

# Bee Campus USA - University of Oregon

Report on 2022



## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Bee Friendly Committee orchestrated a three-part habitat restoration and outreach event involving work sessions for weeding, creating signage, and planting native forbs along a busy bike path through the UO campus. The Bee Friendly Committee purchased a garden bed at the UO Grove Community Garden and seeded it with pollinator-friendly plants with help from students. The SSC Grove Garden and Bee Friendly Committee collaboratively hosted a pollinator-friendly planting party at the Grove Community Garden to celebrate Earth Week. Volunteers weeded the edges of the garden and planted native flowering plants to support a thriving population of native pollinators. The Bee Friendly Committee and Student Sustainability Center organized a two-part habitat restoration project along the millrace. The first work session involved removing Himalayan blackberry to prepare the area for planting. A couple of weeks later, we planted more than one hundred plants, including snowberry, Oregon grape, and salal.

*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?*

2000

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

45

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

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Bee Friendly Committee and Volunteers seed a bed at the Grove Community Garden. PC Annabelle Hurley



Volunteers work alongside UO groundskeepers to plant native forbs along the millrace. PC Annabelle Hurley

## Education & Outreach

The Bee Friendly Committee orchestrated a three-part habitat restoration and outreach event involving work sessions for weeding, creating signage, and planting native forbs along a busy bike path through the UO campus. The Bee Friendly Committee partnered with UO Urban Farm Director Harper Keeler to remove and cut introduced Japanese knotweed into nesting tubes for mason bees with volunteers. The Bee Friendly Committee hosted a movie night featuring the PBS film "My Garden of a Thousand Bees," which follows a wildlife filmmaker as he documents the native bees in his yard. The Bee Friendly Committee purchased a garden bed at the UO Grove Community Garden and seeded it with pollinator-friendly plants with help from students. The Bee Friendly Committee and Student Sustainability Center collaboratively took UO students up to the roof of the Erb Memorial Union to harvest honey from three bee hives there. Students got to wear bee suits, extract the comb, and taste fresh honey. Volunteers of the Student Sustainability Center organized a honey processing workshop, teaching students how to extract and filter honey. The honey was later distributed to students who helped with harvesting and processing, as well as other staff and partners of the Student Sustainability Center. The Bee Friendly Committee and Student Sustainability Center organized a two-part habitat restoration project along the millrace.

The first work session involved removing Himalayan blackberry to prepare the area for planting. A couple of weeks later, we planted two hundred plants, including snowberry, Oregon grape, and salal. The Student Sustainability Center organized service projects for 100 professional staff of universities in the Pacific Northwest Region who attended the Association of College Unions International conference. Attendees made mason bee homes, hummingbird feeder kits, packets of milkweed and lupine seeds, and other outreach materials such as pollinator pamphlets and buttons. These materials help support our work at the SSC and will be distributed to students and the wider-Eugene community. The Pollinator Program Lead of the SSC contextualized these projects by explaining the significance of the targeted species—mason and leafcutter bees, hummingbirds, monarchs, and fender's blue butterflies—and their ecosystem functions.

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

**14**

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

**189**

---

## Courses & Continuing Education

Several courses in the biology department teach a unit on bees including Animal Behavior, Foundations of Biology, Pollination Biology, Conservation Biology, Field Botany, and Field Entomology. We keep a glass-fronted honeybee hive with a dedicated live-streaming webcam in a biology lab for teaching purposes. The Pollination Biology course focuses on bees and other pollinators as well as the plants that are pollinated. In Conservation Biology, we focus on native bees as a case study for threats to biodiversity (habitat loss and degradation, chemical pollutants, invasive species and pathogens, climate change) and illustrate how impacts to some species have outsized effects (keystone species and the loss of pollinators). The Environmental Studies Department includes pollinators in some of their courses as well, including Environmental and Ecological Monitoring, which teaches field data collection methods including pollinator surveys. In this course, a team of students and 1 graduate student worked with personnel from Whitewater Ranch to 1) research and present recommendations to the farm's owners on pollinator-friendly farm certification programs, and 2) write a pollinator management plan for the farm. A new team of students is continuing the project in the spring. The Landscape Architecture Department offers a course called The Urban Farm, which is offered every term and has an annual enrollment of about 325 students. This hands-on class teaches students how to grow food and the central role of pollinators in this activity.

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

**700**



Students of the Environmental Leadership course gather plant phenology data with Entomologist Lauren Ponisio. PC Ben Madrid

## Service-Learning

The Urban Farm class includes a service learning requirement through which students participate in a number of nonprofit garden projects, many of which focused on food insecurity. Many students outside of the class also earn service learning credit by working at the Urban Farm growing food for the Campus Food Pantry. By giving students the opportunity to work in the garden, they learn first-hand the importance of a healthy pollinator community to grow the food that we eat and share. The Environmental Leadership Program, run by the UO Environmental Studies Program, partners with

Whitewater Ranch, an organic blueberry farm, to restore riparian habitat and conduct pollinator surveys.



The Promoting Pollinators team at Whitewater Ranch completes a pollinator survey in the blueberry fields. PC Ben Madrid

## Educational Signage

The Bee Friendly Committee installed temporary signage at its planting party on the bike path which identified the plantings with their common and scientific names. The signs also included an illustration of the plant in bloom and a fun fact.

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

10



## Policies & Practices

The UO continues its commitment to Integrated Pest Management and considers pesticide use a last resort when other options have been exhausted. We continue to create and maintain native habitat spaces in which pesticides are not used including pocket pollinator plots, large set-backs along the historic millrace that runs through campus and riparian areas along the Willamette river. Landscape Architecture faculty research alternative mowing practices as they relate to pollinator protection and habitat creation in proximity to the river. Goats have been used for invasive plant removal in riparian areas.

*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
- 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
- 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?*

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [integrated\\_pest\\_management\\_plan\\_v\\_1.5-final-web-version-11-14-2017.pdf](https://safety.uoregon.edu/sites/safety1.uoregon.edu/files/integrated_pest_management_plan_v_1.5-final-web-version-11-14-2017.pdf)  
[https://safety.uoregon.edu/sites/safety1.uoregon.edu/files/integrated\\_pest\\_management\\_plan\\_v\\_1.5-final-web-version-1](https://safety.uoregon.edu/sites/safety1.uoregon.edu/files/integrated_pest_management_plan_v_1.5-final-web-version-1)

[1-14-2017.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

---

Learn More

<https://emu.uoregon.edu/sustainability>  
[sscpollinators@uoregon.edu](mailto:sscpollinators@uoregon.edu)

[https://instagram.com/uo\\_ssc](https://instagram.com/uo_ssc)