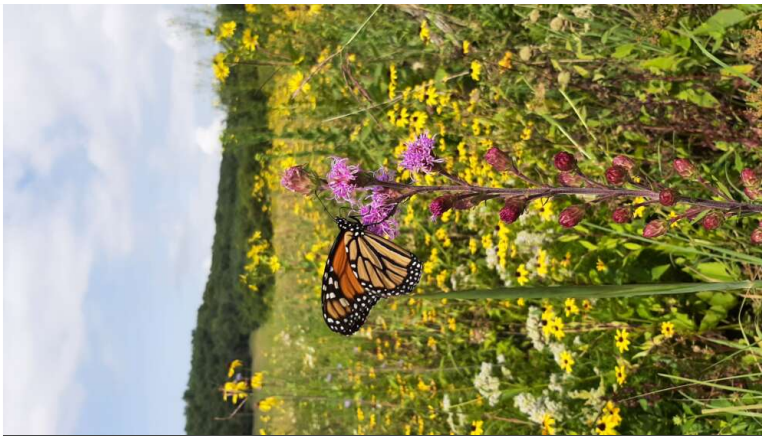


# Bee Campus USA - Luther College

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Luther College is blessed with over 700 acres of natural areas on campus, including woodlands and over 120 acres of tallgrass prairie. Landscape plantings on the central campus are dominated by native plants. No new projects were begun last year, but ongoing maintenance of these natural areas and plantings requires extensive volunteer help. We burned over 40 acres of prairie and oak woodland on at least 9 different burns, which requires a burn crew of volunteers each time. Removal of invasive European buckthorn, particularly by the student group ECO from a 3 acre oak savanna on the “Ylvi slope” in the central campus area is helping to improve the pollinator habitat at that location. Many of our woodlands benefit from the removal of invasive European buckthorn and honeysuckle, and this is often performed by student volunteer groups such as athletic teams.



Monarch butterfly in one of our on-campus planted tallgrass prairies.



The endangered rusty patch bumble bee is a resident of the natural areas on the Luther College campus. Here RPBB is visiting a Culver's root flower in Gateway Prairie during July 2021.

## Education & Outreach

Given COVID, the primary pollinator conservation education and outreach event held on campus was our annual monarch butterfly migration tagging event on a Saturday afternoon in early September. Current students, staff, faculty, and families from the Decorah community all participated, and we tagged 100 monarch butterflies in only 2 hours in Anderson Prairie, one of our on-campus planted prairies.





Some of the folks who captured monarch butterflies in Anderson Prairie on the Luther College campus as part of our annual monarch butterfly migration tagging event in September.

## Courses & Continuing Education

All curriculum efforts were for-credit courses. Except for BIO 112 and BIO 251 (the insect courses), most courses did not have a unit specifically dedicated to pollinators. These courses have lectures on pollinators, including identification, ecology, behavior, and then students develop research projects that often focus on pollinators. Additionally students in BIO 251 developed a number of infographic posters to help our campus focus on pollinators, and these were posted around campus, several of these are attached. Other courses, such as Ecology, Botany, and the ENVS 250 Sustainability, Systems and Solutions course also discussed pollinator health and conservation, often as part of other discussion topics.







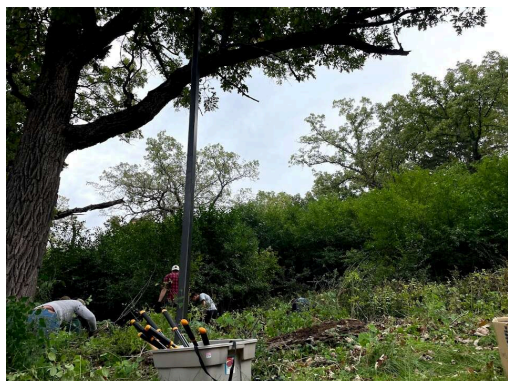
Five infographic posters relating to pollinator habitat, health, and bee-friendly practices were developed by students in the BIO 251 Entomology class and are being shared across campus to highlight pollinator conservation efforts at Luther.

## Service-Learning

In addition to our ongoing stewardship of our natural areas, we had one specific new project on campus where a student club called ECO has begun removal of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from a steep oak savanna area right in the central campus. Our goal is to return prescribed fire to maintain the oak savanna, but invasive species had completely clogged up the area due to neglect. This will provide additional pollinator habitat, due to the presence of many trees, brush, and flowers which will be returning with the restoration of the savanna. Ongoing stewardship of natural areas involves



prescribed burning of both our prairies and oak savanna areas by a trained volunteer burn crew. Additionally, each summer a number of Luther students participate in a summer collaborative research program with faculty, and the focus of several of these research projects has been on documenting the species of pollinators found on the Luther College campus, as well as evaluating the relationship of habitat type with pollinator presence and abundance.



Members of ECO clear invasive European buckthorn from a hillside in the central campus, helping to restore oak savanna and allow prescribed burning to help maintain this habitat.



Student volunteers on the Luther prescribed burn crew helped burn over 40 acres of prairie and oak woodland during the past year.



Several students participate in research projects in the Luther Entomology lab each summer performing surveys of bees, butterflies or moths.

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## Educational Signage

Infographic posters were created by the BIO 251 Entomology that focus on different aspects of pollinator health. These are temporary posters and have been posted in high visibility locations in hallways on campus. So far there is no permanent Bee Campus USA signage on campus, but we are working on getting some of the official Bee Campus USA signs printed, and placing those at strategic rain garden locations on campus along with Pollinator Habitat signs.

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## Policies & Practices

Luther College has a long tradition and reputation for our sustainability and land stewardship efforts which help conserve and restore biodiversity, including pollinators. Use of native plants in landscaping, no-spray zones in some areas of campus that contain significant pollinator habitat and/or human contact (e.g. outdoor pool) and reduced herbicide use that is targeted are long accepted practices.

**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](#)

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Learn More

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

