Bee Campus USA - College of Southern Maryland
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.

Pollinator-Friendly Landscaping: Native Pollinator Gardens: CSM has replaced traditional landscaping with native pollinator gardens across its campuses. These gardens support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators by providing essential habitats and food sources. This initiative aligns with the college's status as a Bee Campus and participant in the Butterflies for a Better Bay program. Tree Planting and Invasive Species Removal: Partnering with arborists, CSM plants native tree species to attract pollinators and birds, enhancing the ecosystem. EcoHawks, a student club, led efforts to remove invasive ivy and prepare spaces for native plantings at the Prince Frederick campus. Enhancing Campus Gardens: Prince Frederick Campus Garden: Improvements include adding rubber flooring and a paver sidewalk to make the garden accessible as an outdoor classroom. The garden will serve as a space for community and student engagement, fostering a connection with nature. "Winter Sowing" Workshop: Conducted by Master Gardener Brent Burdick, this class teaches participants how to grow native plants using recycled materials. This method supports sustainable gardening and increases the availability of native species for pollinator habitats. Educational Outreach and Events: Pollinator-Related Courses: Pollinator Paradise—Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden: A course that teaches participants how to create gardens designed to attract pollinators. Getting Started with Native Plants: Focused on incorporating native flora to support pollinators and improve local biodiversity. Celebration of Earth Day 2023: Events included the distribution of native plant plugs and hands-on activities like painting bees and ladybugs on rocks, engaging the community in pollinator awareness. Community Education on Butterflies: The Taking Flight—Monarch Butterfly Migration course highlights the role of monarchs in pollination and conservation efforts. Virtual events such as open houses have informed participants about attracting monarchs and supporting pollinator-friendly initiatives. Sustainability Practices Supporting Pollinators: Non-Toxic Landscaping: The use of non-toxic herbicides and pesticides ensures campus lawns are safe for pollinators. Climate Innovation: A hackathon addressing climate challenges emphasized creating problem-solving opportunities for environmental sustainability, including pollinator protection. CSM's pollinator habitat projects not only beautify campuses but also create thriving ecosystems that support local wildlife, providing an excellent model for community colleges nationwide. Through education, hands-on initiatives, and sustainable landscaping, CSM inspires students and the broader community to champion biodiversity.

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

3

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

18

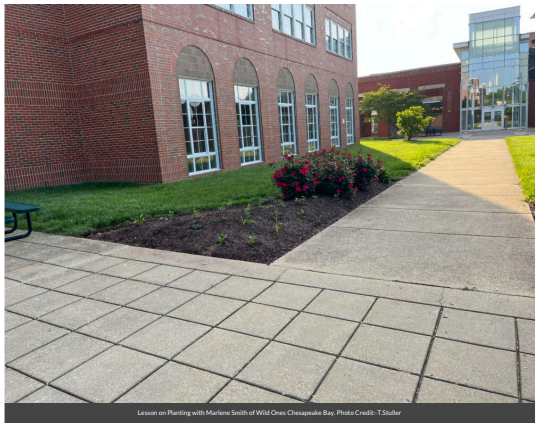
How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?
1

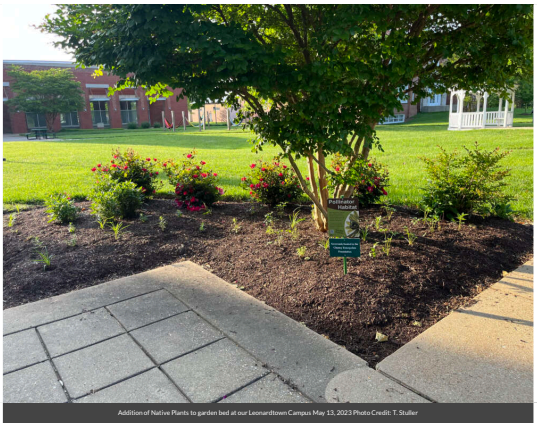
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?
80

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

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting


Garden Planting November 2023 Partnered with La Plata Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, photo credit: T.Stuller


Lesson on Planting with Marlene Smith of Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, Photo Credit:- T.Stuller


Addition of Native Plants to garden bed at our Leonardtown Campus May 13, 2023 Photo Credit: T. Stuller

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.
CSM offers a variety of events, courses, and initiatives that incorporate lessons on pollinators and their vital role in ecosystems. These efforts aim to educate the community, enhance campus biodiversity, and promote environmental stewardship. Educational Offerings: Specialized Gardening Classes: Garden Microgreens and Container Gardening: Learn to cultivate lush green spaces, even in compact areas. Getting Started with Native Plants: Explore how to incorporate native flora to support local wildlife and pollinators. Pollinator Paradise: Discover how to attract and sustain pollinators in your garden, fostering ecological balance. Beekeeping: A deep dive into the fascinating world of bees, their behaviors, and their benefits to gardens. Community Education Courses: Taking Flight—Monarch Butterfly

Migration: Focuses on the annual migration and conservation of monarch butterflies. Biology for Science Majors: Incorporates pollinator-related topics into the curriculum. Seasonal Workshops: Winter Sowing: Led by Master Gardeners, this workshop teaches cost-effective methods to start native plants using recycled materials. Campus and Community Engagement: Earth Day Celebrations (2023): Events highlighted the college's sustainability efforts, including the development of pollinator gardens and a transition to native landscaping. Spring Fling Activities: Distributed native plant plugs to attendees at Leonardtown and La Plata campuses. Creative workshops at the Prince Frederick campus, such as painting bees and ladybugs on rocks, emphasized pollinator awareness. Campus Projects: Replacement of traditional landscaping with native pollinator gardens to provide habitats for bees and butterflies. Student-led projects, such as clearing invasive ivy and planting native species, enhance biodiversity. Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives: Bee and Bird Campus Designations: As Maryland's first Bird Campus and an established Bee Campus, CSM promotes ecosystems that support pollinators and other wildlife. Activities educate the community on the importance of birds, bees, and butterflies. Eco-Friendly Enhancements: Installation of water refilling stations to reduce plastic waste. Non-toxic herbicides and pesticides ensure pollinator-safe grounds. The use of native tree species and sustainable landscaping practices supports biodiversity. Future Programming: Upcoming Classes and Events: The Joy of Birdwatching: Learn to appreciate and identify local bird species, a complementary habitat to pollinator gardens. Continued enhancements to the Prince Frederick Campus Garden, creating an outdoor classroom and improving accessibility. Recycling and Sustainability Drives: Office Supply Swap and expanded battery recycling initiatives. CSM's holistic approach to pollinator education and outreach integrates practical learning, hands-on activities, and sustainability efforts, fostering a community that values and protects its natural resources.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?
2

How many people attended those events (in total)?
25

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?
6

Winter Sowing Class February 2023

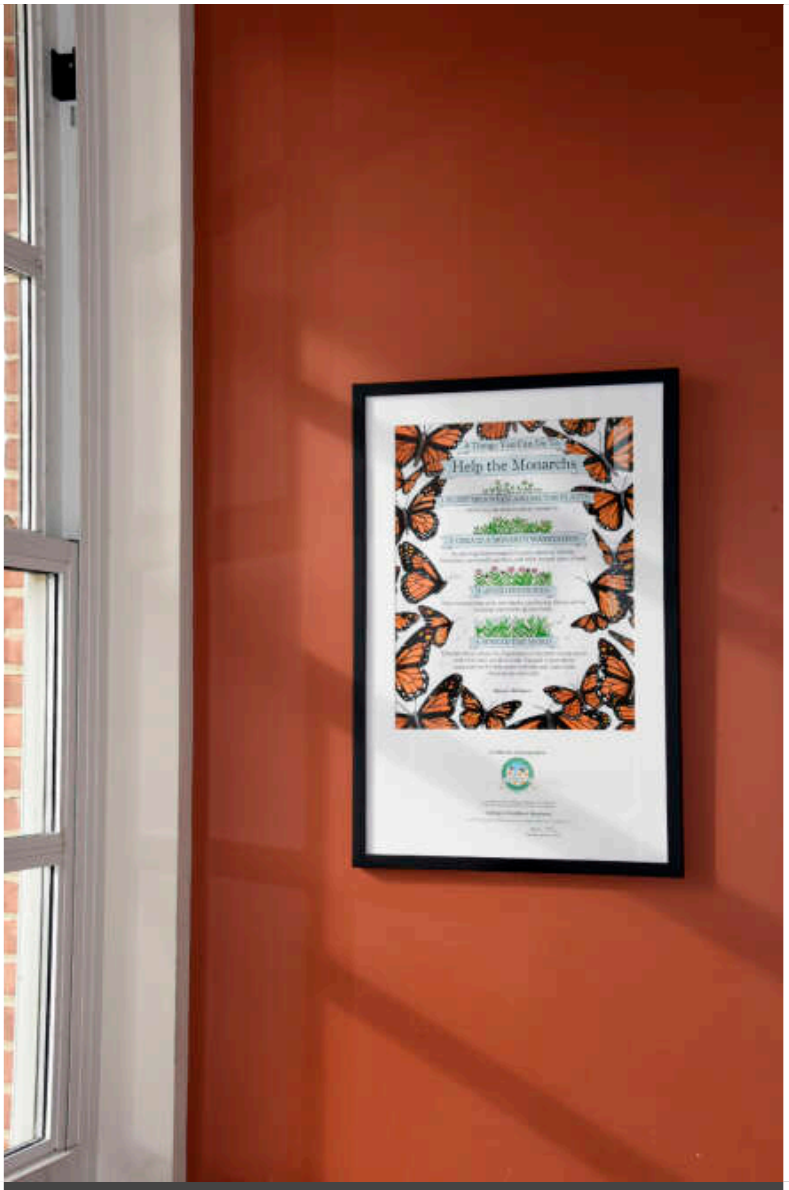
Winter Sowing Class 2023

Native plant starter garden drawing on display in ST building. Photo Credit: T.Stuller

BEE CAMPUS USA™
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

Example of Signage on all 3 campuses. Photo Credit: T.Stuller



Example of Signage on all 3 campuses. Photo Credit: T.Stuller

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.

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) integrates pollinator education into several non-credit courses, providing participants with hands-on knowledge and practical skills to create and support pollinator-friendly environments. These courses focus on various aspects of gardening, sustainability, and biodiversity. Pollinator-Focused Non-Credit Courses: The Basics of Container Gardening (HGC-5010) – April 22, 2023 Participants learn how to grow plants in

confined spaces, emphasizing the use of pollinator-friendly plants that can thrive in containers. The course highlights the benefits of creating small-scale habitats for bees and butterflies, even in urban or restricted areas. Repurpose and Regenerate Your Veggies (HGC-5020) – April 22, 2023 This course explores sustainable gardening practices, such as repurposing vegetable scraps to grow new plants. It includes discussions on how vegetable gardens can attract pollinators and support their role in enhancing food production through natural pollination. Getting Started with Native Plants (HGC-5120) – April 29, 2023 Focusing on the importance of native plants, this course teaches participants how to select and cultivate species that provide optimal resources for local pollinators. It includes guidance on designing gardens to sustain bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. The Joy of Birdwatching (AAA-8510) – May 4–13, 2023 While centered on birdwatching, the course integrates the role of native plants in supporting both birds and pollinators. Participants learn about the interconnectedness of birds and pollinators in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Pollinator Paradise—Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden (HGC-5160) – May 13, 2023 This course focuses explicitly on creating gardens that attract and support pollinators. It covers plant selection, habitat design, and the ecological benefits of maintaining pollinator-friendly environments. Additionally, credit courses such as Biology for Science Majors 1 and 2, Zoology, and Botany include pollinator-related topics to enrich students' understanding of ecological systems, biodiversity, and the critical role of pollinators in sustaining life on Earth. These courses integrate pollinator education in the following ways: Biology for Science Majors 1 and 2: Ecosystem Dynamics: Discussions on food webs and ecosystem services emphasize the vital role pollinators play in maintaining biodiversity and supporting plant reproduction. Genetics and Evolution: Case studies include the co-evolution of pollinators and flowering plants, demonstrating mutualistic relationships and adaptations. Conservation Biology: Students explore challenges facing pollinator populations, such as habitat loss and pesticide use, along with strategies for preservation and restoration. Zoology: Animal-Plant Interactions: Lectures and labs highlight the symbiotic relationships between pollinators and plants, exploring how these interactions influence ecosystems. Behavioral Ecology: Studies on pollinator foraging behaviors and communication (e.g., the waggle dance of honeybees) provide insights into their complex roles in nature. Botany: Plant Reproductive Strategies: The course delves into how pollination mechanisms, such as wind, water, and animal-assisted pollination, affect plant reproduction. Floral Morphology: Lab activities focus on flower structures designed to attract specific pollinators, examining how traits like color, scent, and nectar guide pollinator behavior. Pollinator Conservation: Students learn about the importance of native plants in supporting pollinator populations and how botanical practices can help mitigate the decline of pollinator species.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?
4

How many students attended those for-credit courses?
124

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?
4

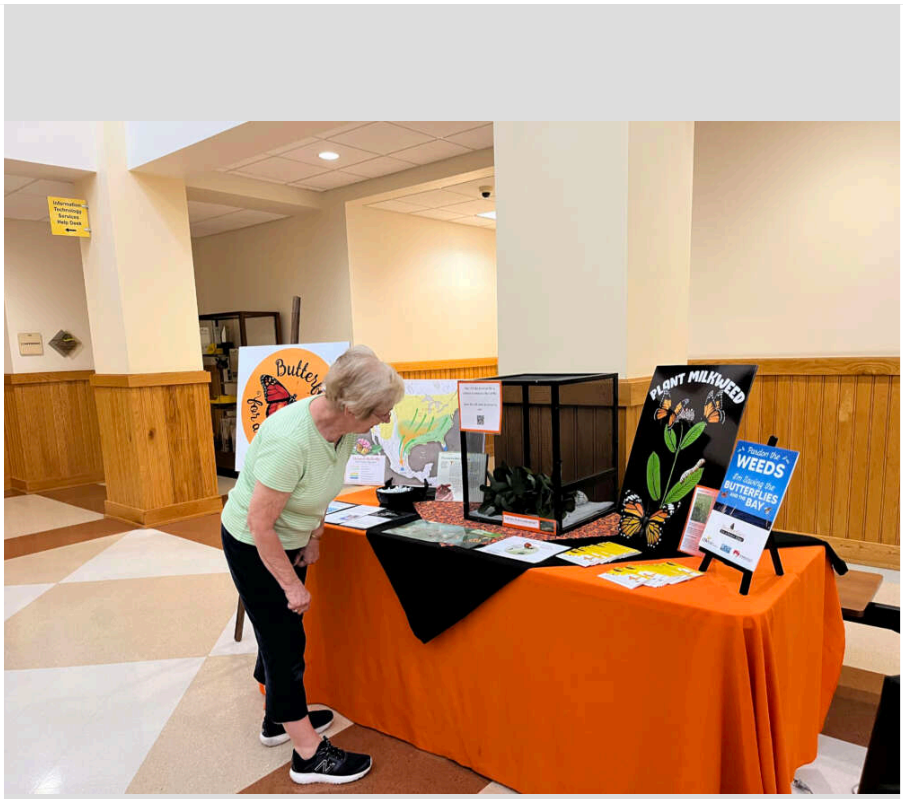
How many participants attended those courses?
43

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?
21

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.
The LaPlata Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, a local organization that provides educational opportunities for home-schooled children partnered with CSM for a fall planting in our ST Building Garden. Additionally, CSM offered free Winter Sowing class to all students, faculty and staff.

Winter Sowing Class 2023, final products. Photo Credit: T.Stuller



Annual Monarch Display in ST Building Atrium, invites all students to learn about the life cycle and how they can help support these pollinators and others. photo credit: T.Stuller

Lesson on Planting with Marlene Smith of Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay Photo Credit: T.Stuller

Garden Planting November 2023 Partnered with La Plata Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, photo credit: T.Stuller

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Policies & Practices

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

College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has made efforts in creating a pollinator-friendly environment by ensuring that its landscaping practices are safe and sustainable. One key action is the use of non-toxic herbicides and pesticides on campus lawns. This approach directly contributes to the health and safety of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects that are essential for ecosystems. Impact of Non-Toxic Practices on Pet Management: Safety for Pets and Pollinators: Non-toxic landscaping products reduce exposure to harmful chemicals for pets that frequent outdoor spaces on campus. This ensures that lawns and gardens are safe for animals to explore while also protecting pollinator species. Support for Biodiversity: By eliminating harmful substances, the campus lawns and gardens maintain a balanced ecosystem where pollinators can thrive without the risk of contamination. This promotes healthier interactions between pets, wildlife, and the environment. Community Education and Example: These practices serve as a model for students, faculty, and the surrounding community, encouraging pet owners to adopt pollinator-safe methods in their own yards and gardens. Through its commitment to using non-toxic products, CSM demonstrates leadership in fostering an environment where pollinators, pets, and people can coexist safely and sustainably.

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

The Keep LaPlata Beautiful initiative and the Bee City Subcommittee for the town of LaPlata are promoting projects to protect pollinators. There are CSM faculty representatives serving on this town committee.

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

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: