

# Bee Campus USA - Randolph College

Report on 2022

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Randolph College staff continues regular maintenance and enhancement of pollinator habitats as needed. Our Organic Garden and Pollinator Garden were enhanced by staff and students during the Spring and Fall sessions of our organic gardening class. The Pollinator Garden was also expanded during our annual Earth Day celebration with a new section of native plants added. Herb and vegetable gardens were planted and shared by the community, manual invasive and exotic species removal was performed, trees in our orchard and food forest were pruned to promote healthy growth, and seeds sourced from our gardens the previous year were spread in our meadow and gardens.

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

2

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

2000

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

55

*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
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Volunteers helped winterize the pollinator garden and collect seeds.



Collecting seeds from the pollinator garden to save for Spring '23.

## Education & Outreach

The first event was the annual Earth Day Celebration on campus. Students were able to help with an expansion of our Pollinator Garden while learning about native species and take a small plant home from our give-away. Native pollinator plants were purchased from a local plant nursery and students were able to plant native plants in the pollinator garden. Members of the community also set up tables with outreach and educational information such as the Lynchburg Water Resources (water conservation) and a local nonprofit farm Lynchburg Grows. We also had videos being posted on social media so that commuter and virtual students could attend and learn about the benefits of pollinator gardens and sustainable landscaping. The second event was a seed harvesting event in November where volunteers collected seeds from our pollinator garden. Volunteers learned about basic pruning techniques and how to properly save seeds. The collected seeds were saved for future years and also distributed to community members to increase pollinator friendly plants in their yards.

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

2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

130



## Courses & Continuing Education

Introductory Biology, Evolution, Zoology, Zoology Laboratory, Botany, Botany Laboratory, Economic Botany, Developmental Biology, Ecology, Ecology Laboratory, Animal Behavior, Animal Behavior Laboratory, Principles of Conservation Biology (one-time course by guest faculty), Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Economics, Environmental Science: Systems and Solutions, The Ecosphere and Environmental Issues, The Ecosphere and Environmental Issues Laboratory, Quantitative Aspects of Global Environmental Problems, Research Design and Geographic Information Systems, Sustainability Principles and Practice, Climate Dynamics and Global Change, Laboratory in Climate Dynamics and Global Change, Environmental Problems: History and Culture, Natural History Collections, Collections Management, Environmental Philosophy, and Organic Gardening (physical education course 0.5 credit offered each semester).

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

**28**

*How many students attended those for-credit courses?*

**230**

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

*How many participants attended those courses?*



Photo of students in the Organic Gardening course preparing the Randolph College Organic Garden for the growing season.

## Service-Learning

Students and community members had the opportunity to participate in 2 different workdays at our Pollinator Garden. We hosted a garden clean-up to help eliminate invasive species, staff were able to teach students proper removal methods and why removal is important. We were also able to identify some of the pollinator species in the garden while we worked. Students in the organic gardening course were able to participate in a winter preparation workday to get the garden ready for the cold weather. The involved students learned about seed saving, pollinator life cycles, how pollinators overwinter, and the benefits of native plant species. Plant identification was of great interest to these students and they showed their knowledge by continuing to identify plants while they cut back the garden.

*How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on and off-campus?*

2

*How many students participated in service-learning projects last year to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?*

10



Photo of students working hard when weeding the organic garden



Students learning about sustainable/organic gardening methods in the fall organic gardening course.

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## Educational Signage

A new campus nature program was launched for our community by a group of students which encourages people to spend time outdoors and educates them about the mental and physical health benefits that can be gained from this interaction with the environment; 5 educational signs were installed in new locations. These signs have been a valuable addition to our campus, community members have been seen spending more time outdoors and interest in our pollinator habitats has increased.

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

**10**

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

**5**



Sign located in front of the pollinator garden.



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## Policies & Practices

Randolph College has eliminated all pesticide and herbicide use in sensitive locations and on our lawns, due to this elimination the lawns are now a composition of different fescues, clover, dandelion, false strawberry, and other flowering “weeds.” The remaining locations where pesticides and herbicides are used are consistent with our written IPM. The lawns also continue to be maintained at a taller height and mowing starts later in the Spring to ensure pollinators proper time to overwinter. The community has expressed an interest in learning more about alternative pest control methods; our Organic Garden and Pollinator Gardens are demonstration sites for these practices with hands-on learning experiences. By planting species that attract parasitic insects between and around vegetable plants, we have created a more visually appealing vegetable garden while eliminating the need for pesticide uses. Staff removed trees with Emerald Ash Borer infestations and replaced them with native species including redbud trees and flowering dogwood trees.

*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)
- 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
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds 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?*  
**Not at this time. In the future, our Bee Campus Committee will be advocating to increase the amount of “no mow” zones on campus.**

*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?*

**Members of our Bee Campus Committee have attended webinars from Xerces on “Reducing Reliance on Pesticides.” Our grounds keeping staff have been a part of the Bee Campus Committee to help integrate ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management practices on campus.**

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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Learn More

<https://www.randolphcollege.edu/sustainability/supporting-pollinators/sustainability@randolphcollege.edu>

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

[https://www.instagram.com/sustainability\\_at\\_randolph](https://www.instagram.com/sustainability_at_randolph)