



# Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



## EDUCATION & OUTREACH



*Antennaed “scavengers” collect their prizes at end of Farmers Market hunt for products that needed pollinators.*

When Asheville City Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution making Asheville the inaugural Bee City USA affiliate in the nation on June 26, 2012, the Bee City USA program was born! The Asheville community has been experimenting with what it means to be pollinator-friendly ever since.

In 2018, Asheville GreenWorks gave seven programs at schools for audiences ranging from kindergarten through high school. GreenWorks has four pollinator related lessons: “Buzzy, Buzzy, Bees”, “Build a Flower”, “Day in the Life of a Worker Bee”, “Tree ID Dichotomous Key”, and “Pollinator Role Play”. GreenWorks also participated in building bee hotels as part of a library program.

**MARCH**—Paige Embry spoke about her book, *Our Native Bees*, at the Compleat Naturalist and at UNC Asheville’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI); Phyllis Stiles spoke about pollinator conservation at OLLI; Phyllis Stiles and Nancy Adamson, of the Xerces Society, led the 8-workshop Pollinator Track for the Organic Growers School; Burial Beer released a special beer in honor of Bee City USA – Asheville; and UNC Asheville spoke about their pollinator habitat program at their annual GreenFest.



*Claxton Elementary Bee Day Photo: Amy Brown*

**APRIL**—Claxton Elementary School hosted its 3rd annual Bee Day! This is a day when students and teachers are encouraged to wear black and yellow, learn about pollination, and celebrate honeybees. The Claxton Media Center has had a permanent observation beehive since 2016 and, just outside, a pollinator garden that the students and Asheville GreenWorks helped build in 2017. This year's focus was to explore how art can be used for environmental advocacy and the whole school pitched in on an upcycled garden art installation using colors that attract bees' eyes. The installation was unveiled on Bee Day and a garden naming contest was held. The winning name? The BeeLoved Garden. Students and guest beekeepers alike helped present at different stations set up around the media center and the whole school was buzzing with serious bee love!

At another event, Extension Agent Meghan Baker spoke about “Planting for Pollinators.”

**MAY**— GreenWorks hosted a booth at the Mountain Science Expo at the NC Arboretum, reaching thousands with pollinator education. Young people chose antennae headbands representing four different pollinator groups—bees, butterflies, beetles and flies. Phyllis Stiles presented to the Friends of the Earth Garden Club and Zelandia hosted a party for Bee City USA –Asheville pollenteers. Wild South and Bryan Tompkins of the US Fish & Wildlife Service trained community scientists to report bumble bee sightings in the search for the Rusty Patched Bumble bee.

**JUNE**—GreenWorks kicked off Pollination Celebration! month with the 2018 Garden Tour. The Tour featured ten local gardens that all highlighted pollinator plants. Each garden stressed different pollinators and plant relationships. The theme was showing neighborhoods could provide corridors that help pollinators meet their basic needs for food and water, mates, and places to nest and overwinter. The tour also included making bee hotels at UNCA’s stop, showcasing their own very large bee hotel. GreenWorks tabled at five events associated with Pollination Celebration! Month. Other events included a Farmer’s Market highlighting the importance of pollination in the food represented at the market. The Center for Honeybee Research hosted their annual international blind honey tasting event. Reems Creek Nursery hosted a pollinator safari for children and adults and found monarch caterpillars on milkweed! Phyllis Stiles made presentations about pollinator conservation to Kiwanis and the Audubon Society, and Christine Brown spoke at The Collider. There were pollinator garden tours at New Belgium Brewery and the US Forest Service SE Research Station. We aired The Guardians about the families that protect the Mexican monarch sanctuaries at The Grail.

**SEPTEMBER (MONARCH EDUCATION MONTH)**—GreenWorks tabled at the NC Arboretum Monarch Day drawing more than 1000 people, especially children. A highlight was working with Kim Bailey, from Bee City USA – Hendersonville, in assisting with Estela Romero’s monarch education tour of schools in the Asheville area. Estela coordinates the Symbolic Migration program from her home in Angangueo, Mexico where she is a direct link to the happenings in the monarch sanctuaries each spring and fall. She visited three schools in the Asheville area: Glen Arden and Vance Elementaries and North Star Academy. Her presentations covered:

- who she is, what she does, where she lives and what monarchs mean to the Mexican people
- an overview of the monarch life cycle and their migration habits
- information about the children in Mexico and where they live, do they walk to school, etc.
- why is it important to protect and care about monarchs?
- an explanation of the symbolic migration, what happens to the butterflies we create to send

Throughout the year, Phyllis Stiles was interviewed by various media about the Bee City USA program in Asheville.

## POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



GreenWorks worked on 57 projects related to pollinator habitat with 685 volunteers logging in 1947 hours. These included working in orchards and existing pollinator habitat areas. Those volunteers also included local teen Youth Environmental Stewards (YES) from the Asheville / Buncombe area (<https://www.ashevillegreenworks.org/yelp.html>). Five youth from GreenWorks’ summer internship, Youth Environmental Leadership Program, helped clear away vegetation from a Paw Paw area along the Hominy Creek Greenway, helping the native trees flourish.

*Photo: Pollinator garden planting at Glen Arden Elementary School.*

One new habitat area was created at Erwin High School and many others were maintained at area schools. GreenWorks volunteers continue to maintain Rosetta's pollinator garden in downtown Asheville, the Malvern Hills Park pollinator garden, the Hominy Creek Greenway pollinator garden. They also assist with weeding the pollinator meadow at the Asheville Audubon Sanctuary.

GreenWorks continues to work with the City of Asheville's Adopt-A-Spot helping citizens transform and maintain small patches around the city, planting flowers and removing invasives.

Since Bee City USA launched from Asheville in 2012, numerous business and individuals have included native pollinator habitats in their landscaping, including New Belgium Brewery and the Renaissance Hotel.



*Malvern Hills Pollinator Garden*



*Volunteers Kristina Pontin and Florrie Funk maintain Rosetta's Garden in downtown Asheville.*

## POLICIES & PRACTICES

We have just established a new committee of volunteers, Asheville GreenWorks Bee City USA - Asheville Leadership Team, supported by Asheville GreenWorks staff members.

**Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List & Regional Native Plant Supplier List —**

<https://www.ashevillegreenworks.org/native-pollinator-plants-and-nurseries.html>

**Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan—**To be developed

## CONTACT US!

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