

Bee City Minutes

February, 19, 2020

Members Present:

Bill Link, Marsha Meredith, Mary Beasley, Cindy Maguire, Kathy Ruiter, Dave Bradley, Dan Duckles, Lisa Klaus, Eric Ogden, Mag Tetzlaff

Yea, We Did It!

- B Link and M Meredith treated members to a rendition of *Summ, Summ, Summ*, a German Bee song which M Meredith posted on the website.
- B Link offered free handmade bluebird houses, compliments of D McLean.
- Cindy Maguire shared the article she had written for the Senior News on Bee City and Campus. It will be posted on the website. Members discussed other ideas for where to place Bee City articles (perhaps doing a column like Dr. Werner's Macoupin Co Naturalist in the Enquirer).
- The Bee Basket created by M Meredith and P Kowal netted over \$60 for Blackburn's Macoupin County Scholarship Auction

Bit O'Honey (Educational Information)

Lisa Klaus and Erik Ogden explained their process of developing pollinator habitats on their land. They handed out a diagram with pictures of the different gardens they have planted and cultivated over the years and explained each area. They presented information, ideas for resources, and lots of valuable advice: "a row of sunflowers is the best thing you can do for honeybees", "save the seeds, it's therapeutic and saves money", "get native trees from Stark's, not Walmart", "pollinator patches are inclusive – they serve both the birds and the bees". Kudos to Lisa and Erik for a great Bit O'Honey.

Discussion

The Buzz from Bee City

- B Link reported on two grants: Mary Tinder's submission was selected as one of the 2020 Trees Forever's *Pollinator Habitat Conservation Initiative Project* and qualifies the City of Carlinville to receive a \$1000 cost-share incentive grant, as well as the assistance of a Trees Forever Field Coordinator. Paula Robinson's application, *Carlinville Pollinator Project*, to the IL Native Plant Society was approved for \$500.
- B Link reported that Scott Stinson, owner of the Carlinville Plaza approached him with an opportunity for Bee City to develop a slice of land at the Plaza into a pollinator garden. After reviewing the photographs that showed a possible 30' x 150' area facing Route 4, members agreed that soil testing and developing a plan would be the first step. L Klaus offered to speak to Lane Knocke at the Extension Office for his input on design; B Link will look into soil testing. Both will report at the next meeting.
- M Meredith proposed several web changes. She suggested that we add a Special Interest tab to the page which would include a place for articles, FAQs, services, diagrams of gardens (like the one that Lisa and Eric put together) and educational information for teachers and students. She also suggested a donate button which would be helpful in funding upcoming projects and expenses. All members agreed that both were good ideas.
- M Beasley brought up the question of how we want to plan future Bee City activities. We are required to hold one educational event per year and to celebrate National Pollinator Week. K Ruiter suggested that we connect with Master Gardeners who offered a Kid's Corner at their booth at the Macoupin County Historical Society Strawberry Festival on Memorial Day

Weekend. M Tinder offered the possibility of connecting with the Trees Forever Grant and field specialist, Kevin Bennett, for an event. M Beasley will get in touch with both the Master Gardeners and K Bennett and report at the next meeting.

The Buzz from Bee Campus

- K Ruitter announced that the Bee Facebook page now has 459 followers and that the *All Gardener's Day* will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020 in Litchfield. The workshop includes sessions and is open to the public from 8AM to 12 PM. A Pierce will be among the presenters.

Integrated Pest Management Plan

- Bill Link updated members regarding the Integrated Management Plan. He received information from the City and County, but is waiting on a response from the Park District. Members discussed that the IPM is more of a best-practice than a rule-recommended practice. K Ruitter will email a copy of Blackburn's IPM to B Link.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2020: 7:00PM City Hall.

Agenda so far:

- Report on Plaza pollinator opportunity
- Report on grants
- Report on All Gardeners day
- Special Interest tab: Web changes
- Update on the Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Planning for future Bee City Events (Historical Society Strawberry Festival, Carlinville Market Days, Trees Forever event, etc.) (Master gardeners and Kevin Bennett)