

Bee Campus USA - University of North Carolina Asheville

Report on 2020



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

In the summer of last year, UNC Asheville expanded the phenology garden which is used to study the accessions of threatened plants and how they might alter their relationships with pollinators. In 2020, UNC Asheville renovated and expanded the Sol Garden which includes a variety of fruits and vegetables including leafy greens, blueberries, strawberries, herbs and figs.





Education & Outreach

In 2020, fewer events were held on campus as we shifted our efforts to adapt to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, UNC Asheville library staff did host a seed library event. They distributed pollinator seeds that had been harvested from our own campus gardens. Additionally, this event included free soil tests and educational materials about planting your own pollinator garden. We also hosted our annual On-Campus Work Day where over 50 volunteers turned out to plant in the gardens. Students were also invited to participate in the honey harvest from our campus hives.





Barb Svenson and Wendy Mullis host a Seed Library Event



A student visits with a honey bee during the honey harvest at our campus hives.

Courses & Continuing Education

Many of the Biology and Environmental Studies course at UNC Asheville include pollinator-related content. In addition to these courses, UNC Asheville held two courses that focuses on bees: Anthropology of Bees and Honeybees and Humans.



Service-Learning

One student did an independent research project on the benefits of green roofs including the creation of pollinator habitat. Other students worked to collect pollinator seed in the campus gardens to distribute at the Seed Library events.

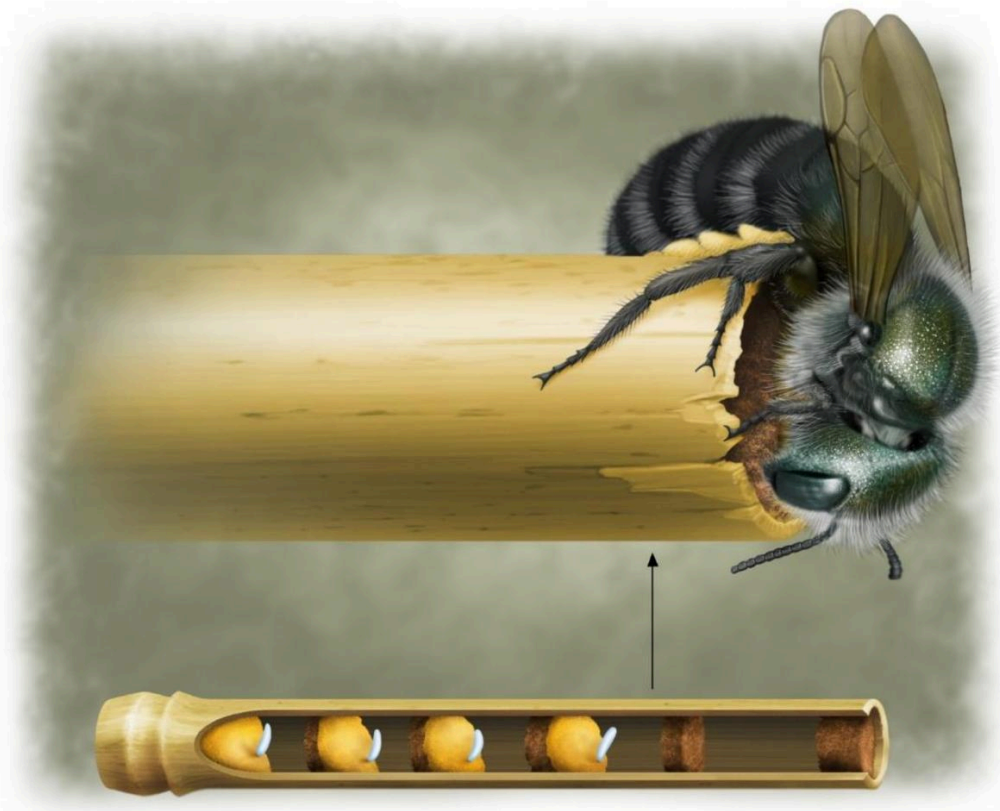
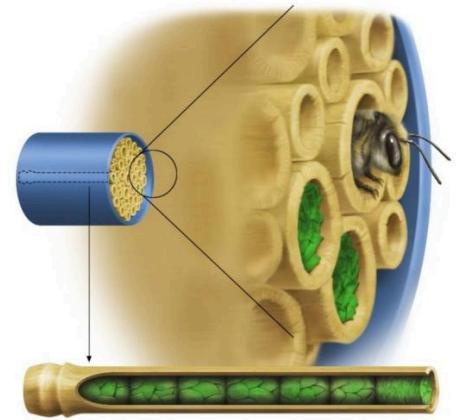
Educational Signage

UNC Asheville updated some of the signs at our bee hotel



Cavity Nesters

More than 90% of bees in North America are solitary nesters, constructing and provisioning their own nest. Typically, nests have separate brood cells in which females lay one egg per cell. Brood cells may be lined with pieces of leaves, mud, or a waxy secretion to protect the developing bee from drying out, excess moisture, fungi, and disease. Each cell is provisioned with a food source called “bee bread”, made up of a mixture of pollen and nectar.



Thirty percent of native bees are cavity nesters including mason bees and carpenter bees. These are the types of bees that live in the Bee Hotel. In nature, these bees may use abandoned beetle tunnels in dead trees. Other bees will nest in hollow stems or chew out the central pith of plants like elderberry.



Policies & Practices

UNC Asheville follows the best practices for pest management outlined in our IPM.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Copy of UNC Asheville IPM Plan 071807 \(1\).pdf](#)

<https://campusoperations.unca.edu/intitatives/pollinator-gardens/>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Copy of Sunny Average-Moist Plant List-combined.pdf](#)

<https://campusoperations.unca.edu/intitatives/pollinator-gardens/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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

Learn More

