

Bees and Carlinville: a Timeline

Bee Study at Blackburn

- 1884-1916: Dr. Charles Robertson of Blackburn College led what became a groundbreaking study on plant-pollinator interactions in a 10-mile area around Carlinville.
- 2001: Dr. John C. Marlin led a team of researchers revisited his work and published the results of their research.
- 2013: Dr. Laura Burkle joined Dr. Marlin and Dr. Tiffany Knight published another follow-up study in the prestigious journal *Science*.
- 2017(?): Blackburn began an academic program on pollinators and applied for and received **Bee Campus** status from the Xerces Society.
- 2018: Blackburn College recognized Dr. Robertson by electing him to the college's Science Wall of Honor.

Bee City-Carlinville

- 20?? Mary Tinder and a group of other citizens began in initiative they call *Make Carlinville Beautiful*".
- July, 2019 Tinder called a meeting of active workers from that movement (Master Gardeners, Tree City members, Winning Communities, and so on) along with a few new invitees to organize ongoing efforts and explore new venues. One offshoot of that was a subgroup to investigate the possibility of Bee City status.
- July-August, 2019 Dr. Marsha Meredith, a retired Blackburn science faculty member who had attended the 2018 investiture of Dr. Robertson and Mary Beasley, an active Blackburn alum, educator, and grant-writer began that investigation.
- September, 2019 An organizational meeting revealed that many area residents were already interested and active in planting pollinator gardens, tending bees, investigating pollinator-friendly

pesticide alternatives and promoting activities to celebrate the notion of a Bee City and its connection with Make Carlinville Beautiful. Blackburn faculty and staff joined the effort as well, beginning an ongoing and fruitful relationship. A committee was formed, and Mary and Marsha completed the application and required resolution (available on the website).

Carlinville's City Council readily agreed to supporting the Bee City application and Alderman Bill Link joined Mary Tinder and Mayor Deanna Demuzio as our leadership team.

October 8, 2019

Carlinville become an official Bee City affiliate – the very first in Illinois!

November, 2019

Kathy Ruitter, a Blackburn Sustainability Program coordinator and longtime staff member, joined Marsha in developing a web presence for the organization: a website (carlinvillebees.org) and facebook group ([carlinvillebees](https://www.facebook.com/carlinvillebees)).

Together they serve as our window to the world and document our activities and future plans (as required by Xerces).