

Bee City Minutes

October 7, 2020

Members Present:

Bill Link, Mary Tinder, Marsha Meredith, Mary Beasley, Cindy Maguire, Kathy Ruitter, Julie Boente, Chas Swearington

Yea, We Did It!

- Bill Link reported that Kathy Ruitter recently received the Alumni Achievement Award from Blackburn College for her outstanding and unflagging efforts and significant achievement with the Bee Campus work.
- Mary Tinder shared two published articles that feature the work done in Carlinville through Bee City. One was in the new Science magazine, Two Million Blossoms; the second was featured in the Xerces Bee City USA online newsletter as an Affiliate Highlight. Look for them on our Facebook page.

Bit O'Honey (Our Educational Information)

Marsha Meredith and Mary Tinder presented information on Dr. Robertson's Garden. Marsha gave a short overview of the landmark research Dr. Robertson did on pollinators and native plants which has been twice replicated. Dr. Robertson's house was located on Orient Street in Carlinville, but currently there is no garden. Mary Tinder has begun to look for the original Robertson plants in hopes that Bee City folk will be able to plant and maintain a garden that will celebrate Dr. Robertson and his groundbreaking work.

Discussion

Swarming

- Websites and Facebook page: Kathy Ruitter reported that the Bee City/Campus Facebook page has 545 followers. The website, as of October, has had 774 visitors and over 2,000-page views, 84% from the US, 23% from Canada and 10% worldwide.
- A Bee-utiful Collaborative Educational Opportunity: Kathy Ruitter unfolded plans for a Zoom mini-seminar that would bring the Bee and Tree (City and Campus) people together for an informational/educational meeting. Representatives from several groups will present what they have been doing regarding plants and pollinator projects, and highlight their future plans. Invitations are going out to the Mayor, Blackburn staff and students, Bee City and Tree City members, Master Gardeners, and interested public. **The Zoom meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2020 at 7 PM.**
- Fundraising Projects: Discussion on future fundraising projects was tabled for our next meeting.

The Buzz from Bee City

- Mary Tinder suggested that we might like to look into a grant for building and erecting bat houses as another way to encourage pollinators. Kathy Ruitter mentioned that, bats being the most controversial pollinator, we might need to include an educational piece before we begin. More discussion on this in the future.
- Update on Pollinator plots and projects: Members discussed an interest in developing a plot map for pollinator plots within the city limits. Bill Link reported on the ag connection and pollinator plots outside city limits. He suggested connecting with Caveny Farm near Monticello

as a model of animal husbandry practice. A suggested winter project could be contacting owners of pollinator pockets and carefully-managed farms.

- Volunteer Projects: Mary Tinder reported that members of the High school Rotary Interact Club provided person power to reorganize the garden in front of City Hall. Master Gardeners added a garden around the flagpole at the courthouse.
- Recertification: Cindy Maguire and Mary Beasley volunteered to write up the annual report for recertification which explains this year's accomplishments in raising pollinator awareness and celebrating our achievements.

The Buzz from Bee Campus

- K Rüter reported that since the campus has been under Covid restrictions, not much has been able to happen. A bright note was that 32 trees -a gift from an alum – were planted this fall.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 11, 2020: 7:00 PM

THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Plans to develop a “New Robertson Survey Committee” to locate plants studied by Dr. Robertson
- Plans to identify pollinator pockets (who has what?)
- Bat House grant revisited
- Interest in writing Bee City pieces for the newspaper