



## Pollinators

Summer is in full swing at Living History Farms. As it gets hot, plants around the museum are growing well and flowers are popping up everywhere. There are wild flowers in the woods and prairie patches. There are flowers in the pots at the Flynn Mansion and around the Walnut Hill gazebo. Even vegetable plants in the gardens are sprouting flowers! Some flowers smell good and many have special shapes and bright colors. Why so many colors and smells? The flowers want pollinators to notice them!

A pollinator is any animal, bird, or insect that carries the grains of pollen in a flower to other flowers. Pollen grains are very tiny and grow in the center of the flower. Pollinators rub up against the flower and pick up pollen. When the pollinator visits another flower, some of the pollen drops into the new flower. The next flower uses that new pollen to make seeds, fruits and vegetables!



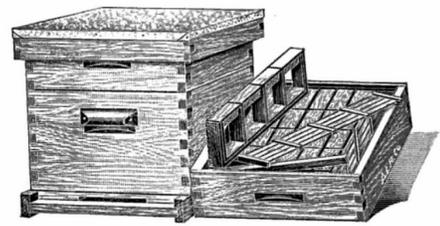
Who are the pollinators around our museum? Bees, and butterflies, and bats, and birds, and squirrels, and rabbits and sometimes even people! Anything that brushes up against a flower and moves the pollen to somewhere else can be a pollinator. Bees are one of the most important pollinators in our gardens and farm fields. When you see the word bee what do you think of? Most people think of honey bees. Honey bees like the nectar, or sweet juice, at the center of flowers. They fly from one flower to another to get nectar to take back to their hive. They turn this nectar into honey to feed baby bees. But not all bees are honey bees! There are over 200 types, or species, of bees in Iowa and over 4,000 kinds of bees around the world! There are bumble bees, and mason bees, and carpenter bees just as examples!

Honey bees actually did not always live in Iowa. They are not native—that means they were brought here from somewhere else. Pioneers brought European honey bees to the United States. The loway tribe in the 1700s, would not have had honey bees! Settlers brought them in the 1840s and 1850s to Iowa. Pioneer farmers could build skeps, a kind of straw house, for honey bees.

In the 1860s and 1870s, farmers built square hive boxes out of wood. Farmers would place a queen and her worker bees in the skeps or hive boxes.

These hives of bees would make honey and pollinate plants on the farm. The farmer could take some of the honey in the hive for his family to eat, too! Some farmers read books and magazines

about how to take care of their bees and how to harvest the honey. Ellen Tupper, a lady from Iowa, wrote magazine stories and helped publish the National Bee Journal in the 1860s. She even sold honey bees in Iowa which came all the way from Italy!



"The kind of hive is an important consideration."



In 2019, honey bees, and the over 199 species of Iowa bees, help modern farmers' crops to grow. They pollinate nearly 80% the plants we eat today. That means without these bees, the sweet corn and pumpkins and tomatoes and peas and strawberries and all those other wonderful summer foods would not be able to survive! Learn more about the amazing bee in a special summer exhibit at Living History Farms. Visit the Wallace Exhibit Center to see the Purdue University Agriculture Department exhibit "Believe It or Not: The Secret Lives of Honey Bees" to

discover more about this busy pollinator!

## Upcoming Activities

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Don't miss our upcoming LHF Kids' Club Activities! Bring your [LHF Kids Club Passport](#) and get a stamp for joining in on the activity! At the end of the season in October, kids with a completed passport can exchange their passports for a special prize in the MarketPlace Museum Store!

**July 13:** Explore the garden tools at the 1700 Iowa Farm on [Iowa Culture Day](#).

**August 10:** Play [birthday party](#) games at the Flynn Mansion.



## History Detectives

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In this newsletter, we've talked about pollinators! Which of these might be a pollinator?



## Try This: Pollinator Scavenger Hunt

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Pollinators are all around us. The next time you go on a walk in the park or even at Living History Farms see if you can find them! Here's a pollinator scavenger hunt list! On your

nature walk try to find:

- a bee
- a butterfly
- a fly
- a beetle
- a red flower
- a white flower
- a seed or nut from a tree
- a squirrel
- a singing bird
- a humming bird

Be careful not to touch the pollinators; it's easy to hurt fragile wings and we need them for flowers to grow!

## Recipe to Try: Honey Toast

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Want a quick and easy way to sample some honey? Try spreading it on toast!

With an adults help, mix ½ cup of creamy peanut butter, 2 tablespoons of honey, and 1 teaspoon of cinnamon in a small mixing bowl. Add a tablespoon of raising and stir well. Spread on your favorite toast or graham crackers!

## Word Search

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F R V N F C I S S I O V W O R  
L R A V M R K T T T E T M P E  
O Z X T B Z S Q I R C V Z A K  
W R P P C O R W N Z B T M S R  
E S C G O E W O G H G G E P O  
R K T P V L N N E E U Q S D W  
A E Z C W B L S R X Z A E S P  
J P F L D A Y E O L W J H R W  
W M C F E T X L N A I O O B H  
A J A F B E R E N Y D B N E X  
C S B O B G Z L V D Q I E E J  
N L R L Z E F P O I F J Y Q N  
P L F A F V U O K B H F H Q A  
Y N R I R E F H Z O K Q T J X  
N N T E N R O H U U X R S Z W

BEE  
FLOWER  
POLLEN  
WASP  
NECTAR  
VEGETABLE  
SKEP  
HIVE  
HONEY  
WAX  
QUEEN  
WORKER  
HORNET  
STINGER  
FOOD

## Coloring Sheet

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Check out this month's printable coloring sheet.  
Download the PDF with the link below, print the page, and  
start coloring!



**[Download your coloring sheet](#)**



Join the LHF Kids Club