



# Santa Lucia Conservancy – *Keeping it Wild*

## The Power of Pollination

The Preserve is home to some very industrious denizens. Dozens of species of native pollinators contribute to the beauty and biodiversity of our lands.

### Pollinators are Precious...

Pollinators transfer pollen between flowers, ensuring fertility and genetic diversity. They are essential for the production of many seeds and fruit, which in turn feed both people and wildlife.

### ... and Declining

Steep population declines are associated with pesticide use, habitat fragmentation, and—particularly in honey bees—disease.



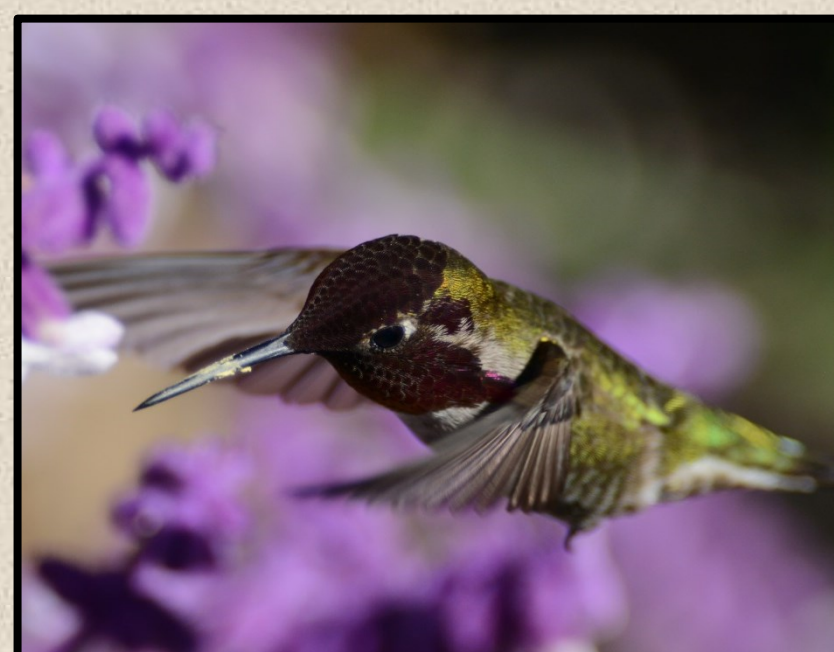
California Native Blue Orchard Bee, *Osmia lignaria* – Sam Droege

## We are making a difference at The Preserve

- ❖ **Landscape with natives.** Include a variety of flower colors and shapes that bloom in different seasons, providing food sources throughout the year.
- ❖ **Avoid pesticide use.** Both herbicides and insecticides can decimate pollinator populations. Controlling weeds with hand removal and mulching makes a real difference.



- ❖ **Keep it wild.** Most natives are solitary bees that nest in small holes. Providing dense patches of plants and leaving fallen logs and branches in place provides important nesting places.
- ❖ **Build a native bee house.** Design your own bee house to beautify your garden and create valuable habitat – ask the Conservancy team how!



Anna's Hummingbird  
Alex De Latour



Smith's Blue Butterfly  
Chris Tenney

### Did you know...

- Most native bees don't sting or bite
- California has 1,600 native bee species
- Bees can fly over 7 mph and beat their wings 190 times per second
- Some bats are also pollinators!



Ultra-Green Sweat Bee  
Paul G. Johnson



Langton's Forester Moth  
Stephen Hart