Bee Campus USA - State University of New York at New Paltz

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Laura Wyeth & students scattered seed at the meadow (continued enhancement by not mowing the meadow). The Art Department Sculpture and Printmaking Programs created a Natural Dye Garden on the Sculpture Dock, transforming 80 sq. ft of concrete space into a pollinator-friendly garden. The Natural Dye Garden served two courses in the Art Department in 2021: Printmaking's Natural Dye Class and Sculpture's Basic/Intro to Sculpture Class. In spring 2022, the Sculpture class, Site Projects: Environmental Art Class, designed and implemented improvements to the Natural Dye Garden.

Education & Outreach

[4/6/21] Biodiversity of SUNY New Paltz, Nature Scavenger Hunt: In this webinar for the campus community, we introduced participants to some of the diverse life forms on our campus, with an emphasis on the special relationships between plants and pollinators. Participants were then encouraged to embark on their own on a campus nature scavenger hunt. [8/25/21] "Honey I Shrunk the Lawn" Supporting Pollinator Habitat (webinar) in conjunction with local orgs: Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission & Sustainable Hudson Valley: This talk and Q&A focused on ways that homeowners and organizations can minimize mowed lawns and maximize foraging and shelter habitat for pollinators. We discussed the unique relationships between specific species of insects and plants and the threats to both those groups as a result of pollution and habitat loss.

Courses & Continuing Education

Four for-credit courses in the Biology department: Biological Inquiry: students are assigned in teams of four to a unique outdoor site on our campus. Over the semester, they survey the plant, invertebrate, and soil bacteria at that site, determining identifications of organisms through morphological and molecular techniques. We discuss the many relationships between these groups, in particuar those between plants and pollinating insects.; Plant Morphology: In this overview of photosynthetic life, we primarily discuss reproduction, with a heavy focus on the coevolution of pollinating insects and flowering plants; we also observe instances of pollination in action during lab.; Plant Anatomy: This class involves a long portion of the study of the structure of flowers and the adaptations of pollinators to those structures (and vice versa). ; Animal Behavior: Sunflowers were grown in pots in the campus greenhouse. During the Animal Behavior lab, pots of sunflowers were placed in several locations on campus that differed in various conditions. Students counted

pollinator visits to each group of flowers, compared the visit counts between locations, and considered the factors that influence pollinator activity. Basic Sculpture and Introduction to to Sculpture (3-credit Art and GE course): Students researched pollinators and then created a low-relief sculpture of a pollinator or pollinator plant. Students then made a mold of their sculptures, then used their mold to press soil, compost, and native and local pollinator meadow seeds into a polliantor seed mosaic tile. These seedy tiles were then placed outside on campus to germinate.

Service-Learning

Our Service Learning Coordinator was on medical leave and then left campus. A new person in this role began a few weeks ago.

Educational Signage

No new signage was installed during 2021, either temporary or permanent.

Policies & Practices

This is not presently an area of focus.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: IPM Plan.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List: Pollinator Habitat Plant List from the Campus Pollinator Habitat Plan.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: Local Plant Sources List.pdf

Learn More