

Pollinator Friendly Habitat Group

Meeting – March 24 at 6:30 PM

Dunn County Community Services Building Rm 101

Attending: Gene Hatfield, Jen Gruber, Glen Steinbach, Veronica Knutson, Mary Lotten

Guest Speaker – Gene Hatfield

Gene is developing a pollinator plot (1.4 acres) within his 200 acres near Elk Mound. Since purchasing the land in 1992 he has been developing it into a conservation habitat with 3 ponds in a water bank program and 117 acres in CRP. His land borders against Muddy Creek. Gene has been a beekeeper on this property for 15 years using natural beehive management with generally better survival rates than area reports. He relates this to having foraging for bees from spring through fall.

Gene is working with NCRS in the pollinator program which has contributed about 80% of seed costs. Preparing the soil has involved repeated rounds of using Round-Up then let it green followed by a till. He currently is getting ready for a burn which needs to be done by a person certified in grassland burning. The seed mix is determined by NCRS. He found that broom grass is not killed by Round-Up. Gene brought handouts from NCRS and Prairie Moon Nursery which described in details the process of pollinator habitat development. Gene is available to people interested in developing a pollinator area for bees and other pollinator insects.

Handouts – NFCS Pollinator Biology and Habitat, Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 8

Growing Your Prairie – www.prairiemoon.com

Other topics in discussion included what the Invasive Species Group is doing. Their next meeting is April 28 at 2 PM at the Community Services Building.

The Pollinator Friendly Habitat Group next meets April 11th at 6 PM Rm 314 at the Alliance Church in Menomonie, WI. The beekeepers meet at 7 PM

Recorded by: Mary Lotten