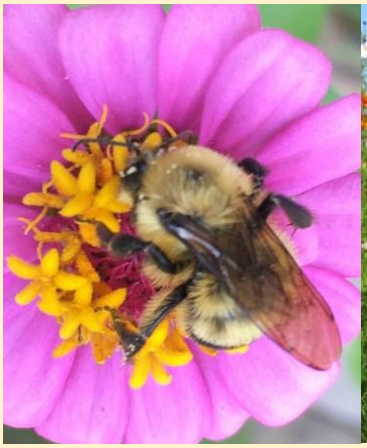
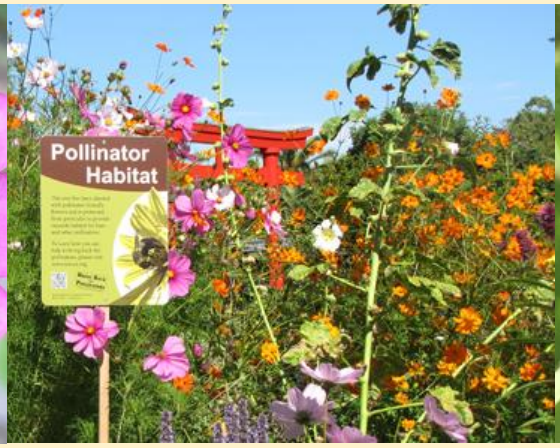
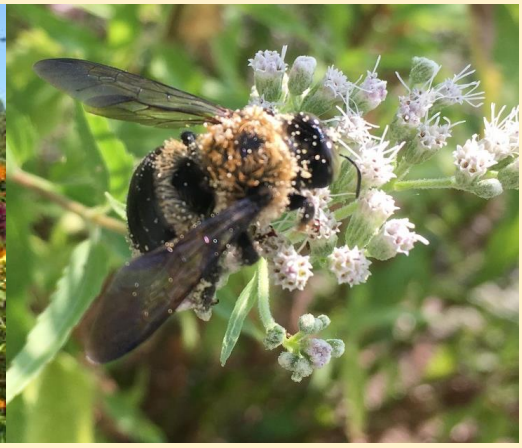





URBAN POLLINATORS RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

Contact:
Lauren Lynch
lrlynch2@Illinois.edu

WHAT: Research Internship

WHERE: Chicago, Illinois

WHEN: Starts end of May. Continues through August

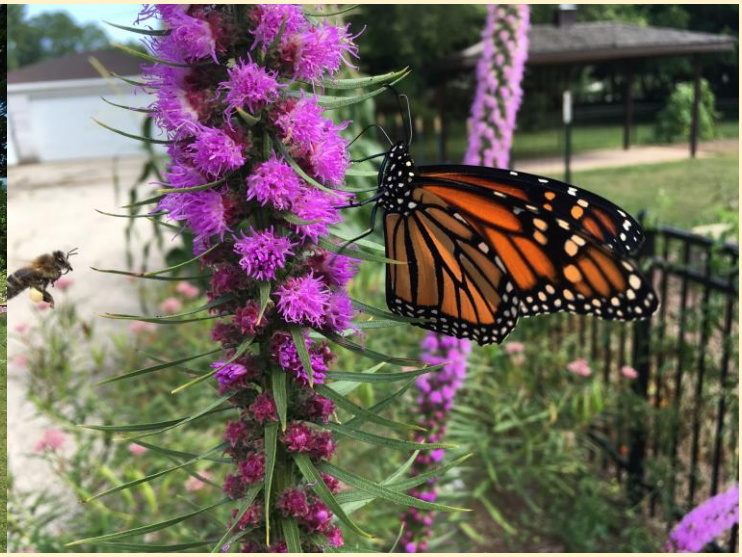
WHO: Researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

HOURS: 2-5 full days/week. Credit possible through UIUC or UIC.

WHAT WE PROVIDE: Field supplies, transportation to field sites, training

TRAINING PROVIDED:

1. **Bees:** Techniques for sampling (bee bowls, visual surveys)
2. **Vegetation:** Assessment and identification of urban plants
3. **Social Science**: Environmental education, working with citizen scientists

PROJECT INFORMATION

Considering the Effects of Urbanization on Bee Communities

We are studying the effects of urbanization on bee abundance and diversity on an urban-to-rural gradient in the greater Chicago area. Urbanization creates landscape scale changes in habitat composition along with local changes in resource availability. We are interested in understanding how these changes interact with each other to affect the composition of bee communities. Additionally, we will be examining the effects of registered pollinator gardens on bee abundance and diversity. While pollinator gardens are widely promoted as a strategy to engage the public in bee conservation, there has been very little research on the effectiveness of these gardens. We will be using common arthropod sampling techniques including bee bowls and visual surveys to characterize bee communities on an urban-to-rural gradient. Vegetation sampling will also be carried out at each of our study sites, and the availability of nesting habitat will be assessed.

Evaluating Citizen Science Methods

While the bulk of this position would be focused on bee and vegetation surveys, there is also an opportunity for those interested to participate in the evaluation of a citizen science data collection protocol. Citizen science methods are used widely as a strategy to collect large data sets by increasing sampling effort, and to involve the public in science and conservation efforts. However, concern has often been expressed regarding the quality of data collected by citizen scientists. We will be evaluating the accuracy of data collected using a citizen science protocol for pollinator monitoring. Citizen scientists will be instructed in pollinator identification and data collection methods, and their results will be compared to results collected using traditional methods.