

# Bee Campus USA - Lower Columbia College

Report on 2023

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

*Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.*

Most events not led by our committee focused only on mason bee nest tubes and harvesting the tubes early so only mason bees could be collected. Our "mason bee" nest houses were left out all season (April – September) and offered a variety of diameter tubes to satisfy all solitary cavity nesting bees and wasps (e.g., grass wasps) and not just mason bees. We also weeded/maintained our native plant beds in our campus garden to promote consistent pollen and nectar resources.

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?*

1

*How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?*

12

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

200

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

- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- School garden



Sweat bee (*Halictus* sp.) approaching Henderson's Checkermallow (*Sidalcea hendersonii*) growing in the campus garden. Photo by Abigail Schroeder



Corner of campus garden showing debris pile in foreground, spirea and narrow-leaved milkweed in clump to left, and snowberry and Nootka rose along the fence in the back. Photo by Louis LaPierre.

## Education & Outreach

*Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.*

The following were hosted by our committee: (1) During Earth Week (on April 25) we hosted a workshop describing the steps LCC takes to conserve our native bees, including creating safe habitats and how are actions also help other pollinators including butterflies and moths as well as the non-native honey bee. (2) Also during Earth Week (on April 26) we shared information about our recent certification as a Bee Campus (and informational Xerces Society books were available for folks to peruse). Information about Bee Campus was provided, and we displayed a map of one of our newer buildings (Health & Sciences) to show the intentional native plant landscaping that takes place on campus. The following were NOT hosted by our committee but were available to our community: Our Cowlitz County WSU Extension office (Master Gardeners) provided a number of workshops between Feb – Dec on mason bees, pollinators and "pest-fighting" insects, controlling weeds, reducing or eliminating pesticides.

*How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?*

3

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

50

*Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2023?*



Earth Week (April 2023) on campus - Bee Campus information (and Arbor Day, too). Photo by Amber Lemiere



## Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

*Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2023, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.*

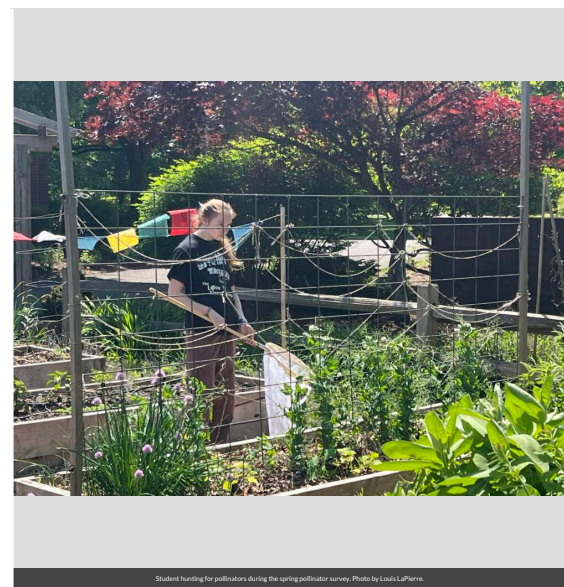
**For-credit environmental science and biology students: (1) dissected previous-season's cavity nest tubes to record community diversity and 'fate' of mason bees, parasitoids, inquilines, scavengers, etc. (2) constructed and installed new cavity-nesting solitary bee and wasp nest houses and (3) conducted spring pollinator diversity survey in our campus garden.**

*How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?*

3

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

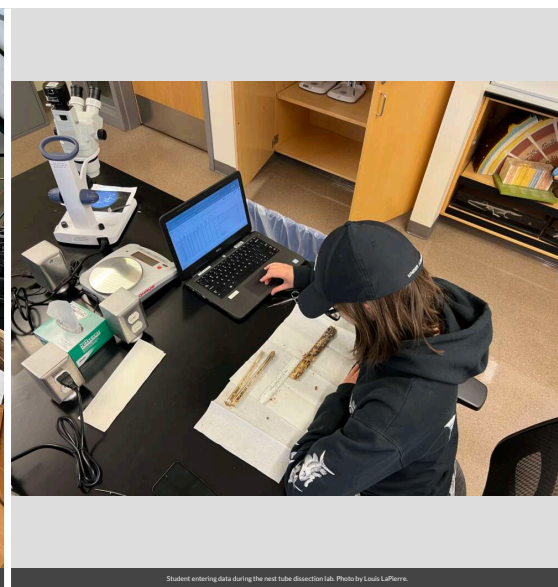
65



Student hunting for pollinators during the spring pollinator survey. Photo by Louis LaPierre.



Students assembling cavity nesting bee and wasp houses. Photo by Louis LaPierre.



Student entering data during the nest tube dissection lab. Photo by Louis LaPierre.

## Policies & Practices

*Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.*

**We continued our practice of eliminating pesticides in some campus areas (primarily in our campus garden) and**

following our IPM plan to reduce pesticides elsewhere on campus.

*In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?*  
**We are unaware of any 2023 policy initiatives.**

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*  
**No.**

*Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.*

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids



Some of the members of the 2023-2024 Bee Campus Committee. From Left: Louis LaPierre, Cassandra Rosebraugh, Natalie Tonn, Adrienne Godschalx, and Joy Yolangco. Photo by anonymous kind student willing to take the shot.

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM\\_LowerColumbiaCollege.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-maritime-northwest-region>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.watershedgardenworks.com/nursery>

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