# Bee Campus USA - Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Report on 2024

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

*Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.*

The Bee Campus planted some more native plants in the bean-shaped exhibit on campus (ca. 16s sqm) and created a new habitat with the help of the LSU Ag-Center. This habitat is about 10m x 5m = 100 sqm large, but it is off campus. Once plants flower and are occupied by bees and wasps we will take students to the site. I'll also use it for research purposes. We were not successful in getting additional habitat on campus, but I will try in the future. Right now, we'll have to handle what we have. These activities were all done by Bee Campus committee members.

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?*

2

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

15

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

2

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

1249

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

- Flower garden
- Herb garden
- School garden

New pollinator habitat ca. 20m X 5m in January on LSU Ag-Center land. Native plants were sown in October.

Pollinator habitat on LSUA campus 1.

Pollinator habitat on LSUA campus 2.

## Education & Outreach

*Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.*

Bud Day at the Kent House – Entomology-themed activities hosted by the USDA. They always promote bee-friendly activities. The LSUA Bee Campus USA was present also promoting the Bee Campus by talking to people at exhibits. I showed "Big Bugs" to people and student sold Madagascan hissing cockroaches to help fund the Bee Campus. Bee Day at the Alexandria Zoo: The Baa Campus came with a poster and talked to Zoo visitors about the importance of bees and their habitat. Trick or Treat Street at LSUA: Bee campus was present with a poster, handed out native plant seeds, and talked to the public. We also had a student in a bee suite (non-native, I know) and allowed kids to to hold madagascan hissing cockroaches to get their attention and start a conversation about bees.

*How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?*

3

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

1700

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

1


Members of the LSUA Bee Campus USA committee during Trick or Treat Street on the LSUA campus

The public getting information at the Bee Campus booth

Students having fun at the LSUA Bee Campus booth


Pollinator habitat signage on LSUA campus.

BEE CAMPUS USA™
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

## Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

*Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2024, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.*

I assume you mean bee-related activities: Both in the Ecology and in the Entomology courses that I taught students had to collect insects on flowers using camera images or actual specimens. In 2023 when I did not have to write a report, I had two students study native pollinators in Central Louisiana (publication: The Oak Leaf, Volume 4: https://www.lsua.edu/about-us/university-publications/the-oak-leaf).

*How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?*

2

*How many students attended those for-credit courses?*

36

*Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2024, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.*

I had course-related activities as described above, but they were not service-learning projects. Currently I am the only one working with bees on campus, and I cannot split myself in half. Getting other faculty members engaged is difficult. Everyone is overworked.

Students looking for pollinators on campus. The lawn is a bad native pollinator habitat and only yields the occasional honeybee.

Students performing research in the lab.

## Policies & Practices

*Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.*
I talked to the person in charge of facilities and gardening activities. Cockroach prevention in buildings is mandated by the state, but otherwise they rarely use any pesticides: Never on the lawn and otherwise only to control paper wasp nests close to doors. Paper wasps will attack people close to their nests. They may also use herbicides when setting up a new flower bed. I have no influence on those activities, but they are very rare.

*In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?*
I am not aware of any addition activities on campus. The Ag-Center station is just east of campus, and they use pesticides, but are very careful not let anything drift onto LSUA property. They are the experts and generally aware of any risks, but they do evaluate pesticides.

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*
No. This is very early in our existence. I teach IPM practices in my Entomology course, but my specialty is insect taxonomy. We will eventually set up a series of lectures, but that is still in the future.

*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)
- 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)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants)

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*
Administrators are generally open to listening to suggestions, but help is limited. Students have plenty of other things to do. Involvement of student organizations is crucial. I will try to get the BSo (Biological Student Organization) more involved.

## Committee Photo


Committee members during Trick or Treat Street (not all present).

---

## Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** 2024 FY LSU at Alexandria IPM Plan7981 CG.docx

**Recommended Native Plant List:** Bee Campus southeastern native plants [14].pdf
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=110711015457227&set=a.108821188979543
**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**
https://www.prairiemoon.com/

lsuabee@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/LSUA.beecampus

BEE CAMPUS USA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation