

## Summer is Pollinator Season! Read for the Bees!

Dear readers!

The books below introduce pollination and pollinators, with a focus on insect pollinators. While there are currently lots of books that focus on the European honey bee, here we tried to highlight native bees and insects, which are often overlooked and are suffering their own declines. Native bees and insects are pollinator rock stars because their body structures are adapted to the shapes of the plants and flowers of North America, often making them much more efficient pollinators than honey bees.

We also included books about monarch butterflies. Monarchs are not only pollinators in their own right, but deserve our attention because of their incredible annual migration, unique relationship with milkweed, population declines, and of course their beauty (and super cute caterpillars ☺).

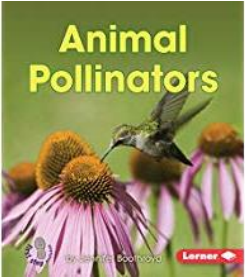
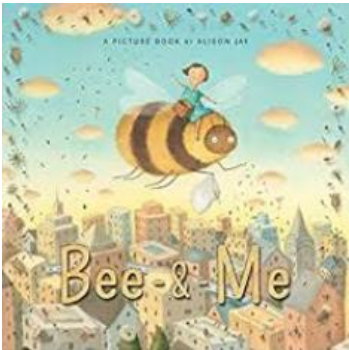
Thank you to the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library System for creating this list!

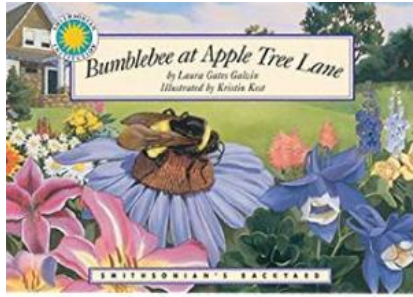
After you finish reading, be sure to take an action pledge to protect pollinators at [ToledoLakeErie.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org](http://ToledoLakeErie.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org)

~ Your pollinator-protecting friends at the *Clear Choices Clean Water Program*



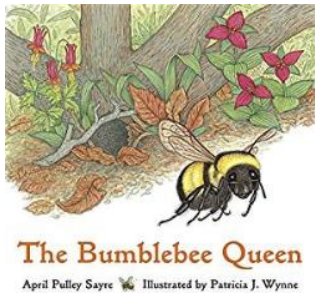
### For Young Bees

	<p><b>Animal Pollinators</b> / Jennifer Boothroyd / 2015 / ISBN 97814677606900</p> <p>This <i>first step nonfiction</i> reader doesn't include bees at all; however, it's a great introduction to pollination and the variety of animals that pollinate flowers (think lizards, possums and humans, too!).</p>
	<p><b>Bee &amp; Me</b> / Alison Jay / 2017 / ISBN 978-0-7636-9010-6</p> <p>A picture book without words. Not scientific at all, except for comments in the back about the threats to bees and good flowers to plant. Illustrates the friendship between a girl and a bee that flies into her apartment in the city. The bee becomes giant and is anthropomorphized quite a bit! The illustrations are wonderful, and because the reader is telling the story him or herself, there's a lot of room for teachable moments. This is a fun, non-scientific book that will foster stewardship of bees and the flowers they require.</p>



**Bumblebee at Apple Tree Lane** (Smithsonian's Backyard edition) / Laura Gates Galvin / Illustrated by Kristin Kest / 2000 / ISBN-13 978-1-931465-41-0

Every library should have this book in its inventory! With so few books focusing on our native bees, this one is invaluable. This tracks the life cycle of a bumblebee (*Bombus pennsylvanicus*) throughout four seasons in New England. Excellent illustrations and straightforward text detail a life cycle and adaptations that are very different than those of the honey bee. A glossary and additional information are included at the back of the book.



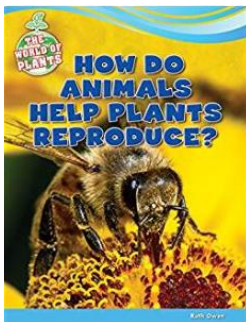
**Bumblebee Queen** / April Pulley Sayre / Illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne / 2005 / ISBN-13 978-1-57091-362-4 /

Focused exclusively on bumblebees (not species-specific), the book covers the life cycle with simple and informative text alongside detailed illustrations. At the back of the book are an overview of native bees, lists of resources for further reading, and actions one can take to protect bumblebees.



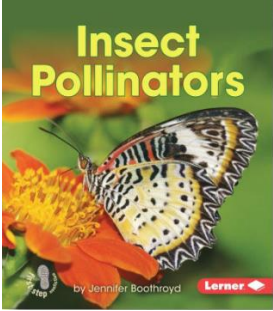
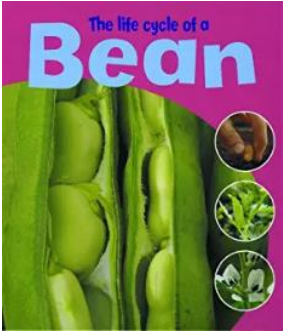
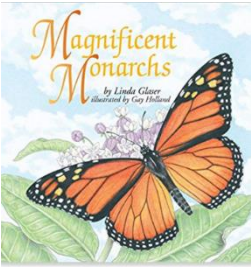

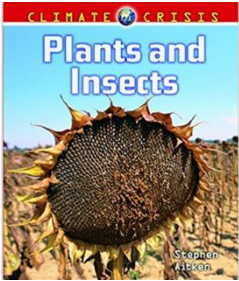
**Flowers are Calling** / Rita Gray / Illustrations by Kenard Pak / 2015 / ISBN 978-0-544-34012-1

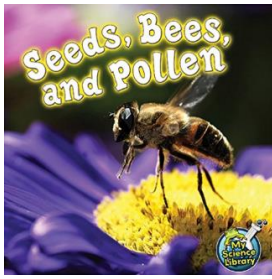
Beautifully illustrated book about the critters our flowers are trying to attract. The text is rhyming and minimal; as a result, the beautiful illustrations become the feature. Covers all kinds of pollinators, including wild bees. Includes informational text at the back.



**How do animals help plants reproduce?** / Ruth Owen / 2015 / ISBN 978-1-4777-7141-9

Excellent technical resource for understanding the mechanics of pollination, seed production, and the partnership between plants and animals that results in plant reproduction. The book contains excellent diagrams, and dedicates space to bird and animal pollinators, the role nectar plays, and how seeds are dispersed. Includes a glossary and link to web resources.

	<p><b>Insect Pollinators</b> / Jennifer Boothroyd / 2015 / ISBN 978-1-4677-6068-3</p> <p>A <i>first step nonfiction book</i>, this introduces the very basics of pollination and how insects carry pollen from one flower to another. Excellent close-up photos of a variety of insects perched on flowers.</p>
	<p><b>The Life Cycle of a Bean</b> / Ruth Thomson / 2008 / ISBN-13 978-1-4042-3714-8 / ISBN-10 1-4042-3714-3</p> <p>Excellent, simple book that traces the life cycle of a bean plant using close-up photos. While pollination is not the focus of the book, its role in the life cycle of the bean is described and allows the reader to see how pollination fits in sequentially. Each plant growth stage is labeled with the number of weeks it takes to reach that stage.</p>
	<p><b>Magnificent Monarchs</b> / Linda Glaser/ 2000 / ISBN 0761316367</p> <p>With beautiful and realistic illustrations, this book describes the life cycle and migration of the monarch butterfly. It does not cover pollination, and much of the information is not presented in scientific terms (leaving some concepts a bit fuzzy), but the book provides a good general overview of the monarch butterfly.</p>
	<p><b>National Geographic Readers: Bees</b> / by Laura Marsh / 2016 / ISBN 978-1-4263-2282-2</p> <p>This easy reader focuses on honey bees, their life cycle, and pollination. Excellent photos and technical descriptions. Includes a quiz at the end of the book. Makes reference to other species of bees, but does not go into detail. It also does not cover current threats to bees.</p>
	<p><b>Plants and Insects (Climate Crisis series)</b> / Stephen Aitken / 2014 / ISBN-10: 1627120424 ISBN-13: 978-1627120425</p> <p>Provides an overview of the effect of climate change on plants and insects, and nicely lays out the co-evolution of plants and insects. Very science oriented and would be a solid resource for research papers.</p>



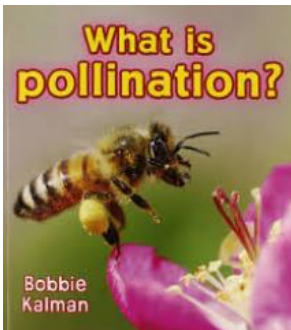
**Seeds, bees, and pollen** / Julie K. Lundgren / 2012 / ISBN-10: 1617419508 / ISBN-13: 978-1617419508

Though the title suggests the focus is on bees and pollen, the book actually covers how several different types of plants reproduce. Great for little kids. Good close-up photos (spores, for example).



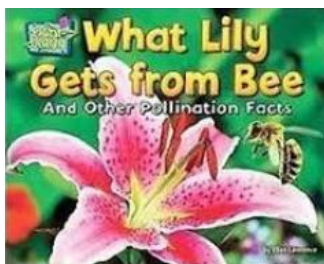
**Sleepy Bee** / John Hutton / Illustrated by Sandra Gross / 2014 / ISBN 978-1-936669-27-1

This is a board book with simple text and inviting graphics that take us though a day in the life of a bee visiting various flowering plants. Not scientific, but a fun intro for very young kids. There is pollinator protection info on the back cover for parents.



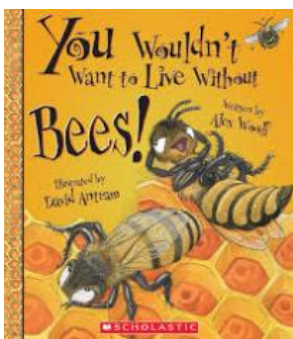
**What is pollination?** / Bobbie Kalman / 2011 / ISBN-10: 0778733068 / ISBN-13: 978-0778733065

Excellent overview of pollination, which critters are pollinators, etc. Includes good diagrams and excellent photos. Presents threats to all pollinators (habitat loss, pesticides, disease) and offers good suggestions for ways to help pollinators (grow native flowers, thank pollinators for the food you eat and notice how many times a day you say “thank you”, plant a garden, etc.).



**What Lily Gets from Bee: and Other Pollination Facts** (Plantology series) / Ellen Lawrence / 2013 / ISBN-10: 1617725870 / ISBN-13: 978-1617725876

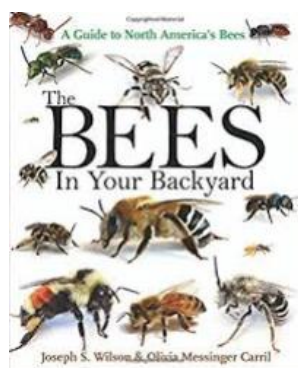
Overview of bee pollination by focusing on lilies. While we wish the focus had been on a native plant, the book covers pollination generally and includes a variety of insect pollinators.



**You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees!** / Professor Alex Woolf / Illustrated by David Antram / 2016 / ISBN-10: 0531224872 / ISBN-13: 978-0531224878

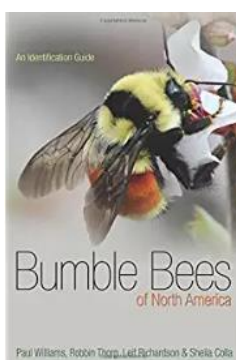
This is in the vein of clever, wry kid comics, aka bees with attitude. Great overview of bee anatomy, how bees make honey, mechanics of bee keeping, threats to bees, etc. Even though it omits native bees from the discussion, it's on this list because it's fun, the illustrations are great, and it's more recent than some of the other books available.

## For Grown-up Bees

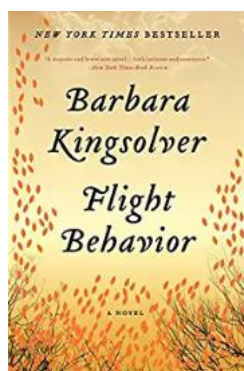


**The Bees in your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees** / Joseph Wilson, Olivia J. Messenger Carril / 2015 / ISBN 9780691160771

This excellent, usable book is geared toward adults; however, it's a great pictorial reference for kids as well.

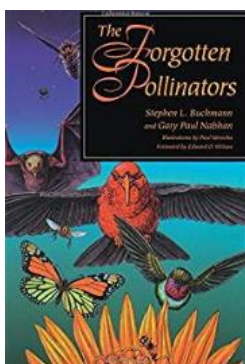


**Bumblebees of North America** (field guide) / Paul H. Williams, Robbin W. Thorp, Leif L. Richardson, Sheila R. Colla / 2014 / ISBN-10: 0691152225 / ISBN-13: 978-0691152226



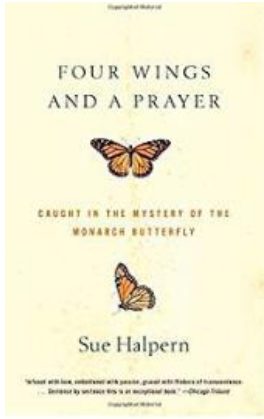
**Flight Behavior: A Novel** / Barbara Kingsolver / 2012 / ISBN-10: 0062124269 / ISBN-13: 978-0062124265

Monarch butterflies are a central character in this novel, upending the lives of several families and the nearby town. Barbara Kingsolver beautifully integrates science into the story without being heavy-handed. A great introduction to monarchs through the eyes of Dellarobia and her personal crisis.



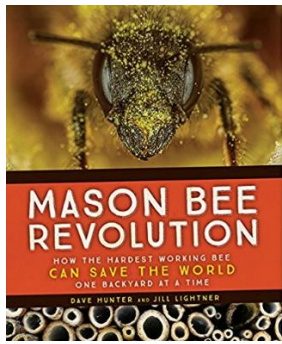
**The Forgotten Pollinators** / Stephen L. Buchmann and Gary Paul Nabhan / Foreword by Edward O. Wilson / Illustrations by Paul Mirocha / 1996 / ISBN-10: 1559633530 / ISBN-13: 978-1559633536

Adult non-fiction about pollinators/pollination.



**Four Wings and a Prayer: Caught in the Mystery of the Monarch Butterfly** / Sue Halpern / 2002 / ISBN-10: 037570194X / ISBN-13: 978-0375701948

An engaging storyteller, Sue Halpern travels far and wide to describe how we've come to know what we know about the monarch butterfly and its annual migration. Meet the ground-breaking scientists and early citizen scientists who asked the first questions about monarch butterflies... Where do they go in the fall? How do they find their way there? Why do they taste bad to birds? These and other questions have been answered, some only as recently as the mid-1970's. Excellent read for high school students, too!



**Mason Bee Revolution: How the Hardest Working Bee can Save the World – One Backyard at a Time** / Dave Hunter and Jill Lightner / 2016 / ISBN-10: 1594859639 / ISBN-13: 978-1594859632

Often overlooked, native bees are currently starting to receive more attention – they're hardy and often more efficient pollinators than honey bees. Researchers are beginning to look at the mason and leaf cutter bees for large scale pollination.



**Clear Choices Clean Water** is an Indianapolis-based initiative that seeks to create positive behavior change at the individual household level to improve water quality across the country. Visit [ToledoLakeErie.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org](http://ToledoLakeErie.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org) for more information and and be sure to make a pledge to take action!

