

Bee Campus USA - Nash Community College

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Vegetable, flower, and herb gardens were enhanced on campus. Disease plants around campus were removed and replaced with healthy plants. One swarm hive was captured and added to the garden apiary. Off campus, we helped enhance the fruit orchard and gardens and Nashville Elementary, which are used to educate students about pollinators and pollinator friendly practices. Bee hives at the Nash County Arboretum and Agricultural Center were maintained by Bee Campus members. Pollinator friendly lawns were created/enhanced as a “No Mow” initiative. Two rain gardens were added to improve stormwater handling and to support ongoing environmental enhancements on the college campus. These new additions, along with the restoration of an existing swale, will alleviate nutrient and sediment pollution of a creek located near the college. The plants that were added to the gardens attract even more pollinators to the grounds.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

11

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

15000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

50

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting

- Rain garden/bioswale
- School garden



Simon Gregg (left), Kris Bass Engineering Project Engineer, and Robert Osborne (right), Backwater Environmental President, look over the first of two rain gardens during a site visit to the Nash Community College.



The rain garden was planted with eastern white pine, broomrape, pink muhly grass, Joe-pye weed, Star's Fall, common milk, black-eyed Susan, cardinal flower, and purple coneflower, surrounded by highly-eroded hardwood mulch. The sloping and curved border garden also features a river rock path. This picture was captured in the winter, but it is quite beautiful in the spring and summer.



The second rain garden is located in a low-lying area at the Early College High School, located at the back of NCC's campus. The low grassy area has a drain in the middle, so it feeds into the underground network of storm drains. It catches runoff and sediment from the parking lot, so this prevents standing water on the parking lot and sidewalk.

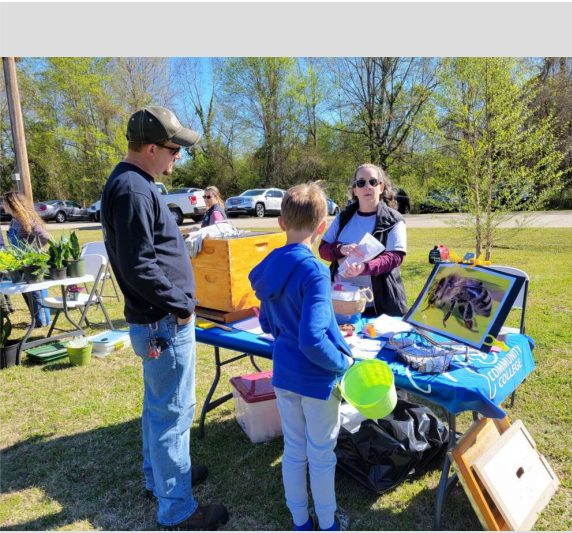
Education & Outreach

Eggciting Saturday (Town of Nashville, NC) – A community outreach event in the spring of 2022 that allowed community partners to interact with and teach local children and families. Bee campus members educated locals on bee keeping practices and local pollinators, and distributed wildflower seeds. EcoExplore (Nash Community College/Town of Nashville, NC) – An innovative program developed by the North Carolina Arboretum that encourages kids to explore the outdoors and participate in citizen science. Christine Ricci lead this opportunity with residents of the town of Nashville. Tree Hike (Nash Community College) – Christine Ricci accompanied staff and students on a hike around the Nash Community College trail and discussed local pollinators and plant practices. Professional Development Talk (Nash Community College) – What are these pretty trees and flowers? (Nash Community College) – Biology instructor, Christine Ricci, escorted a group of Nash CC faculty and staff around campus and identified campus flora. She also discussed how to incorporate native flora into their yards. Arbor Day (Nash Community College/Town of Nashville, NC) – Nash Community College hosted a tree-planting event in celebration of Arbor Day. This even took place at Nashville Elementary School and was attended by Nash CC students, staff, faculty, community members and elementary students. Elementary school students help plant two pear trees on the elementary school grounds, and potted lemon, avocado, and banana trees. During the ceremony, the Town of Nashville added a bluebird house to the elementary school grounds.

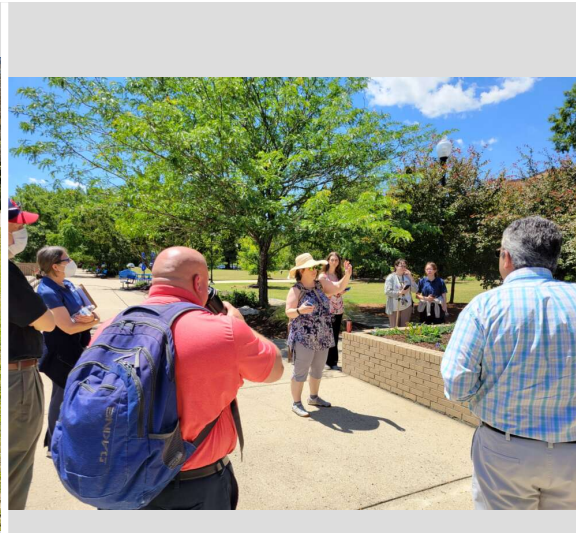
How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?



Christine Ricci, Biology instructor, discusses bee keeping practices with Nashville residents.



Christine Ricci, Biology instructor, discusses campus flora with college faculty and staff.



Nashville Elementary students planting a tree on Arbor Day.

Courses & Continuing Education

Continuing Education Course: HOR 245 (Spring 2021) – Horticulture Curriculum Course: BIO 110 (Spring and Fall 2021) – Principles of Biology Curriculum Course: BIO 112 (Spring and Fall 2021) – General Biology II Ken White, the college landscape specialists, teaches a Continuing Education Horticulture course. This course targets local citizens. Along with landscaping and grounds-keeping practices, students learn about important local pollinators and their habitats. They also learn about safe pest management practices. Lettie Allen, a biology instructor, incorporates pollinator behavioral studies and plant and pollinator relationships into the General Biology I and II curriculum. Christine Ricci, a biology instructor, includes pollinator studies and pollinator habitat preservation into the Principles of Biology curriculum. As a part of this course, she and Ken white introduce students to bee-keeping and their importance as pollinators.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information last year?

2

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

150

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information last year?

1

How many participants attended those courses?

20

Service-Learning

Educational Signage

Pardon the Weeds sign addition – These temporary signs are moved around campus to areas that are flowering. Grounds-keeping allows these areas to over-grow in order to feed our local pollinators. During this time, the overgrowth may not be aesthetically pleasing, so we ask visitors to please excuse the overgrowth so we can help our local pollinators.

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

6

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed last year?

2



"Pardon the weeds. We're feeding the bees."

Policies & Practices

Integrated pest management is always used throughout our campus. Any pollinator gardens or vegetable gardens are totally controlled organically. Glyphosate is used sparingly and is the only herbicide used on campus. We use mulch as a weed suppressant. We directly treat individual fire ant hills. There is no broadcast application of chemicals.

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

Yes

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

We currently do not use any chemicals that require training or certification; however, we continue to research practices that will enable us to exercise appropriate, ecologically-based, and safe Integrated Pest Management on campus.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://ipm.ces.ncsu.edu/ipm-honey-bees/>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://ncbg.unc.edu/plants/resources-for-gardeners/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://ncbg.unc.edu/plants/resources-for-gardeners/>



Certain areas on campus are no longer treated with herbicide or mowed in order to allow the weed and native vegetation to grow and feed our local pollinators.

Learn More

<https://www.nashcc.edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nashcommunitycollege>

<https://www.instagram.com/nashbio>

Nash Community College Bee Campus Committee - 2022



Covington, Adrienne
V.P., Finance/CFO



Ricci, Christine
Instructor, Biology



White, Ken
Master Gardener/Instructor



Allen, Lettie
Instructor, Biology



Christine Ricci



Ken White



Lettie Allen



This photo includes all current Nash CC Bee Campus members and their positions at the college.