her work on former-Governor Dayton's Pollinator Protection Committee, a two year process that helped shape a new state-funded program for urban/residential pollinator habitat in MN. In closing, Sarah will introduce a variety of resources & talking points to help guide meaningful pollinator conservation in our region, including native plant selection, weed-control, pesticide risk mitigation, and native bee monitoring using non-lethal protocols.**