

Bee Campus USA - Luther College

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Luther has several hundred acres of natural areas, primarily oak savanna, oak woodland, and tallgrass prairie. Volunteers helped with a number of projects, including clearing invasive European buckthorn, garlic mustard, and participating in prescribed burns, all which helped to enhance these areas and encourage the growth of native species beneficial to pollinators.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

6

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

435600

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

35

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Other



Monarch butterfly on blazing star in Anderson Prairie, one of our native planted natural areas on the Luther College campus.

Education & Outreach

We hosted three educational outreach events on campus this past year. The first educational outreach event was a week-long series of Pollinator Week events hosting with daily showings of the virtual Pollinator Party program to which the public was invited from June 20-24, 2022. The second was a summer workshop titled "The Identification and Ecology of Midwestern Bees" held July 18-22, 2022. This workshop, taught by Mike Arduser, taught 2 undergraduate and 9 graduate students from around the Upper Midwest how to identify native bees to species. The 3rd educational event was a biology department seminar attended by 75 students and members of the Decorah community on November 10, 2022. Matt O'Neal, professor of entomology from Iowa State University presented a talk titled "Can pollinators be conserved while surrounded by corn and beans: lessons from the STRIPS project".

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

3

How many people attended those events (in total)?

103



Courses & Continuing Education

Courses which particularly discuss pollinators include the following: BIO 151 Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity, BIO 251 Entomology, BIO 112 Insects, Humans and the Environment, and BIO 365 Ecology. One specific project in our introductory biology Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity course involves students counting monarch butterflies at specific locations around campus in our natural areas during the fall migration. This is a for-credit course and gets students doing citizen science counting monarch butterflies.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information last year?

4

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

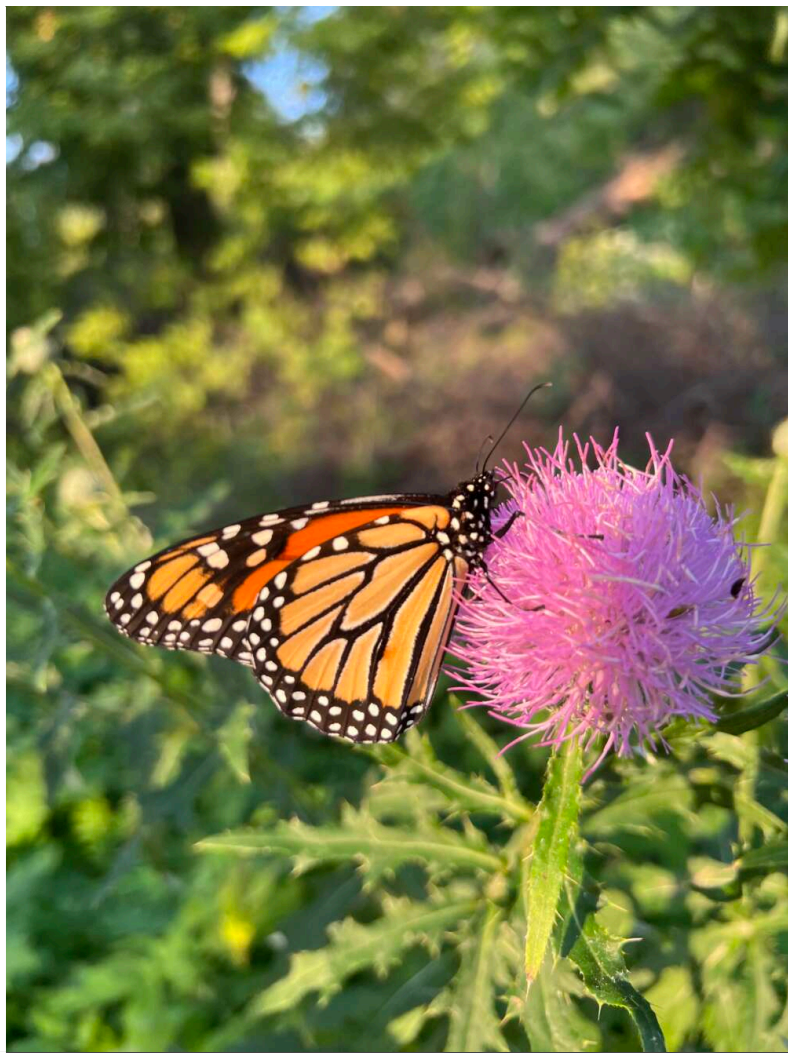
153

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information last year?

How many participants attended those courses?



Student at monarch butterfly counting location in Anderson Prairie on the Luther College campus.



Monarch butterfly counted by student in annual monarch count during the fall migration at Luther College.

Service-Learning

Most service-learning projects are hosted by our land stewardship manager and involve prescribed burning of tallgrass prairie and oak woodland natural areas on campus. The BIO 251 Entomology class also participated in extracting honey from the 2 campus bee hives.

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on and off-campus?

5

How many students participated in service-learning projects last year to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

55



Volunteer but trained members of the Luther prescribed burn crew conducted a controlled burn in Gateway Prairie on the Luther College campus on April 17, 2022.



Several summer research students surveyed the native bees on campus and floral resources those bees were using. To date they've identified over 45 species of bees on campus, including several possible Iowa state records.

Educational Signage

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed last year?

Policies & Practices

The college continues to maintain 700+ acres of natural areas around the central campus, and continues to reduce pesticide use in managing pests on the central campus area.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

Currently, our campus IPM plan developed in 2021 that was supported by our campus land use council is stuck in review by the grounds department and then the college cabinet needs to approve it.

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [DRAFT Luther College IPM Policy Dec 2021 for review.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Suppliers for NE Iowa.pdf](#)

Learn More

<https://www2.luther.edu/biology/facilities-natural-areas/BeeCampusUSA/>
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