

## Pollinator Call: Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

Adam Dolezal, May Berenbaum, Layne Knoche, Eliana Brown, Morgan White, Avery Maloto

- Bloom Calendar
  - This does not include newly installed species that began blooming March 20th this year: <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/files/projectupdate/6291/red%20oak%20rain%20garden.jpg>
- ... [[Missed this part]]
- Dorner drive retention pond will be converted from a Low-Mow area to a high-quality species this fall
  - Track change in mosquitoes with these changes to the landscape ??
- RORG will have programs
  - Education Program (Purdue) - Rainscaping
    - 15-hour how to build a rain garden course (available state-wide)
- Extension Collaboration Grant
  - Soil science – help planners and engineers plan rain gardens
  - General extension grant: We can use it towards whatever is interesting or fits with the goal. There is nothing *specific* we need to do, except for reaching out to UIUC researchers, when using the grant. Ultimate goal is to make a rain research water toolkit (??)
    - Target Groups: Researchers/Planners, Mayors, and Academic
    - To justify funding and reasoning as to why individuals need to purchase certain things such as different plants
    - End product: Website
      - Layne, Eliana, and Margaret are working on this right now (setting up the architecture)
    - Toolkit is looking towards where in-person can go in terms of these resources
- Demonstration Rain Garden
  - Runs along the North and West perimeter of the fence line, halfway south on Lincoln from Windsor and Curtis
  - Near by the Student Sustainability Farm (??)
  - Has been there awhile
- Rain Gardens Purpose
  - Ashland Stillwell, Geo Survey Scientist, Margaret
  - Opportunistic vs Wholistic planning
    - Opportunistic = “Maybe this will work”
    - Wholistic = Analyzing and understanding existing soils to see how well a future rain garden will do
  - Trying to predict how well soil will work for a rain garden
  - Barriers in Green Infrastructure
    - Mosquitos

- Economics / Eco Benefits
  - Trying to create comprehensive products for communities
  - **Related to F&S:**
    - No funding for gardening (primarily staff), launching campus landscape planning process to justify additional staffing/training
    - Stormwater management (utility fee for pipes, not utility fees or rain gardens)
  - **Related to Adam:**
    - Related to solar farm project (sites that do not need to have pollinator habitats in order to operate, but can have additional and related benefits from them)
    - Collaborators in Iowa for \_\_\_ strips for soil erosion and reducing run off (including better more diverse pollinator habitats, there are more benefits than ONLY using tall grasses, and there is a marginal cost difference)
    - Ongoing Research with Students (Question from Morgan):
      - Similar project with Solar Stuff
      - Trouble having enough independent sites to make conclusions
      - Trouble having control sites to compare them too
        - Mowed
        - Detention areas
      - IDEA: Research project working with a \_\_\_ coordinator that can do sampling at certain times and in a thoughtful way to collect “real data”
        - Real research project not just a demonstration
        - Community Science
        - Connecting it with BeeBlitz/BeeSpotter would be a great idea
    - **ICAP Take Aways**
      - Resilience
      - Champaign & Urbana do not communicate well about rain water
      - Using Green Infrastructure as a community wide initiative for benefits
- Arboretum
  - RORG is related/working with the Arboretum
    - Eliana was a “stakeholder” (??)
    - Layne and Eliana would like to work to create more Green Infrastructure
    - Brent Lewis at F&S that works with them too
    - \_\_\_\_\_ in charge of Tree Campus community
  - Plans will finalize conceptual design and funding is there
    - Plans have been at the high-level, not specific down to the detail of which plantings will be included
    - Recycling bins
- Dr. May Berenbaum
  - Pollinatarium
    - Worked with master gardeners, landscapers, etc.
    - BeeBlitz was held recently
    - Red Bison team has done a renovation there – Demonstration sites have been slightly abandoned, but the new focus is between the Red Bison land and the Pollinatarium



- Aid them in implementing a specific thing
- To give to mayors to make decisions in rain garden use
- Balance between maintenance person taking care of a 3 to 5 species rain garden
  - Depends on resources available to take care of the rain garden, too many species is hard to take care of
  - Balance maintenance and biodiversity – What is the happy medium?
  - As RORG volunteers became more knowledgeable, the number of species grew as well. (Garden grew with the volunteers)
  - IPollinator?
- Suspect that there will be a lot of grad student interest (May and Adam have both experienced a larger demand from students who want training in landscape/conservation efforts/biodiversity maintenance/etc.)
  - Adam: Millers Lab students work in similar projects
- Classes
  - Eliana would love to interact with any classes
  - May taught entomology, wanted to teach in person but needed to meet COVID-19 restrictions & setbacks
    - Lincoln helped
  - List of classes for pollinator focused courses
    - IB 105 – Env Biology
    - IB 335 – Systematics of Plant
    - IB 329 – Animal Behavior
    - IB 444 – Insect Ecology
    - IB 451 – Conservation Biology
    - IB 526 – Seminar in Entomology (rotates among faculty)
    - IB 468 – Class and \_\_\_\_ of Insects (will be this fall)
      - Adam has ~3 students that want to collect pollinators
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- Primary Barriers
  - Funding
  - Training
  - NOT Interest
- NEXT ACTION ITEMS:
  - Layne and Eliana will follow up with Adam for 468 students
  - Pause a bit, think a bit, and discuss a next meeting
  - If something else comes to mind, reach out to Eliana or Morgan
  - Touchbase in approx. 6 months (January)