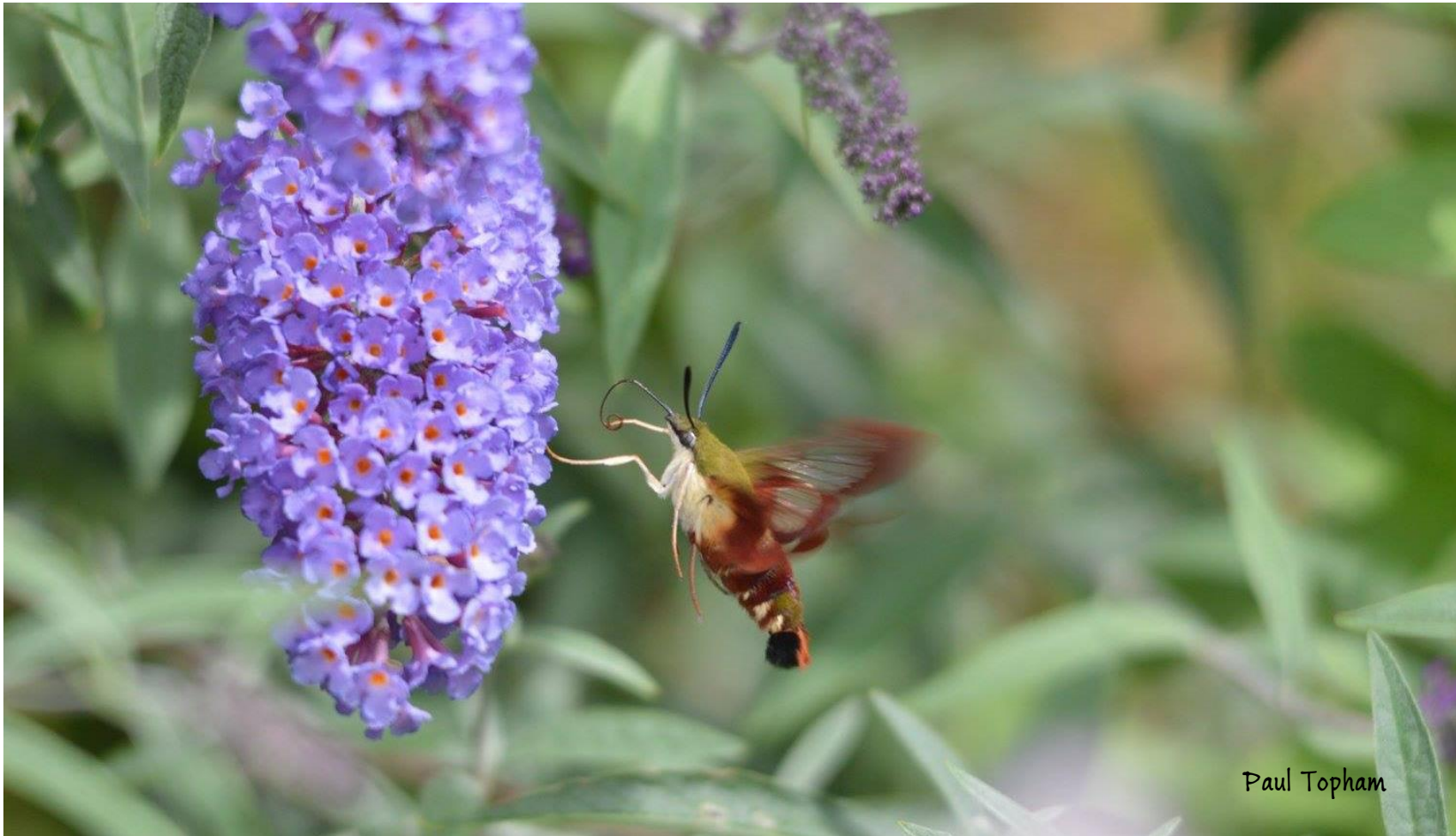




Bumblebee



Butterfly



Moth



Bat



# Solitary Bee



Spencer Hardy

Fly



Wasp



Katja Schulz

Beetle





Hummingbird



Wind

# Pollinator Fun Facts

## Bumblebee

- Bumblebees have 4 wings.
- Bumblebees have 2 long antennae.
- Bumblebees are very fuzzy, which helps them spread pollen!

## Butterfly

- Butterflies have tiny, colorful scales on their wings.
- Many butterflies have a long tongue, called a proboscis, which they use to sip flower nectar.
- Butterflies start life in an egg, hatch into a caterpillar, and build a chrysalis where they go through metamorphosis and become a beautiful butterfly!

## Moth

- Most moths are nocturnal and drab colored to camouflage with their environment.
- As caterpillars, many moth species are only able to eat 1-2 plant species. These are called host plants.
- Some moths, like the hummingbird clearwing moth on this card, are great at pretending to be another animal to trick predators!
- Moths start life in an egg, hatch into a caterpillar, and build a cocoon where they go through metamorphosis and become a beautiful moth!

## Bat

- Bats pollinate many tropical and desert plants.
- Pollinating bats slurp nectar from flowers, and get dusted with bright yellow pollen.
- There are no pollinating bats in Rhode Island. Our state's bats only eat insects...and even some pollinators like moths!

## Beetle

- Some beetles eat pollen and nectar, or look for other insects to eat among flowers. They spread pollen while crawling around looking for a snack!
- Most people don't know it, but the common eastern firefly (pictured on this card) is actually a beetle, and an important pollinator!
- Scientists estimate that there are about 350,000 different beetle species in the world!

## Solitary Bee

- Solitary bees are usually very tiny, and live by themselves in small burrows, plant stems, or piles of branches and leaves.
- Because they don't have a hive to defend, solitary bees usually don't sting.
- Solitary bees can come in all sorts of colors, even vibrant blue and green!

## Wasp

- Wasps have long, thin bodies with very little hairs or fuzz.
- Many wasps will drink nectar, but they are also predators that eat caterpillars and other insects (including garden pests!).
- Many wasp species live alone and don't have a colony to defend. While they can sting, they most likely aren't interested in stinging you!

## Hummingbird

- Hummingbirds can only be found in North and South America.
- The only hummingbird found in Rhode Island is the ruby-throated hummingbird.
- Hummingbirds are mostly fueled by nectar, but they also eat small insects for a protein boost!

## Wind

- If a plant isn't pollinated by a critter, it's most likely pollinated by wind!
- Many trees and grasses are pollinated by wind.
- Sneezing in the spring? That's the wind carrying pollen from plant to plant...and also up your nose!

## Fly

- Pollinating flies will masquerade as bees with black and yellow stripes!
- You can tell the difference because flies have 2 very short antennae, 2 wings, and 2 big eyes that face forward.
- Pollinating flies are called hoverflies or flower flies.