

Bee Campus USA - Western Washington 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.

WWU students enhanced our herb garden, planting pollinator-friendly species like lavender, angelica, agrimony, lungwort, and mullein. Outback Farm staff also established a 225 square foot area of terraces that is now planted in pollinator-friendly flowers and amaranth.

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?

37

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

1

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

225

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
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Swallowtail butterfly in the WWU Outback Farm herb garden (Terri Kempton)



Bumblebee enjoying Angelica in a new WWU permaculture guild planting (Terri Kempton)



WWU student volunteer Kat Palmer brings in harvest from the WWU Outback Farm fields, which provides pollinator fuel. (Terri Kempton)

Education & Outreach

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

We maintained two honeybee hives, including several classes on beekeeping and enhancing pollinator habitat in our gardens and fields. Work parties that WWU hosted were held with students and community members to: – build mason bee houses – participate in hive inspections and beekeeping – harvest honey and distribute to students facing food insecurity – maintain garden beds – plant blueberries, salmonberries, and a huckleberry in our Forest Garden – conduct ecosystem restoration to remove invasive plants like lesser celedine and reed canary grass

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

7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

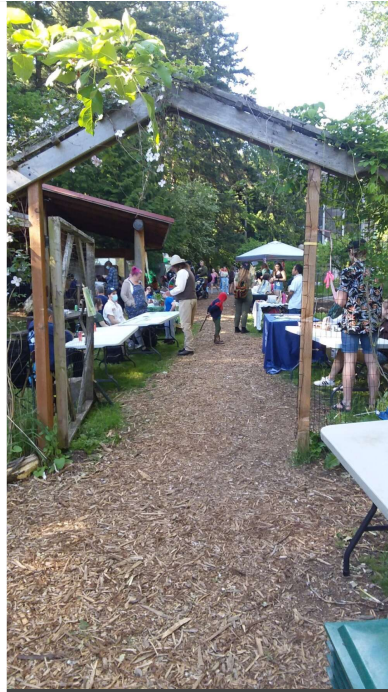
110

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

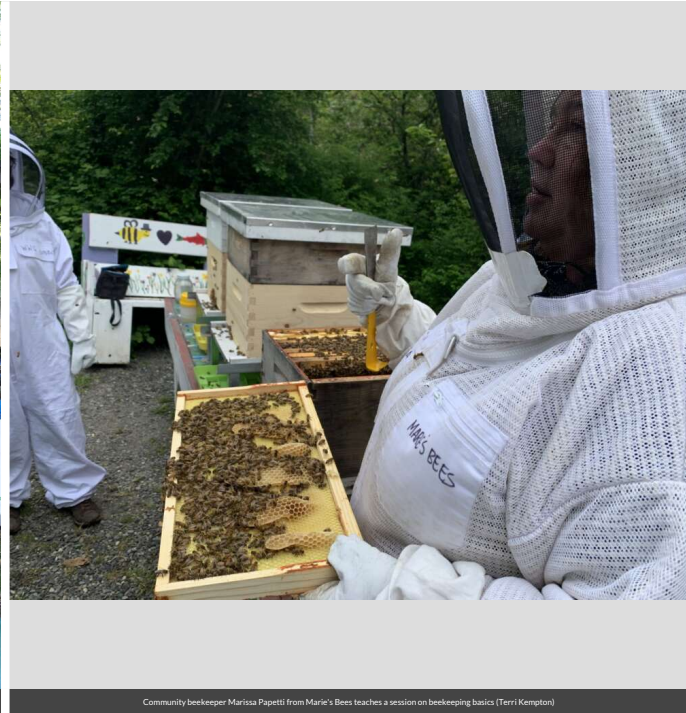
2



Student Jericho Leavitt joins community members at a WWU Outback Farm educational seminar (Terri Kempton)



WWU spring event with info tables at the Outback Farm (Terri Kempton)



Community beekeeper Marissa Papetti from Marie's Bees teaches a session on beekeeping basics (Terri Kempton)

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.

WWU curriculum includes five for-credit courses: Three quarters of Experiential Farm Skills participate in maintaining pollinator habitat and beekeeping (fall quarter we spend a week winterizing the hives; spring quarter includes several weeks on pollinators, honeybee biology, and beekeeping; summer quarter includes work in our herb and flower gardens and the honey harvest). Other courses are Global Biodiversity Conservation that teaches about pollinators, mutualism, and ecosystem services, and Entomology from the Biology Department. Overall, student interest remains high – WWU grad student Annie Jolliff discovered the presence of Western bumble bee on our campus, a species thought to be extinct. You can read more about her success here:

<https://news.wvu.edu/all-the-buzz-wwu-students-researching-regional-bumble-bee-populations>.

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

5

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

90

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on- and off- campus?

50

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

250

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

The Outback Farm hosts work parties once or twice a week that are attended by 2-25 students, depending on weather and schedule. We also have special sessions for larger projects like ecosystem restoration, invasives removal, planting, turning over fields in the spring, etc. WWU is also home to service learning groups focused on these areas like the Morse Leadership Institute and LEAD (Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery).



WWU Farm Skills class suits up to learn about beekeeping (Terri Kempton)



A summer WWU class on the Outback Farm prepares to harvest honey from the bees (Terri Kempton)



Honey harvested by WWU Farm Skills class is distributed to students facing food insecurity on campus (Terri Kempton)

Policies & Practices

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

Our Facilities Management team has long been ahead of the curve when it comes to restricting pesticides. It's been a joy to share news that our campus does not use neonicotinoids or glyphosate on our lawns and gardens. In 2023 our 5-acre organic Outback Farm was completely free of chemical pesticides, including sourcing organic seeds and starts.

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

WWU resides within the city of Bellingham, WA, which became a Bee City in 2020. Aside from abiding by those guidelines, we aren't aware of any policy initiatives to further protect our ecosystem from pesticides.

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

Integrated Pest Management is taught in two separate classes by Terri Kempton, a member of the Bee Campus committee.

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)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Our campus has been diligently trying to source sustainable funding for the Outback Farm, the center of our Bee Campus certification and management. We have found that sustainable funding, staffing, and attention will be required to further our progress as a Bee Campus.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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