

# Bee Campus USA - Blackburn College

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

We prepared and seeded our 3MW Solar field (8.5 acres including some of the surrounding area). We prepared between and under the solar panels and planted native grasses between the panel rows and native pollinator plants under the panel rows, specifically shade tolerant species. The goal is to produce native pollinator friendly areas under and around the solar panels that requires little, if any, mowing to maintain plant heights. Our student lead Sustainability Club developed a raised bed vegetable garden as a pilot project. Each of the four beds are 4'x8' and they successfully raised a number of vegetable crops. We've continued developing a natural "grassland" area on the east side of campus. This area contains many of our campus bee hives. We've are also working to improve pollinator plantings under our 2.5 acre Black Walnut plantation that is adjacent to our first bat house on campus.



Or native grassland on the east side of campus after the winter burn, you can see some of our beehives and signage.



Raised bed project post harvest, waiting for the spring replant!

## Education & Outreach

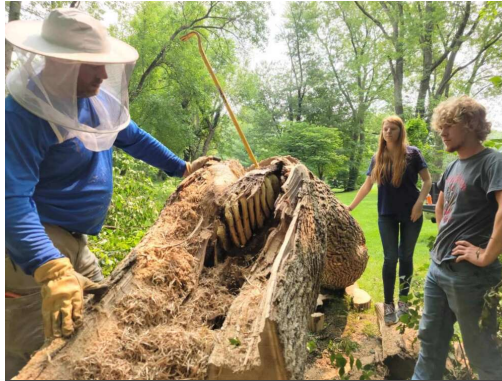
Earth Week: Included a series of events including tree planting, trash pickup and a plant sale. There were also multiple community education events including sustainable living and daily conservation strategies among others. Campus Beautification Day: Included a series of projects on campus including shrub plantings, refreshing the many flower beds on



campus, mulch removal/replacement among other projects. The focus of these projects is pollinator friendly and includes many native species in the plantings. This is a fun way to include students, faculty and staff, community members, and alumni and raises awareness of pollinator friendly landscaping practices. Bat Program: We installed the first bat houses on campus along with a student presenting at a Carlinville Tree/Bee city meeting.



Our native planting in front of the Mahan Science building.



Collecting a swarm of bees from a felled tree in town, part of the community outreach we offer through the Apiary program on campus.

## BLACKBURN EARTH WEEK EVENTS

CHECK THE DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

<p><b>Daily on Campus Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19th - Flag Raising (Ludlum at 10:30 am)</li> <li>• 20th - Tree Planting (Bothwell Courtyard at 11:30 am)</li> <li>• 21st - Trash Pick-up (Mahan 133 at 4:00 pm)</li> <li>• 20th - Chalk Competition (DCC at 1:00 pm)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Week Long Events (19-23):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Plant Sale (DCC from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm)</li> <li>• CKI Nature Scavenger Hunt (Outdoors with daily submissions)</li> <li>• Plant-Based Meals (Ding)</li> <li>• Sustainable Living Fliers</li> <li>• Daily Conservation Strategies</li> <li>• Coloring Contest (due April 22nd)</li> </ul>
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Flier of activities associated with Earth Week showing the focus on pollinators and the environment.

## Courses & Continuing Education

### Service-Learning

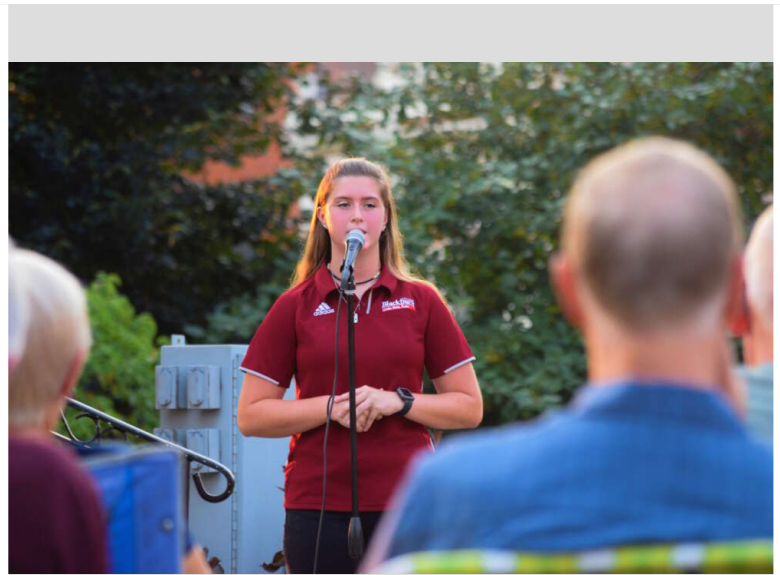
We continue to offer on campus "bee days" for students or interested community members to see how we care for our bee colonies on campus. We also had one student give a talk to the city about bat habitats as a part of our community engagement.







Students inspecting campus hives.



Student Lexi Hoffman talking to the Carlinville community about the importance of bats as pollinators.

## Educational Signage

We only install permanent signs on campus. We installed additional signs on the east side of campus where the bulk of our hives are located. We also installed the original Bee Campus flag in the atrium of the Mahan Science Building (it will be a permanent part of the atrium and updated as needed).





Photo of our Bee Campus and Tree Campus flags in the atrium of the Mahan Science Building.

## Policies & Practices

Minimal pesticide use and continue to reduce areas that are mowed.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Blackburn - IPM PEST MANAGEMENT, 2019.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Blackburn plant list 2020.pdf](#)



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

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## Learn More

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<https://www.facebook.com/Carlinville-Bees-103262004436279/>

