

Bee Campus USA - University of Central Florida

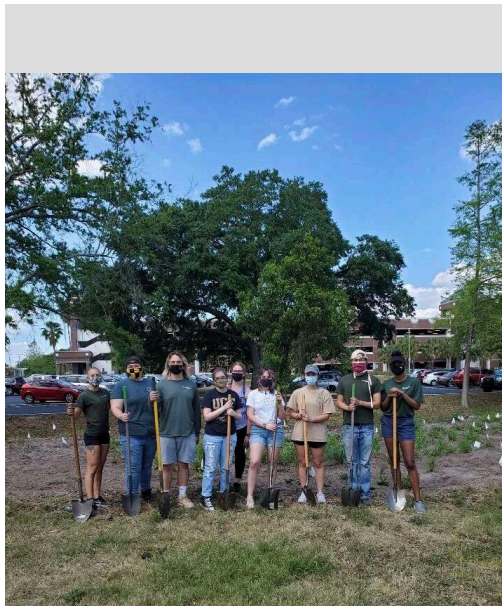
Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

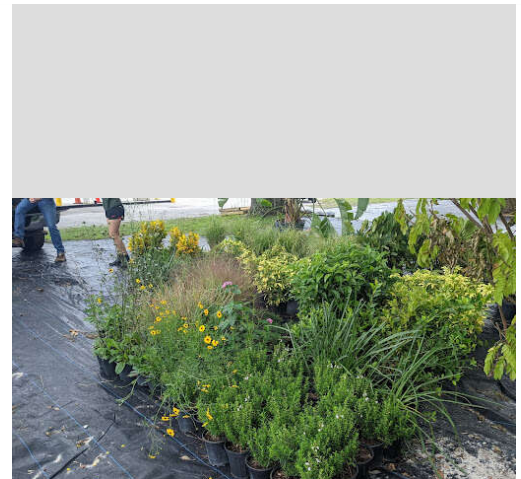
In April of 2021 two habitat creation were put in, the BS garden and the Audubon garden. The BS garden is a revived garden that was sadly weeded over when covid hit. The Arboretum co-cos, interns, and volunteers weeded the area until it was ready to be planted in April and filled with meadow style plants including blanket flower, tickseed, raysless sunflowers, lakeside sunflowers, and elephantopus. This planting was done with the help of 5 volunteers. The same day the UCF Audubon Society with the help of the Arboretum planted a garden for pollinators and birds in the area, that now in maintained and cared for by the Arboretum Pollinator team. Plants in this garden include goldenrod, muhly grass, rattlesnake master, and elephantopus. In March of 2021 enhancements were added to our Green House garden including rosinweed, calamint, and blanket flower. These were done by Arboretum Bee campus and pollinator interns. In October of 2021 enhancements were added to our Greenhouse garden, Audubon garden, BA1 garden, Trevor colbourn hall garden, and BS garden. This was done with Arboretum Co-cos, interns, and 7 volunteers. Plants including dune sunflower, elephantopus, and pentas.



Nursery trip to Green Isle Nursery to get fill-ins to put into our Green House Garden.



Our amazing volunteers and staff helping to plant the BS Garden in Spring of 2021.



Enhancements that were added to all of our gardens in Fall of 2021.



Education & Outreach

The Pollinator team at the UCF Arboretum invest their efforts heavily into education and outreach. Guests are able to enjoy a series of things: educational tours of our gardens, instructive and interactive workshops, and engaging and relevant informational material. A personal favorite of one of the co-coordinators Ethan Hudson, guided tours allow for patrons to develop an intimate relationship with the plants and staff of the UCF Arboretum. Most recently, Ethan facilitated the dialogue between students and nature during a garden tour for individuals in the the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic. Additionally, Community Day sought to bring together environmental entities from around campus to deliver education and a sense of wonder to our communities youth. This was organized by the UCF Arboretum and allowed an opportunity for the Bee Campus and Pollinator team to debut their "Sniff & Taste Tour," depicted in some of the pictures in this report. Furthermore, a series of workshops produced by the interns of the pollinator team allowed participating UCF students to not only learn something, but also take a piece of art home. In Spring of 2021 the Arboretum hosted a Potted Pollinator Garden Workshop. Attendees were asked to bring in an item to be upcycled into a pot to inspire the idea of reusing items that would instead go to our landfills, while also learning about the importance of having more pollinator plants around UCF campus. This event was also live streamed on the UCF Arboretum Instagram so viewers could follow along at home. In November Andy Cabezas taught about the pollinating virtues of birds and the importance of recycling while allowing students to make bird feeders out of water bottles. During that same month, another intern, Steph Morris, brought together the community for pot painting and pollinator plant propagations. Outreach and education events like these help bring people to the park and our gardens and encourages them to be creative about the ways they can participate in the revitalization of our urban spaces. Finally, another major contribution by our teams interns was social media outreach and education. Our collection of 19 posts got 3,772 likes throughout the year. Topics ranged from volunteering in our gardens to the importance of native plants and made an excellent addition to the UCF Arboretum Instagram, which has over 4,700 followers. The media and marketing team at the Arboretum work very hard, and for good reason. Many of the students who find themselves at the park or the natural lands say it was the Instagram that peaked their interest.





Local business owner of Elemental Bonsai Nursery enjoying sorrel grown here at our vegetable garden as the final interaction on our "Sniff & Taste Tour." Guests were also invited to smell a variety of plants in our nearby Pollinator Garden, all in all making the tour an amazing addition to our Arboretum Community Day.

This picture marks a powerful day for the environmental world at UCF. Here, the Botanical Society, Entomology Club, the KnightHawks (Audobon Society), and the UCF Arboretum Pollinator Team joined together for a joint effort tour of the Pollinator Gardens and Natural Lands. Combining four environmental student entities like this is a great instance of the community that has been fostered at the Arboretum.

Create Your own Potted Pollinator Garden Workshop and livestream.

Courses & Continuing Education

In the Urban Ecological Field Studies Course, a team of 5 students conducted a research project that assessed pollinator abundance in an Urban Landscape compared to a Natural Land environment. This project compared natural occurring pollinator plants in the natural lands to planted landscapes and the abundance and variety of pollinators within each. The Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping course educates students on the following topics, but are not limited to: general maintenance of hives, pollinator identification, and native pollinator plants. In UCF's entomology course, students learn about various pollinators and their environmental importance.





Dr. Bohlen and two students in the Beekeeping and Biology Course assess a frame from the Main Yard Hive.

Service-Learning

At UCF, many courses non-biology related are required to do service learning. We had service learning students from various majors assist us in planting a new pollinator garden in the Arboretum Park. Ten UCF service learning students assisted us in planting the BS garden in April 2021.

Educational Signage

To date, we have not properly established pollinator signage. We have introduced a new signage plan this year that is in the



works. Currently one of our Bee Campus and Pollinator Garden interns are working on creating QR codes to be put into our gardens. These QR Codes on the signs will take you to Plants Map where you will be able to see the plants in the gardens with their names and some information about them. Plants Map also has the ability to show where the same plants are located within campus, so individuals can explore other plant specimens.

Policies & Practices

The Arboretum has modified the IPM plan that includes removing all neonicotinoid use on the Arboretum Park site and near all pollinator gardens around campus. The Bee Campus and Pollinator Garden Team has also made strides to purchase plants from local native nurseries that do not treat their plants with neonicotinoids. Direct propagation and seeding of pollinator plants here at the Arboretum is another method we have implemented to ensure the plants we are introducing to the landscapes are safe for pollinators.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.green.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/IPM-Plan.pdf>

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

<https://www.plantsmap.com/organizations/24666/collections/31873>

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

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