

# Bee Campus USA - Luther College

Report on 2024

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

*Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.*

**No new pollinator habitats were created, but numerous enhancement projects in the form of maintenance to control invasive species were undertaken, including prescribed burns totaling 23.3 acres, several buckthorn and garlic mustard blitzes to remove invasive species involving at least 100 campus volunteers.**

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?*

**10**

*How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?*

**182**

*How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?*

**7**

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

**1014948**

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Luther students participate in one of our prescribed burns (here in Anderson Prairie) to help maintain tallgrass prairie habitat on campus and expose bare soil for ground-nesting bees.

## Education & Outreach

*Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.*

**Monarch banding event with Winneshiek County Conservation at Decorah Community Prairie on Sept 5. Additionally visits by Cresco 2nd graders and Decorah 5th grade to the entomology lab reached almost 200 elementary children who saw live honey bees, learned about native bees and pollination.**

*How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?*

**15**

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

**522**



Luther biology major and senior Owen Coleman taught 2nd graders and 5th graders about native bees on campus and showed them honey bees as well.



Emmelyn Cullen presents results of research studying the 103 species of native bees on campus comparing tallgrass prairies and landscaped flower beds and the native and non-native flowers within them.



Luther student teaching 5th graders about bees!

## Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

*Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2024, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.*

3 sections of BIO 151 Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity (for credit course) participated in our ongoing annual monarch counts during the fall migration. BIO 251 Entomology (for credit course) participated in various pollinator-related projects, including a monarch banding event, and data analysis of our ongoing annual monarch counts on campus. Finally, during our annual spring student research day, three research students gave talks to the campus community on the native bees they had surveyed on campus during the summer of 2023 in our natural areas and on native and non-native flowers in the landscaped flower beds on our central campus. All three of those students are now entomology graduate students studying pollinators!

*How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?*

6

*How many students attended those for-credit courses?*

145

*Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2024, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.*

**BIO 112 Insects, Humans and the Environment (for credit course) students grew native plants in the greenhouse and transplanted them into our campus prairies to enhance habitat.**

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

**1**

*How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?*

**19**



## Policies & Practices

*Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.*

The draft IPM plan continues to be edited for future approval, but several opportunities for approval were missed unfortunately.

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

No more than have been practiced in past, including no spraying within our 700+ acres of natural areas,.

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*

Specifically on IPM no

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## Committee Photo

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## Learn More

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](#)

<https://www.luther.edu/departments/biology/faculty-research/insect-biology>

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