

Bee City USA - Lynchburg

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.

NATIVE TREE PLANTING: In March 2023, approx. 3,200 native trees were planted in Lynchburg with funding for supplies from VDOF in conjunction with the City of Lynchburg's Urban Forester and Building & Grounds! **NO MOW ZONES:** Buildings & Grounds established or converted several areas to no mow zones, some being over-seeded with wildflowers, at various parks or natural areas within Lynchburg (with signage). Parks & Recreation pollinator habitat: Habitat areas were enhanced and/or maintained without chemicals. New plantings consisted of mostly native varieties along with some annual pollinator favorites. (signage added) Parks & Recreation community center vegetable gardens: Annual vegetable gardening continued using IPM practices. Blue Ridge Conservation weeded and removed non-native species from Pinkerton Pollinator Habitat area (spring and fall 2023). BRC also planted and weeded (via 3 sessions) at the Cemetery's Native Habitat Garden area (with signage) in 2023.

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

11

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

52

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

4

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

112207

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden

- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Natural Pollinator Habitat

Native bees, honey bees and other pollinators are experiencing declines due to habitat loss, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure. Their survival is essential to ecosystem biodiversity as well as our food supply as 1 out of every 3 bites of food is due to pollinators!

WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART by incorporating as many of the features below as possible into our landscapes:



FOOD: Choose native plants, caterpillar host plants, pollen and nectar rich flowers of various colors and shapes that bloom throughout the growing season; blooming herbs, vegetables, fruits and a safe water source. Leave seed heads intact during fall and winter.



SHELTER & NESTING: Provide access to pithy plant stems, bare soil, fallen leaves and brush piles.



PROTECTION: Avoid the use of ANY chemicals. Reduce light pollution.

Natural Habitats, No Mow Zones & Habitat Corridors of ANY size all support pollinators, beneficial insects and other wildlife. To learn more, please visit www.beecityusa.org or www.lynchburgparksandrec.com/bee-city-usa/



Education & Outreach

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

AN EVENING WITH DOUG TALLAMY: On September 28, 2023, members of the Lynchburg Bee City Committee, Lynchburg Parks and Recreation, Blue Ridge Conservation and the Piedmont Community Health Plan hosted internationally acclaimed, best-selling author, Doug Tallamy, at E.C. Glass High School. Doug signed books before delivering his astounding lecture in which he spoke about Nature's Best Hope, and how conservation can start with us and in our own yards! Attending vendors included Lynchburg Bee City USA, Blue Ridge Conservation, Rivermont Refillery, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center, Hill City Master Gardeners, Lynchburg Water Resources, Explore Nature by Nurture, Shrader Stone, Lynchburg Tree Stewards and Claytor Nature Center. EC Glass High School art students made papier-mâché native bees for the entrances and the EC Glass High School Culinary Arts Department baked cookies as refreshments. The Academy Center of the Arts hosted a juried Youth Pollinator Art Contest during the month of September and some of the entries were displayed at the event. This free and open to the public event was attended by over 600 people! **SIGNAGE:** Pollinator Habitat signage was placed at Percival's Island, Miller Center, the VA TECH Extension Office and Riverside Park. No Mow Zone, Pollinator Habitat in PROGRESS and Native Bee Nesting Site signage was also placed in the appropriate areas by the City of Lynchburg's Parks & Recreation Department. These placements are in high traffic parks and trail locations potentially reaching thousands per year. **BLUE RIDGE CONSERVATION** participated in Garden Day at Camp KUM-Ba-Yah Nature Center where books on gardening and native plants were available for sale as well as free educational handouts. BRC also participated in Garden Day at the Market providing educational handouts on native gardens and plantings. **LYNCHBURG GARDEN CLUB/Meghan Moss** (Project Leader) presents **BEES IN THE BURG:** Join us as we take you on an educational and fun scavenger hunt through the heart of Lynchburg. Your mission? Discover our 9 bronzed bees hidden across downtown. But that's not all—each bee site features a QR code bursting with knowledge about the native pollinator plants and trees surrounding each bee. Let these bees inspire you to transform your own garden into a haven for our native pollinator pals! **SPREADING THE BUZZ:** Paul Tabor, a local and passionate beekeeper loves sharing about bees. He and his wife, Stacy, support this passion by participating in many local Lynchburg area events, through her business selling honey and other bee/pollinator items, and by displaying their custom observation hives. These observation hives enable them to share, engage with and answer questions in what they call Spreading the Buzz. It truly is educational! They also provide handouts and other bee/pollinator related items to children.

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)?

670

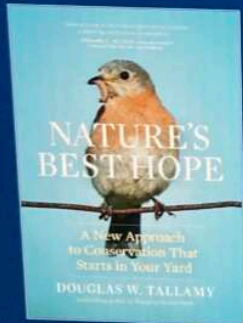
How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

4

An Evening with
New York Times
Best-Selling Author

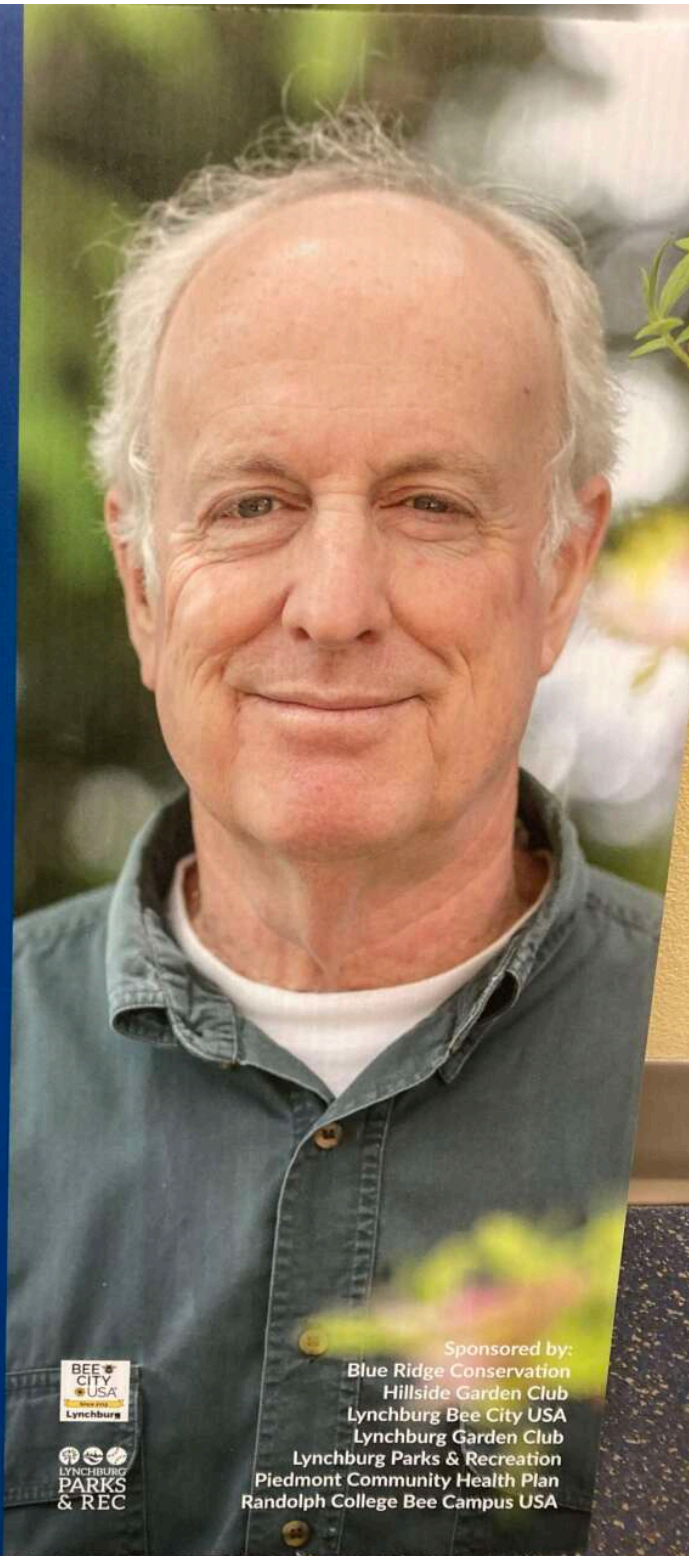
DOUG TALLAMY

September 28
7:00pm
E.C. Glass Auditorium



**NATURE'S
BEST HOPE**
A New Approach to
Conservation that
Starts in Your Yard

FREE
Open to the Public



Sponsored by:
Blue Ridge Conservation
Hillside Garden Club
Lynchburg Bee City USA
Lynchburg Garden Club
Lynchburg Parks & Recreation
Piedmont Community Health Plan
Randolph College Bee Campus USA

Policies & Practices

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

Eradication efforts of the spotted lanternfly (SLF). In 2023, the City of Lynchburg Urban Forester, Building & Grounds, in its eradication efforts of SLF (around the Public Works Complex), took into account potential effects to pollinators. In addition to routine monitoring and inspections during the year, Public Works (B&G) treated several Ailanthus trees (around the complex) to stop the spread of SLF. The treatment was a systemic basal trunk spray and application was delayed until full flower drop was observed on all the trees to be treated. This eliminated the risk of inadvertently effecting pollinating insects while still providing the desired control of the invasive SLF. IPM practices utilized to help manage the athletic fields in Lynchburg. IPM practices include only spraying when 100% necessary, providing correct mowing habits and aeration timing programs and monitoring the condition of weeds, insects, disease, and watering daily determining how any/all these factors may relate to turf damage or decline.

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

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plants of Central Virginia latest.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Source of Native Plants in the Central Virginia Area.docx](#)

<https://www.lynchburgparksandrec.com/bee-city-usa/>