

# Bee Campus USA - University of Connecticut

Report on 2020

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Members from the UConn Bee Campus Committee, UConn Office of Sustainability, UConn Arboretum Committee, and other stakeholder groups co-hosted the Buddy Bench and Swing Tree Garden Planting event on October 14, 2020. The garden brings together two separate student-led initiatives that share common goals – one aimed at preserving the legacy of the UConn “swing tree” and the other for UConn-made “buddy benches” built to foster human connection. The benches were made of UConn Forest wood for a service learning course taught by Professor Phoebe Godfrey. The gardens featured native pollinator plant species and now will offer a space for UConn community members to appreciate the local environment and share meaningful conversations. The Spring Valley Student Farm also expanded plots of milkweed to provide more pollinator friendly habitats throughout the farm space. UConn planted 5 large gardens complete with new pollinator friendly plants throughout the year, and these gardens were supplemented with several pots and planters throughout the campus.





Students working at the site of the Buddy Bench and Swing Tree Garden on October 14, 2020 (Photo courtesy of Wesley Ayers III).

## Education & Outreach

One of the pollinator events held was a guest lecture held by the UConn Wildlife Society. This event was held virtually, and covered a variety of the current issues affecting bees specifically as it relates to pollination. The talk focused on the idea of using "bee hotels" as a solution for bee nesting issues. There were 15 people in attendance. William Friedman, an Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and Director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University gave a presentation titled "Connecting with Organisms – Restoring the Human Connection with Nature", as part of the



distinguished UConn Teale Lecture Series. This event was held on 02/06/20 from 4-5pm at the Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center at UConn Storrs, and had 150 people in attendance. Katherine Dugas taught a course titled "Insects and Arthropods 101" on 03/09/20 from 11am-2:30pm through UConn Extension with 16 people in attendance. This course covered the basics of entomology, arthropod morphology, taxonomy and identification. Also included in the presentation were the topics of garden pests, curiosities, accidental home invaders, public health nuisances, and 'red flag' invasive species. The UConn Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group hosted a virtual Connecticut Invasive Plant Symposium from 8am-3:45pm on 10/07/20 with 386 attendees, which focused on realistic solutions to managing invasive plants. The undergraduate organization UConn Students for One Health hosted One Health Week from November 2nd-6th, 2020, which featured an event titled "Sustainable Food and Healthy Diet Workshop" held on 11/02/20 from 5-6pm that had 40 attendees. This event was hosted virtually. Also, the UConn Student Farmworker Alliance co-hosted a screening of the "Food Chains" documentary along with UConn B.A.I.L.E, Revolution Against Rape, and the UConn Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC) on 03/04/20 from 6:30-8pm with 50 attendees. The documentary film explained the hardships that migrant farmworkers face working in the fields of the southern US, including the health and human rights issues they face from being exposed to harmful pesticides every day.



# One Health Week 2020

NOVEMBER 2ND-6TH

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND:

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND HEALTHY  
DIET WORKSHOP FROM 5-6 PM  
VIA WEBEX (HONORS EVENT)

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD:

INTERNATIONAL ONE HEALTH DAY!  
GET OUT THERE AND VOTE!

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH:

DIY HAND SANITIZER WORKSHOP

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH:

ONE HEALTH WEEK WEBINAR: DR.  
DEBORAH THOMSON, DVM FROM  
6-7 PM VIA WEBEX (HONORS EVENT)

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH:

BAMBOO TOOTHBRUSH FUNDRAISER  
DELIVERY/SHIPPING DAY



The UConn One Health Week flyer advertises the presentations for this year's virtual event.

## Connecting with Organisms – Restoring the Human Connection with Nature

William (Ned) Friedman  
Director of the Arnold Arboretum  
Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology  
Harvard University



The first slide of William Friedman's presentation for the UConn Teale Lecture Series, an event about connecting with nature held on February 6, 2020.



## Courses & Continuing Education

The for-credit courses offered included BIOL 1102 Foundations of Biology, BIOL 1110 Introduction to Botany, EEB 2208E Introduction to Conservation Biology, EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World, EEB 2244E General Ecology, EEB 2245W Evolutionary Biology, SPSS 1110 Fundamentals of Horticulture, SPSS 1115 Turfgrass Management Lab, SPSS 2110W Sustainable Plant Pest Management Communication, SPSS 3440 Small Fruit Production, SPSS 3830 Horticultural Entomology, and SPSS 3840 Integrated Pest Management. These courses focused on or included lessons on plant ecology, pollinator biology, integrated pest management practices, pollinators in agriculture, and landscaping for pollinators. The UConn Extension Master Gardener certification program is taught in five locations in the state each year, beginning in January. As part of this training, Master Gardeners commit time as volunteers working through their County's UConn Extension Center & the Bartlett Arboretum to provide horticultural-related information and assistance to the community. This is an educational outreach program that offers courses and workshops throughout the year, including: Insects and Arthropods 101, Native Shrubs for Landscape Use, and Beekeeping Through the Year (Parts 1 to 3).

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## Service-Learning

UConn Psychology doctoral student Megan Chiavaro helped to set up beehives for the non-profit organization Keney Park Sustainability Project two years ago. Since then, she has continued her service-learning project by conducting seminars on beekeeping and sustainable practices at the park for members of the local community in Hartford, and she regularly goes to check on the health of those hives. As a student in the Perception, Action, Cognition Division's Ecological Psychology doctorate program at UConn, Chiavaro researches honeybees and their collective intelligence. The UConn Office of Sustainability, Landscaping Department, and Bee Campus Committee partnered with one of Professor Sohyun Park's Landscape Architecture classes for a pollinator garden design project. The 8 students in the class created designs for a pollinator garden and pavilion that will be established in the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) and right-of-way area off Discovery Drive. Each design included information on topography, hydrology, pollinator plant selection, and artistic elements to create a comprehensive project that would promote public awareness on the importance of pollinators. The Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) led a fall service learning project where students collected milkweed seeds on the farm to share with future visitors to SVSF to encourage the expansion of milkweed plants. Students learned about the life cycle of the plant, its many uses, its importance to the environment and basic seed saving techniques while helping to collect the seeds. This Milkweed seed harvesting project was held on 09/18/20 with the help of 5 volunteers.





This is one of the landscape architecture student potential designs for the UConn Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) Pollinator Garden, created by Collin Sitz.



UConn Psychological Sciences doctoral student Megan Chiovaro works with honeybee hives in Hartford's Keney Park. The bees are not only part of a Service Learning project, but have also become key to her research (Jaclyn Severance/UConn Photo).

## Educational Signage

Our Bee Campus Committee was unable to install many permanent or temporary Bee Campus USA signs last year, due to limited campus operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there were temporary flyers posted about outreach events and the signs about the roles of pollinators in our food systems are still displayed in the dining halls around campus, including in McMahon Dining Hall. Our committee continues to promote pollinator awareness through our online communication channels as well.





# Ban Neonicotinoids



*Bees pollinate 1 in 3 forkfuls of the food we eat!*

- Alfalfa (Cows' Main Food; No More Milk, Ice Cream, Cheese)
- Apples • Apricots • Almonds • Avocados • Blueberries
- Boysenberries • Blackberries • Beets • Broccoli • Brazil Nuts
- Brussels Sprouts • Bok Choy • Black Eyed Peas • Buckwheat
- Cocoa (Chocolate) • Cranberries • Coconut • Cherries • Celery
- Cashews • Cactus
- Coffee • Cabbage
- Chestnut • Carrots
- Congo Beans
- Eggplant • Flax
- Grapes • Grapefruit
- Hazelnut • Kidney
- Lima Beans
- Macadamia Nuts • Mangos • Mustard Seed • Nectarines • Nutmeg
- Okra • Orchid Plants • Onions • Plums • Peaches • Pomegranates
- Pears • Palm Oil • Peppermint • Pumpkin • Passion Fruit • Peppers
- Papaya • Raspberries • Strawberries • Sugarcane • Sunflower
- Starfruit • Sword Beans • Safflower • Sesame • Soybean • Squash
- Tangerines • Turnips • Tomatoes • Vanilla • Walnut • Watermelon
- Clover • Cauliflower
- Cantaloupe
- Cucumber
- Cotton • Elderberries
- Figs • Fennel
- Guava • Green Beans
- Beans • Kiwi Fruit
- Lemons • Limes



**UConnPIRG**  
Standing Up  
To Powerful Interests

**No Bees,  
NO FOOD**

LOCAL ROUTES



This informational sign about neonicotinoids hangs in the UConn McMahon Dining Hall, so that passerby can learn more about the importance of bees in our food system.

## Policies & Practices

The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm and the EcoGarden Club use only organic fertilizers and non-chemical pest prevention for their crops. There are different strategies used for pest management for the rest of the UConn Storrs campus. For example, grass clippings are left on the lawns to degrade and return nitrogen back to the lawn and turf grass surfaces are aerated to encourage healthy soil. When applicable, organic fertilizers are used.

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [UConn IPM Plan Nov 2019.pdf](#)

[https://ecohusky.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2041/2020/02/UConn-IPM-turf-and-ornamental-Final\\_112019.pdf](https://ecohusky.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2041/2020/02/UConn-IPM-turf-and-ornamental-Final_112019.pdf)

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [Native Pollinator Plants List CT.pdf](#)

[http://nenativeplants.uconn.edu/pollinators\\_4\\_1535294473.pdf](http://nenativeplants.uconn.edu/pollinators_4_1535294473.pdf)

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:** [Native Pollinator Plants Suppliers List.pdf](#)

<http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/view.php?id=1536>



The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) uses hoop houses and organic IPM practices to grow crops year round.

## Learn More

<https://sustainability.uconn.edu/bee-campus-usa/>  
[sustainability@uconn.edu](mailto:sustainability@uconn.edu)

<https://www.facebook.com/UConnOS/>



<https://www.instagram.com/uconnos/?hl=en>

<https://twitter.com/uconnos?lang=en>



A bee pauses on a coneflower near Oak Hall on the UConn Storrs campus.

