



***SHARE SOME SPACE***



***A JENNINGS COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORTED  
PROJECT PROVIDING HABITAT AND EDUCATION ABOUT  
POLLINATORS.***

***OUR MISSION*** IS TO EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS THROUGH INVOLVEMENT AND CREATION OF NEW HABITAT THROUGHOUT JENNINGS COUNTY.



**BACKGROUND:** On June 30, 2015, the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District decided to form a sub-committee to inform and educate the public about; 1) the importance of pollination, 2) the declining numbers of pollinators and 3) create new habitat throughout our community. Also, the Jennings County School Corporation has organized work teams to plant Monarch Butterfly areas on every school property and three other community sites. It will take individuals, groups, the media, businesses, parks, and organizations of the community to build this pollinator plan.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** DAN MEGEL, BOB STEINER, RICHARD WINEGARDEN, PAMELA WINEGARDEN, KAMILLE BRAWNER, DONNA STANLEY, DON BIEHLE, AMBER FIELDS, JOE ROBB, BOB ERTEL, TODD EUBANK, KIRSTEN CARLSTON, BRAD PONSLER, LES AMES, KAREN AMES, JIMMI BERKEY, KELLY KENT, RALPH COOLEY, ROB MCGRIFF, JENNY VOGEL, ROB CHAPMAN, BRAD BRIGGS, KEVIN MORIN, ZACK VOILES AND ANDY ERTEL.

## OUR GOALS FOR THIS PROJECT

1. **Inform** the Community about the declining Populations of Pollinators (esp. Monarch Butterflies and Bees).
2. **Educate** the Community of the importance of Pollinators.
3. **Apply action** in the form of creating new habitats and enhancing existing habitats.

### Information about our concerns

Close to **75 percent** of the flowering plants on the earth rely to some degree on pollinators in order to set seed or fruit. From these plants comes **one-third of humankind's food and even greater proportions of the food for much of our wildlife**. Yet now, in many places, pollinators are at risk. We stand at a crossroad.

Research has shown large numbers of population decline of Honey bees and other native bees. Once common bumble bees are disappearing across North American.

The Monarch Butterfly is on the verge of being listed on the endangered species list.

There host plant, **common milkweed**, is needed for their survival, but often viewed as a weed to kill.

Heavily developed agricultural and urban landscapes lack the habitat to support a diversity and abundance of bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Did you know the number one irrigated crop in the United States is the lawn? Around 840 million acres are grassed down and sprayed to keep out those flowering weeds which to a pollinator, has the appearance of a desert.

Four factors – the loss and fragmentation of habitat, pesticide poisoning, and the spread of diseases and parasites – account for most of the decline in populations of bees and other pollinators.

Do we as consumers, recognize that the most nutritious and interesting parts of our diets – **apples, watermelons, blueberries, carrots, broccoli, almonds, orange juice, coffee, and chocolate**, to name a few – are the result of the insect pollination? Can you image having your blueberry patch or apple tree without any fruit to pick? That reality can be right here in our own back yards one day without those pollinators.

If this declining trend continues, the result will be disastrous not only for the insects but for humans as well.



# The importance of Pollinators



Several animals can pollinate, such as birds and bats, but the four major groups of pollinating insects are: bees and wasps, flies, butterflies and moths, and beetles.

Pollination is the process by which plants reproduce. Pollination is central to the life cycle of flowering plants. Pollen must move from male to female parts of the flower for the plant to develop seed and reproduce. There are two types of pollination (self-pollination and cross pollination) and several ways a plant achieves in getting pollen (wind, water, pollinators). Since flowering plants are literally rooted to one spot, close to 75 percent rely upon animal pollinators to move that pollen.

Let's look at how important the bee is to the world we live in. Bees are the most important group of pollinators. Bees exhibit a behavior called flower constancy, meaning they repeatedly visit one particular plant species on any given foraging trip. This is important because pollen is wasted if it is delivered to the wrong species of flower. On a single trip, a female bee may visit hundreds of flowers, transferring pollen along the entire way.



The bottom line is, **without bees**, there would be **NO apples, pumpkins, strawberries and many other fruits and vegetables.**

We need all the groups of pollinator's present which provides more pollinating coverage from sun up to sun down. Some work in cooler temperatures and some have further travel ranges. Remember, we only have from spring to fall to grow all that food we need to eat.

## Apply Action as a Community

If you could do something to help a butterfly or bee, would you? The good news is, any action is better than no action. By the year 2018, we would like to identify and/or plant over 300 pollinator protection areas.

*If you live in town*..... Get some free seed from the SWCD and plant a small area to pollinating flowers. We need hundreds of small flowering areas for urban habitat.

*If you are a student* ..... Help out with the Monarch/pollinator projects at school.

*If you are a farmer*.....enroll in the USDA, CRP, filter strip program and plant flowers in your mix.

*If you own a factory*.....plant a small area of flowers around your picnic area.

*If you are on a board that makes decisions about public lands*.....plant a small area and educate the public.

*If you mow a large yard* .....Get some free seed from the SWCD or potted plants and plant a small area to pollinating flowers.

*If you are a civil organization*.....see what activity over the period of this project you can assist with.

*If you have some idle space on your farm*..... create a small pollinator habitat

*If you own cropland along a creek or stream*.....sign up for a filter strip with flowering plants through the USDA – Conservation Reserve Program.

*If you have time volunteer*.....join the Pollinator Committee and help us with our future activities.

## Join our growing project

As the plan mentioned above, we want to create new pollinator areas and identify some permanent existing areas (just general locations on a Jennings County map). Visit our website [www.jenningswcd.org](http://www.jenningswcd.org), and under **Share Some Space**, go to our **Pollinator Map**. With 2015 and 2016 plantings (big or small) you can see all the newly created pollinator sites. If you planted one, call the office and we will add your name (regardless of the size) and pin it to our Pollinator Map. If you want to join the committee or work on a special project, give us a call. So join us as we become the **Number 1 Pollinator County in the state of Indiana!**

## Signs of Success

The following are **project accomplishments** as of **December 2015**:

**Goal 1:** Inform the Community about the declining Populations of Pollinators and **Goal 2:** Educate the Community of the importance of Pollinators.

- A pollinator committee was formed and has grown 23 members within two years. This group continues to meet monthly. (2017)
- The addition of the Community Pollinator Project added to the SWCD website
- Radio programs are delivered in timely manner
- Newspaper articles are published in local papers
- SWCD Newsletter writes articles
- Presentation at County Council/Commissioner Meeting
- Pollinator Display at JC Public Library
- Pollinator Showcase at the Jennings County Wildlife Building (2015)
- Coffee Creek Conservation Club – provides financial support
- SWCD – provides financial support
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ag day discussed **“the Great Monarch Migration”** in 2015 and 2016 and 2018.
- County Outlook Meeting discussed the challenges of agriculture and pollinators.
- Pollinator Presentation to Muscatatuck Moderns Club
- Pollinator Presentation to Jennings County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.
- 2000 potted plant sale fliers send home to everyone Elementary School Student about doing a family activity.
- Soil and Water Cons. District holds a Warm Season / wild flower workshop at SEPAC.
- SWCD hosts drill equipment workshop at SEPAC to provide knowledge about Warm Season Grass and Forbs.
- Pollinator Committee has built a **POLLINATOR PATHWAY** at the Jennings County Fair Grounds. You'll have to visit the Fair to believe what you have heard. We received \$9500 in donations. No tax money went towards this project.
- Coffee Creek Conservation donates \$1000 towards pollinator project.
- 124 attend the Community Pollinator Project Field Day on July 26, 2016.
- The SWCDs of Jennings, Franklin and Ripley counties have applied for a Clean Water Indiana Grant to promote more acres of pollinator habitat. (denied)
- In 2016 and 2017 and 2018, all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders of Jennings County learned or will learn about the importance of pollinators during the Selmier Forestry Field Day.
- Project receives Indiana District Showcase Award for 2016
- Project receives Indiana NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Award for 2017.
- Project receives NRCS National Earth Team Partnership Award for 2017.

- Sends a proposal to TIF Board about creating corridors around undeveloped industrial property. (2017)
- (January Meeting 2017) pollinator committee has met and designed a method of involving the industrial community
- FFA High school class builds 7 blue bird houses to be placed on different park walking trails for educational purposes. (2017)
- Committee applies for butterfly Conservation grant through US Fish & Wildlife Foundation to create 1100 acres of habitat at Big Oaks & Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge, MUTC, SEPAC and Crosley Fish & Game Preserve. (2107)
- (Spring 2017) Tourism Committee sponsors billboard to assist in the education of Pollinator located on Highway 7



north.

- (in development 2017) pollinator committee will work with county highway department to inventory roadsides and possibly reduce mowing of native flowering plants
- (in development 2017) pollinator committee will develop a native plant picture booklet for the schools, visitor center, SWCD office, and Jennings Co. Public Library
- Presented Pollinator Project to numerous Conservation agencies at the MW Refuge 2017 Conservation Happenings Program.
- Coffee Creek Conservation donates \$500 towards pollinator project (2017)
- Agricultural class from Ivy tech visits pollinator sites and learns about our project (June 2017)

Goal 3: Apply action in the form of creating new habitats and enhancing existing habitats.

- 2500 acres annually burned to create new pollinator habitat at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge
- County Park planted 1/2 acre pollinator patch for public enjoyment
- 3.75 acres of new habitat planted at Middle School Property
- 150 areas around urban homes and several gardeners planted their gardens to pollinator plants
- NRCS State Office provides 500 Burpee Seed Packets for small pollinator areas
- NRCS National Office provides 1000 Burpee Seed Packets for small pollinator areas

- Pollinator Committee closed out the plant order with over 2950 plants purchased for the homesteads. That will create 130 new pollinator habitat areas in rural and urban areas. (2016)
- NRCS at the National Level provides another 1000 Burpee Seed Packets for small pollinator areas.
- 430 acres of filter strip areas, field borders, and wildlife planted fields have added pollinator forbs in these agricultural fields.
- ½ acre pollinator patch at Selmier State Forest
- Presentation to Women's Club in April 2016
- City Park plants ¼ acre pollinator patch by walking path
- 3 acre pollinator patch at SEPAC
- 6 elementary schools planted Monarch Butterfly Gardens to study
- High school FFA class plants Monarch Butterfly Garden and additional pollinator patch
- Vernon Commons, Eco Park, and County Park planted Monarch Butterfly Gardens.
- Distributed free seed at the Jennings County Farmers Market on Wednesdays in the spring of 2106.
- City of North Vernon planted 6 acres (2017) of pollinator habitat at Tripton Park.
- 10.5 acres of pollinator habitat will be planted (spring 2017) at the Jennings County School Sand Creek School property
- 1 acre of pollinator habitat planted (2017) at the Early Learning Center
- .4 acre of pollinator habitat planted (2017) at the Vernon Commons Area
- City attorney planted 3 acres of pollinator habitat on his property (2017)
- Circuit Court and Superior Court Judges plant pollinator habitats on their property
- 5 acres of pollinator habitat planted (2017) at Eco Park
- 4 acres of pollinator habitat planted (2017) at Calli Nature Preserve
- (2017) 9 industrial / businesses have donated \$100 to establish a 1000 sq.ft. pollinator area on their property.
- Metaldyne MPG Company decides to create 4 acres of pollinator habitat (Spring 2017)
- Pollinator Committee closed out the plant order with over 1951 plants purchased for the homesteads. That will create 94 new pollinator habitat areas in rural and urban areas. (2017)
- Pollinator Committee builds a pollinator garden for Walmart (2017)

Reference: Attracting Native Pollinators;The Xerces Society Guide