



## Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education

# GARDEN CITY, IDAHO



L to R: Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides Table at Pollinator Celebration, Bug Day Display Board  
Photos: Virginia Rivers

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We held our first Bee City USA Lecture Series at the Garden City Library, once a month, February through May. Each lecture had an average of 50 attendees. Topics were “Why Pollinators Need our Help”, “Beyond Honey Bees-An Introduction to Native Bees”, “Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides in our Urban Landscapes”, and “Planting for Pollinators in our Yards and Communities”. We had literature on various pollinator topics from Pollinator Partnership, along with a plant list as free handouts. 12 outreach talks were given to beekeepers, social clubs, civic groups and school classes about how and why to help pollinators. Facebook posts kept people informed of news and events. We also held a Girl Scout Day at the Pollinator Habitat. The girls planted nasturtium seeds and learned about pollinators. The Garden Clubs of Idaho Convention was given a formal presentation and tour of the pollinator habitat in June. We had a booth at the Idaho Botanical Gardens “Bug Day”, reaching about 900 people, a booth at Garden City Days and a table at a local nursery event.

With the garden in full bloom, this year’s Pollinator Celebration was a huge success with about 150 attendees. It was held on a Saturday morning. The weather was perfect; coffee and snacks were popular. We dedicated the Pollinator Habitat and had 2 people doing guided walks to identify pollinators. With 14 booths, kid’s activities, and indoor presentations, the overwhelming comment after the event was that it should be longer.



L to R: Garden City Pollinator Habitat, June 2018; Main Interpretive Sign in the Pollinator Habitat  
Photos: Virginia Rivers

## POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

With the pollinator habitat built and planted, completion included removing the center asphalt strip and replacing it with the personalized bricks that had been sold to earn funds for maintenance of the habitat. These were installed, along with a concrete border.

A stone sign naming the garden was purchased and installed. A second stone sign with a brass plaque naming all the contributors was purchased by the City of Garden City and installed along the garden border. Plant markers were ordered and placed for all plants in the garden. 7 Interpretive signs were completed, ordered and placed in the garden. When ground bee nests showed up, a sign was placed to identify them. Plans for a short wall to surround the garden were scrapped when the contractor bailed at the last minute and could not be replaced. Instead we used landscape stones to create a visual border that really enhanced the installation. The overwhelming sentiment was that it looked fabulous and was a better choice than a wall. The stones also cost less, and with Garden City's contribution of the donor sign, we had funds left over from the grant. The Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation approved the use of these funds for 2 more projects: 1) a stone-bond material to turn the gravel pathways to hard surface and 2) a pocket-size book of plants for pollinators in the Treasure Valley. A diverse committee has been established to create and publish the book. It will be offered for sale at retail and agency venues and donated to libraries. The pathway project will be done in 2019.

## POLICIES & PRACTICES

Our committee was started by a garden club and that club continues to be the mainstay of the committee. We have one native bee expert and advanced master gardener who is not a garden club member, and we would welcome more help. The garden club supports the pollinator habitats and the annual celebration. Judy Snow does all the outreach, puts on a Lecture Series and assembled a separate broad-based committee to specifically write a pocket-size book of pollinator plants.

## CONTACT US!

Committee: Garden City Pollenteers; Judy Snow, Chair; [pollenteer@gmail.com](mailto:pollenteer@gmail.com)

Website: <https://gardencityidaho.org/links>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/Bee-City-USA-Garden-City-1219475004738229/>