

Bee City Minutes

January 22, 2019

Members Present:

Bill Link, Marsha Meredith, Mary Beasley, Julie Boente, Cindy Maguire, Kathy Ruiter, Paul Mihalek, Arvin Pierce, Pat Kowal, Dan Duckles, Lisa Klaus, Eric Ogden

Yea, We Did It!

- Kathy Ruiter noted that Carlinville is the only city in the country to be a Bee Campus AND City.
- Bill Link mentioned the article in the Macoupin County Enquire that gave an overview of the mission of Bee City and outlined future plans and activities.

Bit O'Honey (Educational Information)

- Bill Link opened the meeting with an enormous 5-pound bag of Bit O'Honey candy (well received by all present). He also offered the information that Farm and Fleet sells Bee supplies which includes 3 pounds of bees and a queen. Beekeepers Pierce and Ogden shared their concerns about buying these packages.
- Marsha Meredith gave an overview of the Pollinator Documentary that was shown in Springfield in December. ("a wide range of information and a real eye-opener")

Discussion

The Bee Website

Kathy updated members on the Bee website which went live in November. It has had 244 visitors and over 1000 hits. Our Facebook page has gone from 107 likes to 453. She encouraged members to send pictures of their pollinator projects as the seasons change.

The Buzz from Bee City

- Pat Kowal explained the Bee Basket for the upcoming Macoupin Scholarship Auction at Blackburn that she and M Meredith put together. The basket featured a plethora of bee items including Bonnie the Bee-ver.
- Marsha Meredith noted that she had an email from an editor of the Senior News in Springfield asking for an article about Bee City. Cindy Maguire offered to write it.

The Buzz from Bee Campus

- The pollinator class at Blackburn offered by A Pierce and Dr Jim Bray has 14 students. The goal is to complete an online pollinator reference which includes techniques for collecting. The class will work on campus pollinator gardens. Plans include planting more flowering trees.
- Blackburn is landscaping the perimeter of the solar energy field with Dr. Robertson plantings.

Integrated Pest Management Plan

Bill Link is spearheading the Bee City Integrated Pest Management Plan, required by Bee City USA. He reviewed the model "Local Resolution to Protect Pollinators" and contacted the Park Board, the City Council and the County for a list of all pesticides and herbicides they use for pest management and is waiting for replies. He distributed information on the use of neonicotinoids, a class of insecticides. He reported that, following the development of our resolution, information will be put on line so everyone will know what NOT to use. As A Pierce noted, the biggest and hardest part of an IPM is changing the mindset.

Upcoming Pollinator Events.

- All Gardener's Day for Saturday, March 14, 2020 will be held in Litchfield. A Pierce will be among the presenters. The workshop includes sessions and is open to the public from 8AM to 12 PM.
- Earth Week includes Earth Day (4/22) and Arbor Day (4/24). Kevin Bennet from Trees Forever will do a presentation for the elementary school.
- Kathy Ruiter is working on her idea to educate Blackburn diners about the importance of bees to food. She wants to place bee decals on the cafeteria sneeze guards with information on what foods they pollinate.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2020: 7:00PM City Hall.

Agenda so far:

- New members, Lisa Klaus and Eric Ogden, will present information about the 35 acres of pollinator habitats they own.
- Report on the Integrated Pest Management Plan