

Bee City USA, Carlinville

Minutes, September 2, 2020 Meeting

[Bee City members met at the Carlinville Plaza following a community tour, video and photo of the Granny Wilson Demonstration Garden. The site preparation and plantings were discussed informally as the video was being made. They included: soil amendments, natural nitrogen, identification of native trees and shrubs, pollinator perennials, the placement of donated mulch around plants, and later a finish top dressing of pecan mulch, donation of seed by Growmark, Inc. broadcast in one area, broadcast of seed purchased from Pheasants Forever (Midwest pollinator mix, blended especially for pollinators in our area) in a second seed bed, germination, growing and planting of Heirloom bee/bird/butterfly plugs by “Bobbi’s”, 8) germination, growing and planting of Heirloom tomato seeds, and the donation of over 600 tomatoes donated to the Carlinville Food Pantry. Site Steward Dana Yowell and Mayor Demuzio introduced the garden. Dana and John Yowell are “site stewards” for the garden; Larry Rhodes, Rhodes Angus, provided an “in kind” donation of pecan mulch. All 6 plantings at the Carlinville Plaza are a partnership between “Make Carlinville Beautiful “ and Central Realty, owner of the Plaza.]

Fifteen members attended the business meeting: Marsha Meredith, Kathy Ruiter, Mary Beasley, Chas Swearington, Bill Link, Cindy Tipps, Becky Salske, Ed Tawfall, Loretta Tawfall, Randy Tinder, Bobbi Bates, Mary Tinder, Julie Boente, Siri Engstrom, Cindy McGuire.

The Trees Forever Volunteer Award presented on August 5th was highlighted. The award was presented to all community members who have volunteered on behalf of planting and maintaining pollinator food and habitat. Two plaques were presented by Kevin Bennett, Trees Forever coordinator, to Bee City USA, Carlinville, and Tree City USA, Carlinville. The plaques were given to Mayor Demuzio to be displayed in City Hall. Fifty local participants and guests attended the August 5th meeting and ceremony at the Carlinville Unit School District #1 Pollinator Demonstration Garden.

The new “ Pollinator 62626” T Shirt order was received. Those who ordered the shirts can pick them up at Cherry Tree Gifts and Souvenirs store on the Carlinville Square. A few extra shirts were ordered in V neck and round neck for the general public to purchase. The sale of these T shirts, the yellow Bee/Tree/Sea shirts and the “Pollinator habitat signs and “Bee City Carlinville” signs help support the purchase of plants, trees, supplies for native plants/pollinator projects.

Mary Tinder will oversee the upcoming coverage by “2 Million Blossoms” [magazine](#) of Carlinville’s pollinator gardens.

Andrea Duncan’s Pollinator videos have received overwhelming positive responses! They can be viewed on U-tube, Carlinville Bees facebook page and Carlinvillebees.org web page. The videos show the beauty of the native plants in gardens across town and provide some of our educational outreach necessary for re-certification. Andrea was commended for the high-quality videos she is producing! She offered to explore ideas and details for using her photographs to make note cards for a Bee City fund raising opportunity. Andrea will provide more information at the October 7th meeting.

The Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) was prepared and reviewed over the past several months. Bill Link was point person on this task. A motion for approval was made by Kathy Ruiter and seconded by Marsha Meredith. It was approved 15-0. The IPM will be added to the website.

Kathy Ruiter introduced an idea for an informational/educational opportunity – a Zoom mini-seminar that would bring groups together to discuss their pollinator activities with each other. Invitees/participants would include the Bee and Tree City and Bee and Tree Campus members, Blackburn Students, Carlinville Park District, and the public. She suggested having a representative from each group talk for 10 minutes about what they have been doing and their future plans. She offered to set up the meeting through her Zoom account through the college which would cover the attendance and the time involved. The plan will be discussed and detailed at the October 7th Bee City USA, Carlinville meeting.

Cindy McGuire agreed to be the point person to write our re-certification document, which will be due in February of 2021. The annual cost is \$150.00. Documentation from the web site will be helpful in identifying items to meet the goals and recertification requirements.

Bill Link noted that future meeting dates will be posted on facebook and the Bee City USA, Carlinville web site to get the word out and welcome the public to attend. These are open meetings held at Carlinville City Hall if the room is available and we reserve it in advance.

Marsha Meredith expressed a growing concern of our group having little direct contact with the Agricultural community. Cindy Tipps and Bill Link noted that there are a number of pollinator plots (acreage) in the surrounding area outside city limits. Bill will contact Bob Caveny, who can help identify the property owners who have small- or large-scale acreage outside city limits and provide an update on October 7th.

Cindy McGuire mentioned that it would be a good exercise to also try and identify the residential pollinator pockets in the city.

Cindy Tipps reached out to the “Teen Challenge camp” participants to see if they might be interested in working alongside volunteers as we plant and maintain sites. The Bee committee was receptive to the idea and she will bring more information back to the October 7th meeting.

Bill Link noted that our final “Make Carlinville Beautiful” worksite for this season will be the removal of old shrubs and the re-planting of natives and pollinator perennials at the Municipal building in Carlinville. The work for the kidney shaped garden was approved by City Council. Native plants will be the focus of the garden. Siri Engstrom, youth contact for the Rotary Interact Club, offered to bring the idea to the Rotary youth to see if they would join in to help remove bushes, plant and mulch.

Randy Tinder reported that “Make Carlinville Beautiful” has a total of 48 sites (pollinator pockets and demonstration gardens) in the City. Over forty “Site Stewards” have adopted the watering, weeding and troubleshooting of these sites. Two hundred native plants were planted in 2019 and over 600 additional pollinators were planted in 2020. Nine business owners also participate and share maintenance responsibilities or assist with expenses.

Next Meeting is 7:00 PM on October 7, 2020 at City Hall, Carlinville, Illinois.