

Bee Campus USA - Triton College

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The committee continues to remove weeds in the rain garden areas. Tree of Heaven in the prairie area as well as seed heads from hemlock and teasel are removed, in order to allow the native plants to continue to grow. The rain gardens are designed to collect and treat rainwater that flows off the roof. Deep-rooted native plants slow down and filter runoff and help prevent flooding. They also provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators. Additionally, the greenhouse and adjoining the botanical garden will combine to produce vegetables and herbs that will be used by students in our Hospitality Industry Administration Program. Students also help clean the rain gardens and Adena Woods, the Cook County Forest Preserve area adopted by the Triton College Sustainability Center. In addition, much debris is removed from the small creek that runs through the wooded area. While they worked, students learned about local history, geography, and native plants. They also learned to identify poison ivy! All agreed that the hands-on field experience was a positive addition to their regular class work.



Rain gardens in the H-Building parking lot were equipped for the winter.



Committee and students arranged to clean the rain gardens.

Education & Outreach

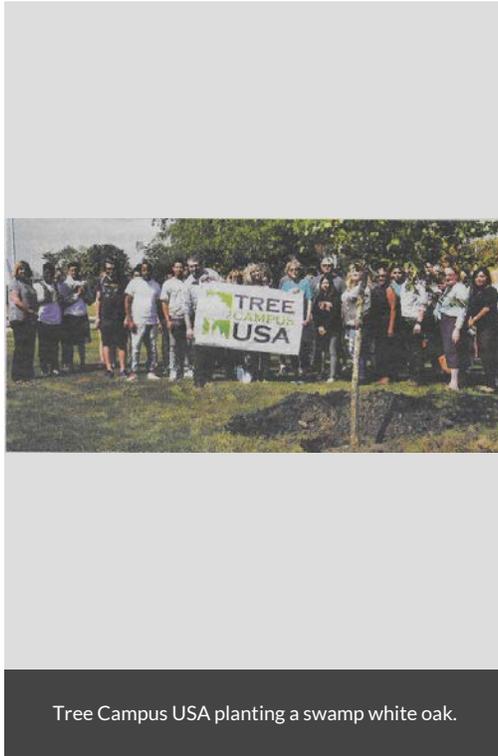
The Fall Festival was held on September 26th, 2020 and due to Covid it was a drive-through event. In this event, the Bee



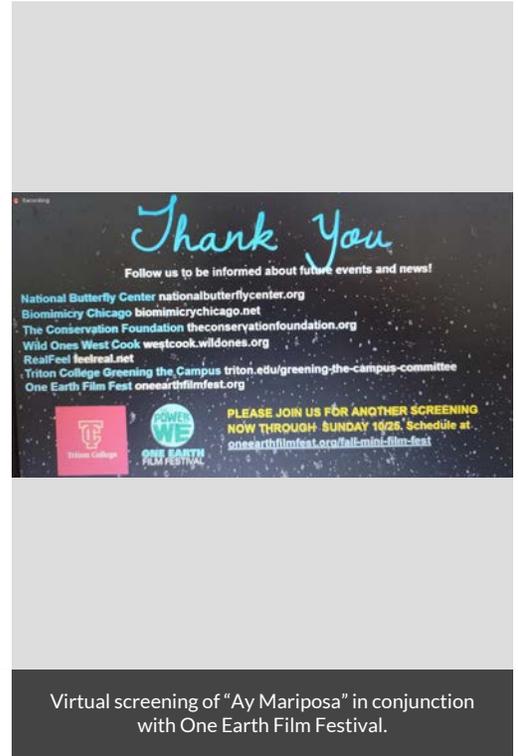
Campus Committee (along with the Greening the Campus Committee and the Horticulture Club) distributed 270 packages of 0.1 oz of seed with planting instructions. Along with the seeds, a flyer which explained the importance of pollinators and Bee Campus was included. Another event held virtually this year in conjunction with One Earth Film Fest was the screening of the film “Ay Mariposa”. Film subject Marianna Treviño Wright, Director of the National Butterfly Center, held a discussion after the film for a live Q&A. The film “tells a story of three characters in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas whose lives are upended by plans to build a US-Mexico border wall. Meanwhile the butterfly, la mariposa, fights its own daily battle for survival in a landscape where more than 95 percent of its habitat is long gone and much of what remains lies directly in the path of the wall.” (One Earth Film Fest).



Packaging seeds for the Fall Festival.



Tree Campus USA planting a swamp white oak.



Virtual screening of “Ay Mariposa” in conjunction with One Earth Film Festival.

Courses & Continuing Education

The Horticulture program is designed to provide students with the necessary skills to acquire entry-level positions in all fields of Horticulture and related industries, as well as skills for advancement in their career field, self-employment and transfer into a four-year curriculum. Industry fields include landscape design, landscape and grounds maintenance, greenhouse and garden center management and sustainable horticulture. Students also will develop skills for lifelong learning. Program includes an AAS degree in Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture Technology and a certificate program in Grounds Maintenance. Some of the courses that provide pollinator-related information are included in the AAS degree in Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture Technology Program; including HRT 100, HRT 125, and HRT 127. An



Associate in Applied Science Degree in Sustainable Agriculture Technology program also provides for credit courses that incorporate pollinator-related information. Sustainable Agriculture Technology curriculum is designed to provide students the skills necessary to manage an environmentally sound and sustainable urban food production system. Graduates are qualified for numerous positions associated with sustainable agriculture including horticulture, nursery operations, agricultural education and managing food production. SAT 130 and SAT 140 are for credit courses that are included in the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Sustainable Agriculture Technology program.



Triton College Prairie Garden

WHAT ARE PRAIRIES?

Prairies are a type of grassland ecosystem which is considered to be a native part of the landscape in Illinois. This type of ecosystem includes a variety of organisms including tall grasses and wildflowers. Many of the flowering plants of prairie gardens produce beautiful, bright colored flowers to attract pollinators. This increases the biodiversity of the organisms that call the prairie home.



WHY ARE PRAIRIES IMPORTANT?

Prairie plants often have intricate root systems which increase their ability to absorb water and then allow them to survive heat, drought and fire. In fact, they are an important part of prairie resiliency. These underground root systems contribute organic material to the soil, creating the soil of prairie, increasing the soil's ability to store and release water. These prairie plants are also able to live the rest of their lives underground as they provide habitat for small mammals and insects, including birds, mice, rabbits, snakes, and

MONARCH WAYSTATION



This area provides milkweed, monarch habitat, and other needed habitat for monarch butterflies. A habitat created through North American Certified and registered by Monarch Watch as an official monarch overwintering site. CREATE, CONSERVE & PROTECT MONARCH HABITATS

Prairie Garden

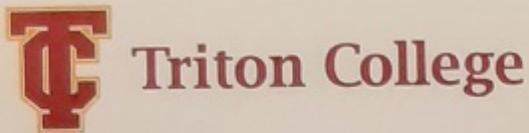
This experimental prairie area provides hands-on learning for students. Native prairie grasses and flowers offer many ecosystem benefits, including rainwater management, and food and habitat for birds and pollinators. It is managed by the Sustainability Center and the Environmental Science Program.

www.triton.edu/sustainability



Service-Learning

Some of the Horticulture students packaged seeds and created educational material to attach to the seed packets to distribute during the Fall Festival. Due to COVID we had restrictions on the amount of students that were able to help distribute and participate in this drive-through event. Triton students and the surrounding community were invited to attend this drive-through event which distributed Bee Feed Flower Mix and a pumpkin.



Triton College

is hereby designated a

Bee Campus USA

affiliate in recognition of its adoption of rigorous commitments to raise awareness and enhance habitat for pollinators.



Bee Feed Flower Mix

Flower species in mix: Alyssum, Asters, Baby Blue Eyes, Bergamot, Coreopsis, Echinacea, Flax, Fleabane Daisy, Gaillardia, Globe Gilia, Hyssop, Poppies, Tidy Tips, Serbian Wallflower

Direct seed in late fall in a sunny, weed-free bed. Broadcast seed evenly over area. Lightly rake seed and gently tamp into soil. Seed should be no deeper than 1/8".

DO NOT WATER

Seed will germinate in Spring.

Contains 0.1 oz Covers 100 sq. ft.

Bee feed distributed during Fall Festival 2020.



Educational Signage

The permanent signs located throughout the campus have been installed for several years.



Policies & Practices

The Bee Campus along with the Horticulture Club and the Sustainability Department work with the Associate Vice President of Facilities in order to ensure that we use pollinator-friendly practices. For most of our areas, like the rain gardens, we do not use pesticides. In other areas where needed, for example near our greenhouse surrounding areas, the used of organic pesticides are used. Weeds are pulled manually with the help of the Sustainability Coordinator and



Greening the Campus Committee; workdays to help clean the rain gardens are arranged to include students.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Anderson Pest Control 1.1 IPM Program.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plants at Triton College.pdf](#)

<https://www.triton.edu/greening-the-campus-committee/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [PM20.pdf](#)

<https://www.triton.edu/greening-the-campus-committee/>



The Triton Greenhouse uses pollinator-friendly practices for its upkeep.

Learn More

