



Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



In March Clay County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted the Friends of Ag Breakfast with our featured guest speaker Phyllis Stiles from Bee City USA. Mrs. Stiles provided an informative slide show which increased awareness and the need for pollinator conservation. There were 60 participants at this event.

On June 23, Clay SWCD and Bee City Hayesville hosted our first Pollinator Expo on the Square. Our 6-hour event included 23 vendors such as Local, State, and Federal Agencies, Master Gardeners Clubs, 2 beekeeping associations, 2 nurseries, Mainspring Conservation Group, local heritage seed supplier and Clay County Schools Ag Science Class making bee hotels. Our Expo was a perfect platform for outreach.

We provided a mobile soils trailer with interactive activities, an inspirational "bee story" teller and bee antenna for children of all ages. There was a watershed specialist and native plant specialist with lessons and native plants.

Farm Bureau (a financial contributor) had ladies helping participants make pollinator seed balls and our Clay County SWCD had a pollinator themed "'Tree-mendous'" Jeopardy game along with free informative handouts. Also, each of our vendors and information booths were given the opportunity to address the crowd with our PA system. One lucky person won our fundraising gift basket, filled with bee product raffle valued at \$200. Event involvement ranged from local to neighboring state vendors and booth operators. Our local American Legion and Community Revitalization groups provided food and drinks for this informative and memorable event, attended by approximately 200 attendees.

Working with Clay County SWCD provides opportunity to incorporate our Bee City Hayesville mission and the importance of pollinators. Our Education Specialist does an excellent job of integrating soil and water conservation education with farming and pollination during school field days and resource conservation workshops. Bee City Hayesville currently is a small group with hopes of growing but we are dedicated to conserving pollinators.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

Clay County SWCD assisted Clay County's Historical Arts Council in creating a rain garden that includes native plants--a nice addition to their butterfly garden and ephemeral garden.

Clay County Master Gardener's Program relocated a community garden behind our Clay SWCD office and they plan to include a native area and a pollinator garden.

Bee City Hayesville hosted a pollinator education planting day with Hayesville High School (HHS) Ag Science Class on November 29. Clay County Courthouse Storm Water Rain Garden filters runoff from the 9 acres of impermeable surfaces. Bee City Hayesville coordinated a day of planting and mulching to add to the aesthetic beauty and to increase pollinator habitat. The HHS students planted milkweed seed, plants and pollinator friendly native shrubs and trees.



Students assisted with planting of plants and milkweed seeds in this storm water rain garden. The students listened to the history of the rain garden and how it has evolved over the past 5 years. They learned about the purpose of the rain garden and the value of assisting our pollinators.

POLICIES & PRACTICES



L-R: Karen Hurtubise, Linda Milt, Leanna Staton, Dan Goff

Bee City Hayesville Committee is made up of the Secretary/Treasurer of Clay SWCD and landscape professional, two SWCD staff, one retired biology teacher, a garden and homestead educator who farms turmeric and ginger, and a High School Agriculture Teacher. This committee is well diversified.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List—To be developed.

Regional Native Plant Supplier List— To be developed.

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan— To be developed.

CONTACT US!

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