

Bee Campus USA - Raritan Valley Community College

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Two student interns created two new planting beds at 74 Lamington. They planted *Achillea millefolium*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Lobelia siphilitica*, and *Pycnanthemum muticum*. We also conducted our annual Campus Cares plantings, which focused on planters around the campus and large beds outside the Planetarium. Plantings included sunflowers grown in the College's new greenhouse and selected to have an astronomical theme by the Planetarium.

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

4

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

800

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

24

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

- Flower garden



Center for Environmental Studies interns Tanna Mayfield and Haley Weber plant in their new pollinator garden beds at 74 Larrington Rd, the new home of the BVCC Foundation.



The Campus Cares planting crew at the Workforce building, planting in self-watering containers.



The Campus Cares planting crew at the front of the college, planting in beds and planters.

Education & Outreach

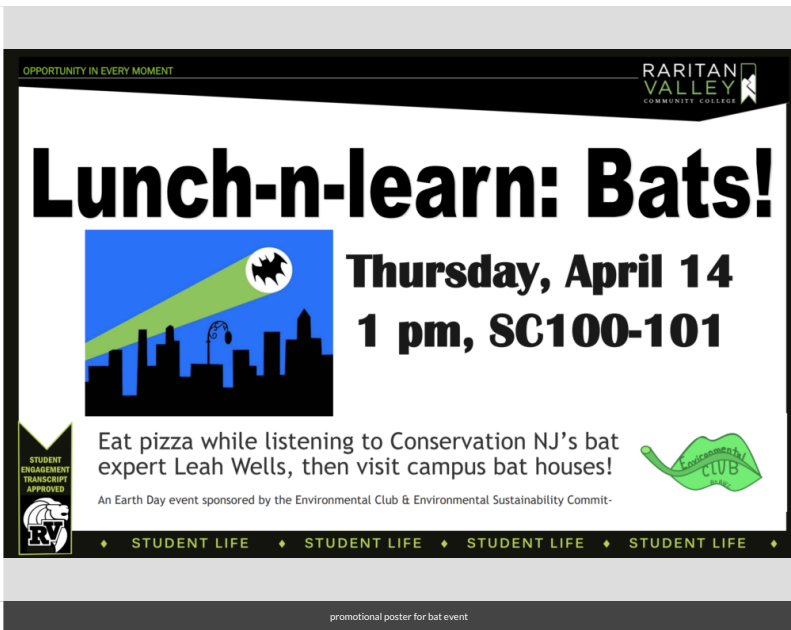
For an Earth Day Event on April 14th, Conservation Foundation of NJ Wildlife Biologist Leah Wells gave a presentation about bats and then we walked out to observe (empty) campus bat houses. The event was co-sponsored by the Environmental Club and the Environmental Sustainability Committee. Title: "Creatures of the Night: The Bats of New Jersey" Join Conserve Wildlife Foundation biologist Leah Wells on talk exploring common myths and misconceptions about bats, the current threats they face, and discuss what you can do to help them. Bats often get a bad rap, but they are among the most beneficial animals for humans. They provide free pest control (a little brown bat can eat up to 3000 insects a night) and indirectly help our health, agriculture, and water quality. Today many New Jersey bats are struggling to survive. Sixteen years ago a fungus attacked hibernating bats, leading to a disease known as white-nose syndrome. The disease disrupts hibernation, causing bats to use up their vital energy needed to survive the winter.

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

1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

30



promotional poster for bat event



The Campus Cares planting crew by the Planetarium flower beds, with educational signage in background.

Courses & Continuing Education

ENVI 102 (Environmental Science and Sustainability) students learn about the benefits of rain gardens for stormwater mitigation as well as providing habitat for pollinators and wildlife. The students are trained in rain garden maintenance and perform several hours of maintenance in rain gardens on campus and in the local community. Maintenance activities involve removing invasive species so that perennial native wildflowers are able to persist and attract pollinators. The Botany and Ecology courses also cover material on pollinator plants, including landscape ecology and modern environmental problems, plant ecology, and conservation. The Plants, Humans & the Environment course covers the effects of human activities on plants and the environment. These are all for-credit courses.

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

5

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

180

Service-Learning

ENVI 102 students learn about the benefits of rain gardens for stormwater mitigation as well as providing habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Typically, the students are trained in rain garden maintenance and perform several hours of

maintenance in rain gardens on campus and in the local community. Maintenance activities involve removing invasive species so that perennial native wildflowers are able to persist and attract pollinators.

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

1

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

20

Educational Signage

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

2

Policies & Practices

This past year we had a small infestation of oleander aphids on milkweed and sunflower plants by the planetarium. After consulting with our local nursery, we sprayed water on the plants to dislodge some of the aphids and ordered green lacewing larvae. Student interns from the Center for Environmental Studies applied the larvae to the infested plants. The plants survived!

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
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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

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?

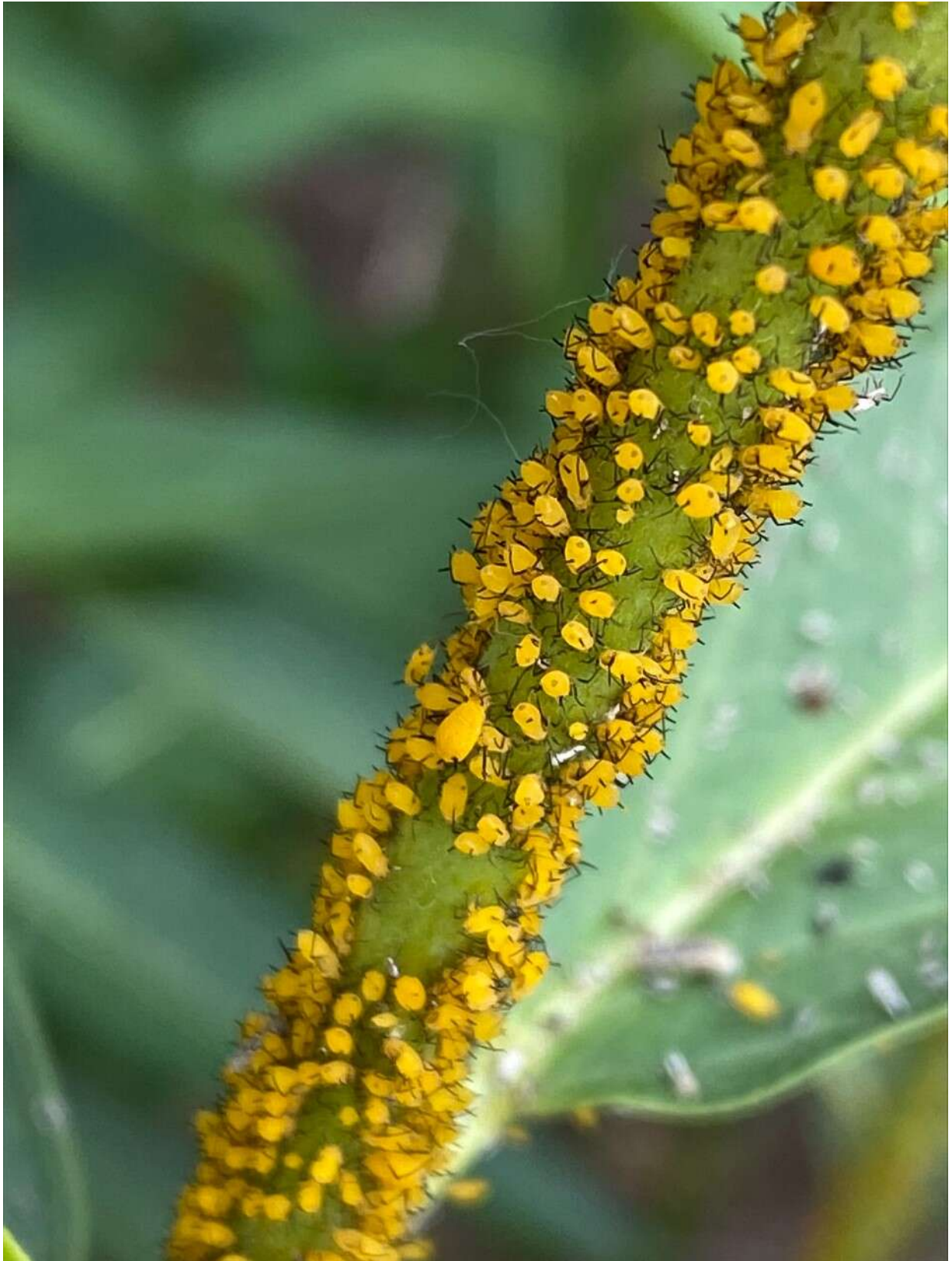
RVCC adopted an IPM plan back in 2010 as part of our River Friendly campus certification. We were advised by scientists at the NJ Water Supply Authority (which runs the program) in developing our plan. We regularly ask them for advice on environmentally-friendly ways to address pest issues and for recommendations for managing our athletic fields. We recertified as River Friendly in 2022.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [ipm_plan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.raritanval.edu/sites/default/files/aa_PDF%20Files/8.x%20General%20Information/RVCC%20Native%20Pollinator%20Plant%20List.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Aphids on a milkweed plant. We bought green lacewing larvae (through the mail) and applied them to the affected plants to hatch and then eat the aphids.

Learn More

<https://www.raritanval.edu/general-information/national-recognition/sustainability>
susan.dorward@raritanval.edu

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