

Bee Campus USA - Susquehanna University

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.

1. The campus garden is a vegetable and fruit garden that is continually refreshed. All work here is organic. 2. Wildflowers are cultivated along the road leading from the Freshwater Research Institute to the campus garden/greenhouse. 3. The 4.3-acre wet meadow is continually maintained and improved. 4. Paw-paw plantings continue and expand, as this is a native species and a good fit for many ecological, restoration, and food-based projects. 5. The meadow behind our Admissions building is maintained and improved. 6. The CEER stream buffer was maintained and improved. 7. The Shakespeare edible herb garden was maintained and improved. 8. Various smaller pollinator strips around campus were maintained and improved.

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

8

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

30

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

225000

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
- Herb garden
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Other



Education & Outreach

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

The Beekeeping Club hosted the movie “The Pollinators”, which was open to SU faculty and students and the local community. The Pollinators focused on migratory beekeeping and the efforts made to pollinate the food that we eat. It also highlighted the difficulties faced by beekeepers in the US. The Club also prepared and gave a presentation about beekeeping at the Selinsgrove branch of the Snyder County Library. The presentation was interactive and hands-on, included lots of beekeeping equipment, hive components, and honey tasting. The presentation was designed for and attended by kids in elementary through middle school. The Club participated in two events at the Center for Environmental Education and Research (CEER), with a focus on discussing the importance of pollinators, recruiting new member to the Club, and honey tastings. One of the events was associated with the CEER Open House, and the other with the SU Harvest Fest. The annual fall honey sale was also organized by the Beekeeping Club. We sold much of the 300 pounds of honey harvested during the summer and fall semester to the campus community. The remaining honey will be sold at a second sale, scheduled for the 2024 spring semester. The Beekeeping club had weekly meetings during the fall and spring semesters of 2023. During those meetings Club members learned about the importance of pollinators, got hands on experience working with bees, bottled honey, created labels for the club’s honey, painted honey supers, made lip balm with our hive’s wax, watched documentaries, and other activities.

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

20

How many people attended those events (in total)?

200

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

2



Activity Fair (credit: Derek Straub)



Bottling Honey (credit: Derek Straub)



Signage (credit: Derek Martin)

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.

There is a formal herbicide applicator's training provided to restoration interns for Chesapeake Conservancy that includes a certification.

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

1

How many participants attended those courses?

10

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 in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

30

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.

Beekeeping Club had various public events, in particular, the honey bottling was meant to simultaneously bring awareness of and support for pollinators on- and off-campus. The Club also conducted an event at the local library.



Honey Bottling Event (credit: Derek Straub) [note: all participants did not give permission to make this public]

Policies & Practices

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

IPM: We implemented a bee friendly IPM plan in 2019 and have been following it since. Avoiding pesticides: Some portions of campus (old farm fields) we have used mowing as a way to slowly eliminate and prevent unwanted (invasive) weeds. One example is mowing fields with poison hemlock more frequently and before it goes to seed to discourage it from spreading and other plants to take over. Athletics: Our focus is to use pesticides to promote safety for athletes and students or overall plant health. That is on everything from grass athletic fields, campus lawns, trees, shrubs and plant beds. This is not for aesthetic purposes, but functionality. Neonicotinoids: We were phasing out of neonicotinoids before we joined Bee Campus. Once we use up a particular product we haven't replaced it. As we have used up the inventory of these products, we have very carefully followed the label and guidelines to protect pollinators. Some methods have included but aren't limited to the following: Treat in areas and at times pollinators won't be active, split applications (use herbicides on flowering weeds 1 week or more before insecticide apps), etc.

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

Outside contractors work through us so practices related to pesticide use have been encouraged and followed.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

Matt Wilson (Freshwater Research Institute) and Matt Slingerland (Facilities) keep up to date with current thought and practices in this regard.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- 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
- 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

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Susquehanna University Integrated Pest Management Plan.pdf](https://www.susqu.edu/campus-life/our-campus-and-location/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives#bee)

<https://www.susqu.edu/campus-life/our-campus-and-location/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives#bee>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant List.pdf](https://www.susqu.edu/campus-life/our-campus-and-location/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives#bee)

<https://www.susqu.edu/campus-life/our-campus-and-location/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives#bee>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Pennsylvania Native Plant Nurseries.pdf](https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/LandscapingwithNativePlants/BuyNativePlants/Pages/default.aspx)

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