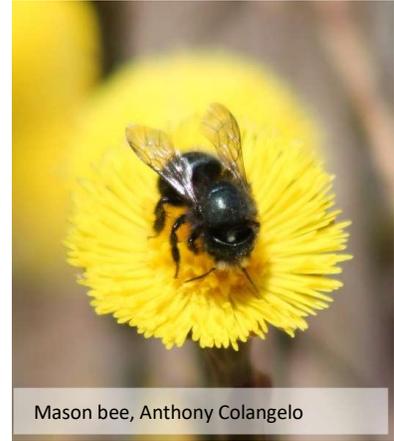


Pollinator Partnership Spotlight

## Where do mason bees go in winter?

By Anthony Colangelo, Pollinator Partnership Communications Coordinator

Pollinator Profile 🐝 - Did you know that mason bees (genus *Osmia*) overwinter as adults? Once a mason bee egg hatches, the newly emerged larva will feed on nutritious pollen provided by the solitary female. This larva will then pupate, and eventually develop into an adult bee. Incredibly, when the weather starts to cool, mason bee larvae develop into adults and remain inside their cavity nests over the entire winter. Once they detect the warmth of the spring, these adults emerge from their nests for the first time, ready to forage on the pollen and nectar of early blooming flowers!



Mason bee, Anthony Colangelo

Stem-nesting bees, like mason bees, make use of pre-existing holes and cavities to make their nests. Photo credits to Thelma Heidel-Baker.



Bee nesting in Monarda stem, photo credit Thelma Heidel-Baker



Bee nests closed and open, photo credits Thelma Heidel-Baker

For any questions or conversation, please reach out! Email [lis@pollinator.org](mailto:lis@pollinator.org). Let me know what pollinator-related resources would help support your work and help you promote NRCS pollinator conservation practices for landowners.