

Native pollinator observation and monitoring

Project Title:	Native pollinator observation and monitoring
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Project Lead:	Grey Bruce Center for Agroecology
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Theme and objective

Grey and Bruce Counties are the home to many beekeepers and harbour many large natural areas, pastures, hedge rows, wetlands, and forests within their boundaries. The most recent data from Statistics Canada from 2011 indicate that a beekeeper in Ontario owns an average of 32 hives [18], whereas our area is home to a number of larger commercial beekeeping operations, whose hives number in the hundreds. The overall good performance of beekeepers in the watersheds of Bighead River, Grey Highlands, and the Bruce Peninsula can partly be attributed to their remoteness, but also to the skill, care, and caution that characterizes our local bee keepers.

Little is known about the state of native pollinators in this area, but it is likely that there is a steep gradient depending on the diversity of landscape and the existence of foraging and nesting habitat. Also, with the conversion of pasture-based landscapes into grain and oil seed crops, changes in honey bee, native pollinator, and other animal populations can be expected. However, at this point no one is even looking at these changes.

This project proposes to win citizens who already have experience in nature observation to become stewards for native pollinators. We seek to identify and develop a strategy that successfully monitors the state of our native pollinator populations as a citizen science project, not unlike the annual Christmas bird counts that birders engage in, or the amphibian and reptile counts of road kill.

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- www.gbcae.com/pollinators.html
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