

## Pollinator Friendly Habitat Subgroup August 8, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Veronica Knutson, Mary Lotten, Gene Hatfield, and Jenny Gruber

Open discussion items:

1. NCRS EQUIP process – submission take time to process, waiting game for selections.
2. Harvesting seeds – spring flower plants have seed ready to gather, many others will be ready soon. Gather seeds, dry, label and share with the group.
3. Goldenrod started blossoming August 1. Expect first frost 6 weeks later.
4. When possible, be proactive in educating township and others who mow ditches, on the benefits of mowing less. Bees are NOT the only habitat dependent on grasses and flowers for food and shelter. A common statement made is the ditches are mowed so that ‘you can see the deer.’ Driving slower can help too.
5. Pheasants Forever presented material at the WI/MN Honey Producers Association meeting in July on a program started in the Dakotas. A seed mix appropriate for soil and rainfall is made available to people to plant in areas that are not accessible to farming equipment. The seed mix is not exclusively native plants. They are monitoring the plantings. The program extended to Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois next year. WI will hopefully follow in the year after. The seed mix has been free.
6. Gene Hatfield shared his very interesting involvement in a program hosted at Stout for a group of 25 visitors from different countries in Africa. Gene was paired with Simon, an Africanized honeybee keeper from Uganda. Simon was at the July picnic. Simon hopes to establish a program to provide beeware and bees to people so that they can earn a better living. Thanks Gene for your hospitality to Simon, and others on the trip, and your interesting report.

Submitted 8-16-16

By Jenny Gruber