

Bee Campus USA - University of Oregon

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Throughout 2020, the Bee Friendly Committee has worked with landscape personnel and faculty to help plant various native plant species around the University of Oregon campus. We successfully planted in the areas in the center of campus around Fenton and Columbia Halls. These spaces were enhanced with flowering species to help provide sources of food for both the managed and wild bees that reside on campus. This work included Bee Campus student groups, students from Biology classes, and the Grove Community Garden. The Student Sustainability Center (the Student Sustainability Center) provided organizational support to the many planting projects on campus. All told, these events hosted about 35 students. Landscape personnel also worked with two Environmental Leaders ARC Bee/Pollinator Project Teams. They held several in-person tours of our pollinator gardens and staff consulted with the students leading up to their final presentations. As a continuance of that, one of the groups will be planting the pocket pollinator garden they designed near the Millrace buildings in Spring term. Students and faculty at the Urban Farm continued to maintain and enhance approximately 2 acres of campus space that includes food production garden spaces, fruit tree orchards and common spaces. Encompassing these spaces is a extensive mixture of pollinator plantings. The Urban Farm is home to six honey bee colonies and a large network of mason bee sanctuary installations. Approximately 325 students enroll in the Urban Farm class, annually. The UO map project added a native bee habitat and honeybee layer to the interactive campus map: <https://map.uoregon.edu/native-pollinators>



Landscape Architecture Professor Michael Geffel researching alternative mowing for habitat restoration and enhancement. (photo credit: Michael Geffel)



Students creating native plant pocket gardens in the heart of campus. (photo credit: Anna Hall)



Watering pollinator plants. (photo credit: Harper Keeler)



Education & Outreach

• The Bee Friendly Committee has maintained bi-weekly meetings through the winter, spring, and fall 2020 quarters. Attendance for online meetings is regularly 5-10 people. During the winter 2020 and spring 2021 quarter meetings, a “Bee of the Week” was featured to highlight bee diversity and share interesting pollinator facts. Other meeting topics include event planning for the Bee Friendly Committee and sharing other pollinator-related webinars. The Bee Friendly Committee extracted honey and performed hive upkeep and maintenance at the Grove Garden to prepare it for repopulation with honeybees in 2021. In February 2020, members of the Bee Friendly Committee attended a workshop at GloryBee, a local Eugene beekeeping business to learn more about apiculture. In early 2020, the UO Bee Friendly student committee held a free, educational movie screening of “A Ghost in the Making: Rusty-patched Bumble Bee” to highlight the conservation issues that this species (and other bumblebees) face. Student committee members hosted mason bee workshops at the Urban Farm in the Fall.



Students performing honey bee keeping maintenance. (photo credits: Anna Hall, Annabelle Hurley)



Students learning how to combat mason bee pest infestation and cocoon cleaning. (photo credit: Harper Keeler)



Extracting mason bee cocoons for cleaning. (photo credit: Harper Keeler)

Courses & Continuing Education

Several courses in the biology department teach a unit on bees including Introduction to Animal Behavior, Animal Behavior for majors, Foundations of Biology, Pollination Biology, Conservation Biology, Field Botany, and Field Entomology. We keep a glass-fronted honeybee hive with a dedicated livestreaming webcam in a biology lab for teaching purposes: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgDZRhtk-ggXRP71n00Sr_Q In Pollination Biology, the focus is on bees and other pollinators as well as the plants that are pollinated. In Conservation Biology, we focus on native bees as a case study on threats to biodiversity (habitat loss and degradation, chemical pollutants, invasive species and pathogens, climate change) and illustrate how impacts to some species have outsized effects (keystone species and the loss of pollinators). The



Environmental Studies department includes pollinators in some of their courses. ENVS 427 Environmental and Ecological Monitoring taught many field data collection methods including pollinator surveys. In ENVS 429, a team of 7 students and 1 graduate student worked with personnel from Whitewater Ranch to 1) research and present recommendations to the farm's owners on pollinator-friendly farm certification programs, and 2) write a pollinator management plan for the farm. LA 390, 'The Urban Farm' is offered every term and has an annual enrollment of about 325 students. This hands-on class teaches students how to grow food and the central role pollinators play in this activity.





Harvesting honey and beets. Hands-on teaching connects food to natural systems (photo credit: Sherman Sherman)



Service-Learning

Due to the pandemic, many of the normal service learning opportunities that students work on were curtailed. However, there were a number of non-profit garden projects that our students worked for, many of which focused on food insecurity. Simultaneously, many students earned service learning credit by working at the Urban Farm growing food for the Campus Food Pantry. We feel quite strongly that by giving students the opportunity to work in the garden, they learn first-hand about the intrinsic relationship that pollinators have with the food that we eat and share.



Freshly harvested produce headed to the Student Food Pantry (photo credit: Harper Keeler)



Educational Signage

Across campus there are many interpretive/educational signs that inform the community of pollinator areas and plantings. Students also hold regular workshops to create temporary signage. These events are aimed at increasing awareness regarding the importance of pollinators and helping to grow the UO bee friendly community.



Perminant interpretive/educational signage (photo credit: Harper Keeler)



Hand-made temporary sign events create awareness and foster bee-friendly community.

Policies & Practices

The UO continues its commitment to Integrated Pest Management and considers pesticide use a last resort when other



options have been exhausted . We continue to create and maintain native habitat spaces in which pesticides are not used including pocket pollinator plots, large set-backs along the historic Mill Race that runs through campus and riparian areas along the Willamette river. Landscape Architecture faculty research continues to look at alternative mowing practices as they relate to pollinator protection and habitat creation in proximity to the river. A plan to integrate goats for invasive plant removal has been approved and will begin in the spring and summer.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

[Learn More](#)

