

Bee Campus USA - University of Alabama at Birmingham

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

We arranged volunteer days to help bring awareness to the importance of pollinator gardens. Volunteers helped clear invasive species, and prepped the soil for native plants. During the volunteer event, native plants that were already present had their seeds collected. The seeds were propagated indoors during the winter to prepare to be planted in the Spring. Two pollinator gardens have been specifically designated as Monarch Waystations. Various types of milkweed along with native flowers were planted to encourage more pollinators to the area. Additional flower beds were added to the existing garden that were designated for native wildflowers and grasses. Our university vegetable garden is maintained by the university staff, and it helps attract more pollinators. Community gardens are rented to students and staff of the university to grow plants for pollinators to interact with. New “plant maps” have been made to spread awareness of natives already planted in the area and improve upon existing gardens.

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

6

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

47500

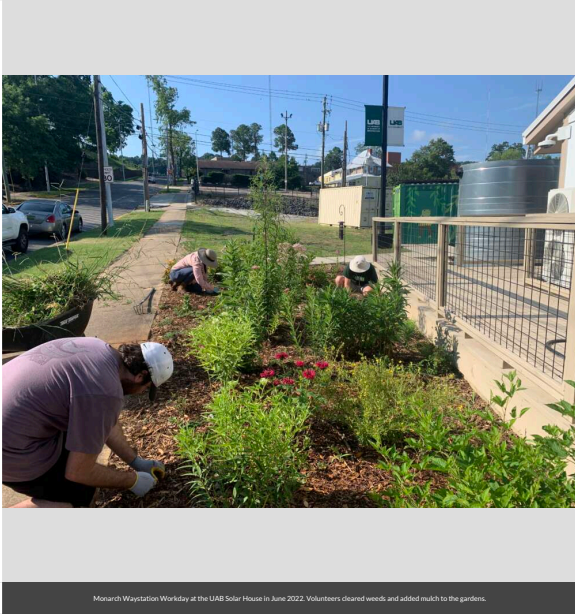
How many volunteers helped with those projects?

90

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
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- 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



Monarch Waystation Workday at the UAB Solar House in June 2022. Volunteers cleared weeds and added mulch to the gardens.



UAB Honors College students maintaining the second Monarch Waystation on campus.



UAB student volunteers adding mulch to the UAB Solar House's new perennial garden in July 2022. This garden features native perennial, annual, and native milkweed.

Education & Outreach

In the last year, we hosted two art exhibits, four volunteer events, and three educational events. The first art exhibit was named “I_Butterfly,” a nationwide festival of self-guided bike tours that follow the Monarch butterfly migratory paths. The UAB Department of Art and Art History partnered with local high school students to illustrate and reflect upon this study of Monarch migration. The second art exhibit featured art from UAB’s Bloom Studios titled “Alabama Pollinators” that depicted pollinators found in the state of Alabama. The art was created using all-natural materials, including pigments, paper, and string handmade from plants and minerals native to Alabama. Two of the four volunteer events were for maintaining the Monarch Waystations on campus. This involved removing invasive weeds, adding mulch, and pruning native plants. The other volunteer events were for adding an additional pollinator plot. The first event allowed us to remove the existing ornamental grasses, add dirt, and level the plot. The second event was when the actual planting occurred. We introduced many native perennial plants as well as some annuals to encourage pollination. Regarding the events, we partnered with a local organization, Legacy Partners in Environmental Education, to host a K-12 educator workshop called “Bats, Bees, and Butterflies,” which focused on education and lesson resources about the important roles of these animals in our environment. Another was a part of ASES National Solar Tour that features solar sites across the country. We conducted tours of our Sustainable Community, including the UAB Community Gardens and Monarch Waystation, and hosted a native plant sale and gave away free native milkweed seeds. Lastly, we host an annual tree seedling giveaway around the time of Arbor Day. All the trees and native and we have tree experts there to educate and

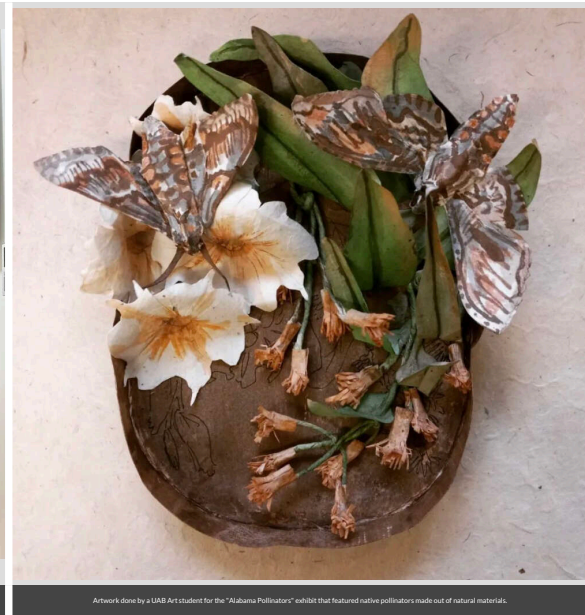
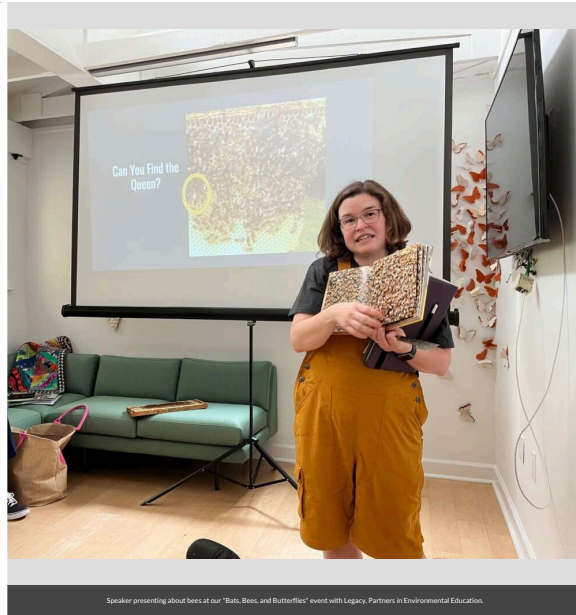
answer any questions attendees have regarding trees in Alabama.

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

9

How many people attended those events (in total)?

350



Courses & Continuing Education

Undergraduate courses focus primarily on plant development and chemical signaling. Human population and climate courses discuss the importance of understanding how climate change can cause extinction of certain plants and disrupt the pollinator and human interactions. Several genetic courses offer the ability to identify plants and their pollen and thereby identify what pollinators may contribute to the reproduction of the plants life cycle. Graduate courses of biology are more focused on not only local ecology, but also ecology of many different habitats across the globe. Aside from opportunities to travel to these different habitats, graduates are given the opportunities to learn about chemical interactions between plants and pollinators, how cutting edge technology can help with local conservation efforts, and how species adapt to their environment using a biochemical approach.

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

9

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

1250

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

5

How many participants attended those courses?

40

Service-Learning

A group of students from UAB Honors College engaged in a service-learning project about trees on campus. They each identified the trees on campus, gathered measurements, and noted the health of the trees. Additionally, business students from an Environmental Economics course participated in a service-learning in which they helped construct compost bins and compile educational content surrounding composting. The compost material will be added to the community gardens and native perennial gardens when ready to promote healthy plants.

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?

20

Educational Signage

The UAB Sustainable Community invested in self-guided educational signage that discusses the features of the community, including a sign near the UAB Community Garden and bee hives. It mentions the decline of bees and importance of them to the global food supply.

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

1



Permanent sign at the UAB Community Garden that mentions the campus bee hives and their importance.

Policies & Practices

The gardens at the UAB Sustainable Community are pesticide-free and there are signs that indicate the pesticide-free zones. Gardeners who rent a plot at the UAB Community Garden must sign a plot agreement saying they will not use pesticides.

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

- 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)
- 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?

UAB's Sustainability Strategic Plan outlines 13 objectives that aim to make the university more sustainable by 2025. The Grounds and Waste objective works to develop the university grounds for ecological stewardship by designing and managing landscapes to support native plant populations and integrated pest management.

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?

N/A

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UAB Solar House IPM.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TdYYyfPMeQ6LnceF7edf3HvpsEbOxLM7CzrUxNg6hIU/edit?usp=sharing>

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



"Do Not Spray" pesticide-free zone signage at the UAB Community Gardens.

Learn More

<https://www.uab.edu/sustainability/solar-house-community>

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

<https://www.instagram.com/uabsolarhouse/?hl=en>