

Bee Campus USA - University of Tennessee at Martin

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.

Two plots were planted in February 2023, after preparing the sites throughout summer and fall 2022. One site is an approximately 1/5 acre plot adjacent to our campus pond (Pacer Pond), and the other is an approximately 1/3 acre plot at the northwest corner of campus, adjacent to two primary roads in the city of Martin. Seeds for the first plot were donated by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Biodiversity division, and seeds for the second were recommended by pollinator biologists with Quail Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Seeds for both plots were obtained from Roundstone Native Seed, a company specializing in native species and local ecotypes.

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

2

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

34

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

5

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

20000

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

- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



Social media post of photos from planting of 1/3 acre pollinator plot by our student Wildlife Society.

Education & Outreach

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

The committee oversaw two milkweed seed giveaway events for students on campus. Both of these events were conducted by our two campus Sustainability Center Interns at the campus University Center, during October, which is Campus Sustainability Month. Several dozen common and butterfly milkweed seed packets were given out; all seeds were collected locally by the Coordinator of the campus Sustainability Center. The Committee also liaised with Dr. Bethany Wolters, who had her Soil Conservation class pull invasive weeds from one of our new campus pollinator plantings.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

106

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

4

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

1

Monarchs are one of Tennessee's most popular pollinators, along with being on the endangered species list, so it is important that we protect them and increase awareness about their lives. One way that anyone can help monarchs is by planting milkweed. Since October is Sustainability Month, the UT Martin Center for Sustainability will be giving out milkweed seeds, so be on the lookout for more information about this event!



WHAT IS MILKWEED?

- Milkweed is the host plant to monarch caterpillars and plays a large role in their life cycle.
- One way you can help monarchs is by planting milkweed in late fall. This provides food for monarchs caterpillars that will emerge next year.
- Keep a close eye on these beauties, as they play a central role in pollination and helping out the ecosystem we live in.
- The UT Martin Center for Sustainability will have a booth set up in October to give away milkweed seeds, so be on the lookout for info!

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MONARCHS?

A social media post promoting milkweed and announcing a milkweed seed giveaway on 10/17/2023.

Quad City is tomorrow, and The Center for Sustainability would love to celebrate Homecoming and Campus Sustainability Month with everyone! Come out to see us at booth 19 from 10:30am-1:30pm to get free milkweed seeds and other goodies. We also have a survey you can complete to help us know more about what you want to see from The Center for Sustainability in the future.

QUAD CITY

Come celebrate homecoming and Campus Sustainability Month with The Center for Sustainability at Quad City! We will be giving away free milkweed seeds. Our booth is #19! We can't wait to help you learn about pollinators and what you can do to be more sustainable!

**OCTOBER 21
10:30AM-1:30PM**



This area has been designed as a

NO-MOW ZONE

Please pardon our weeds–We're feeding the bees!



Why is the grass taller here?

By delaying mowing and allowing the grass and natural vegetation to grow we are:

- Reducing fuel use to save money and the environment
- Increasing habitat for critters
- Promoting sustainable landscaping
- Encouraging native plant growth
- Providing an environment for observation and learning
- Improving stormwater runoff quality to our local waterways

UF MARTIN

A sign created to educate the public when delayed mowing is implemented for conservation of pollinator habitat.



UT Martin Center for Sustainability

Published by Instagram · September 20, 2023 ·



The Center for Sustainability would like to say a huge thank you to Dr. Bethany Wolters' SOIL 315 class for removing horse weed from the pollinator plots on campus. Your service has helped improve the health of our native wildflowers, and we look forward to seeing new species pop up in the future!



Social media post regarding students in Soil Conservation class removing invasive weeds from campus pollinator plot.



UT Martin Center for Sustainability

Published by Instagram · February 27, 2023



Great work this weekend for a @utmartin Day of Service. Volunteers helped us in our endeavors to be a home for pollinators and to enhance local biodiversity! 🐝🌱🦋



Social media post regarding planting of 1/5 acre pollinator plot as part of a campus-wide day of service.

Policies & Practices

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

Several dozen shrubs on campus killed by cold in winter 2022-2023 are being replaced with native shrubs attractive to pollinators and resistant to pests.

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

Campus Grounds is following our new Integrated Pest Management Plan, including decreasing use of neonicotinoid pesticides with an ultimate goal of phasing them out completely.

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



At our May 2024 meeting, our committee will review exemplary IPM plans, for models on how to efficiently phase out use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Results will be provided to the Campus Grounds Department.

Please check actions you have 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



Social media post regarding use of prescribed fire to maintain optimal pollinator habitat.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our
faculty and staff

The University Trio is presenting a program of music by women composers March 17 at 7:30 p.m., in Blankenship Recital Hall. Members of the trio are pianist Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, flutist Dr. Elizabeth Darling, free-lance musician, and clarinetist Dr. Christa Frey, adjunct professor of music at Bethel University. The program is in observance of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. The leading work on the program is "Equality Now" by Gwyneth Walker for trio and narrator. Henrietta Giles, lecturer in the Department of Communications, will be the primary narrator, assisted by Dr. Vicki Seng, associate provost, and Dr. Renee LaFleur, director of the Women's Center and professor of history. The work is a celebration of the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, in 1848. There is no admission fee.

Welcome New



TREE GIVING PROGRAM- Ashley Kite-Rowland, president of the Martin Tree Board, and her husband, Dr. Aaron Rowland, associate professor of sociology at UT Martin, donated the first tree in the new campus tree honorariums and memorials program, sponsored by the Center for Sustainability, in honor of the original Martin Tree Board founded in 1994. The Tulip Poplar tree was planted March 4 between Brehm Hall and the Hall-Moody Administration Building. UT Martin is designated as a Level 1 Arboretum by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council for having at least 30 trees planted and identified on campus. For more information on how to donate a memorial tree, visit utm.edu/sustainability or contact Dr. Eric Pelren, coordinator of the Center for Sustainability, at sustain@utm.edu. Pictured with the tree are (l-r) Chris Virgin, James Wick, Earl Wright, Guy Robbins, Dr. Aaron Rowland, Ashley Kite-Rowland, Ryan Morris, Dr. Eric Pelren and Dr. Greg Moore.

Although we do not have a current photo, the attached shows three of our four committee members. An updated photo is in the works!

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UTM IPM plan \(1\).docx](#)Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant List.docx](#)Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Plant Sources.docx](#)