

# Bee Campus USA - Southern Oregon University

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.*

**We increased our honeybee colony count from 3 to 7. We added 12 hives to the upper field as part of a regeneration apiculture study to monitor the increase of soil health directly around (1 to 20 ft) the honey bee colonies.**

*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?*

5

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

2

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

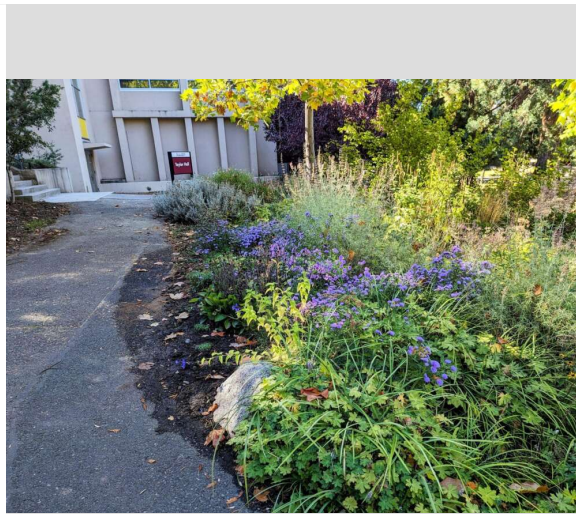
14000

*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
- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Sunflower meadow on the SOU Campus



Pollinator Garden Habitat on Campus



Bee swarms on a fruit tree

## Education & Outreach

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

**In 2024, The Farm at SOU hosted hive demonstrations and community outreach events as part of our beekeeping program. These events included hands-on beekeeping sessions and educational talks at SOU's Farm, engaging students and the broader community in sustainable pollination practices.**

*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)?*

**30**

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

**14**

*Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2024?*

**4**



Teaching community members and students about how to assemble hive frames.

THE FARM AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY A CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY & DIGGIN' LIVEN FARM & APIARY

First Saturdays at the Apiary

-Hosted by Joy McEwen-

HIGHLIGHTS

- All experience levels welcome
- Rain or shine
- Let's Talk Bees!

JOIN US

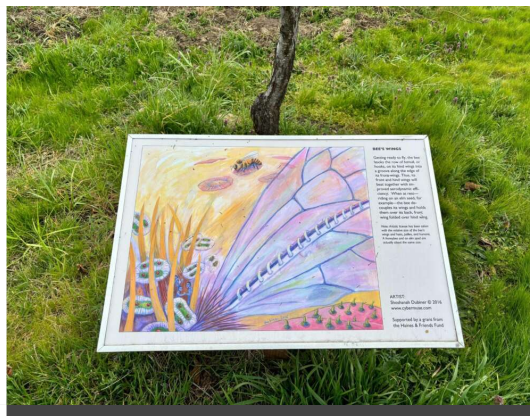
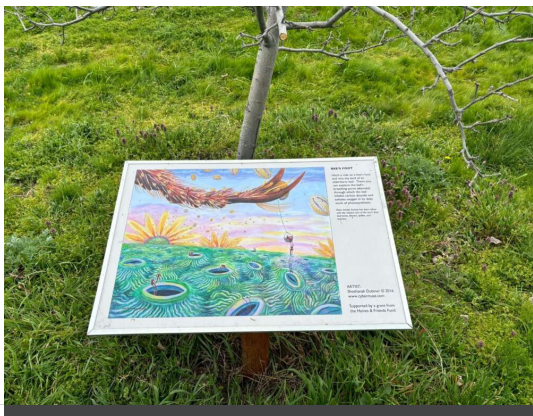
2 Nov 10am-12pm

155 Walker Ave. Ashland, OR

www.thefarm@sou.edu

www.digginliven.com/

Outreach poster inviting folks to our monthly "Let's Talk Bees"



## 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.

Pollinators and the systems that support pollinators are included in several courses in the ES program: ES 102 (Biological Science), ES 210 (Environmental problems), BI 340 (Into to Ecology), ES 120, 121, and 122 (Sustainable Food Systems), ES 379, ES 230/430 (EcoAdventure), ES 480 (Fire Ecology), ES 482 (Climatology) ES 483 (Restoration Ecology), ES 494 A, B and C (Env. Science Capstone). BI 411 (Ethnobotany), BI 438 (Conservation Biology), BI 444 (Field Botany). ES 102 and BI 340 developed labs around pollinators. ES 210 featured regional environmental groups, of which one is the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV). Students in Climatology assessed changes in pollinator habitat under climate change scenarios.

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

20

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

400

*How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?*

3

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

**Students in ES 230/430 helped restore riparian areas burned by the Alameda Fire.**

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

3

*How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?*

30



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## Policies & Practices

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

In 2024, The Farm at SOU continued its commitment to pollinator habitat enhancement through the regenerative agriculture project. The orchard area features a diverse interplanting of species, creating a dense ground cover that supports beneficial insects and pollinators. Additionally, honeybee colonies were placed in the upper field, an area with previously minimal vegetation. We hypothesize that the presence of honeybees is contributing to improved soil structure and microbial diversity, fostering conditions that will support more abundant, vibrant flowers in the future. This, in turn, is expected to further enhance soil health and promote greater biodiversity in the ecosystem.

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

In-development long-range Landscape Master Plan will include considerations for pollinator/people/waterway protection. Current practices pose no risks, however language and mapping can be utilized to strengthen protection measures.

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

Landscape Staff attended online IPM trainings, and are developing a comprehensive IPM plan.

*Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.*

- 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

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

Communication between departments remains a key component of working our goals regarding pollinators, grounds, and landscaping.

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## Committee Photo

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

<https://inside.sou.edu/fmp/fmppolicies.html>

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<http://sustainability.sou.edu>

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