

Bee Campus USA - Susquehanna 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.

The campus garden began growing native edible and medicinal plants (most flowering). Black locust and redbud seeds were planned for growing in the campus greenhouse which will be utilized for stream restoration projects in the region. Elsewhere, wildflower plantings and seasonal plantings at the university's main entrance, library, and Author plaza were maintained. This included the addition of kale, which aims to not only please aesthetically but also improve pollinator habitat. The large wet meadow continues to be developed and maintained.

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

3

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

20

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

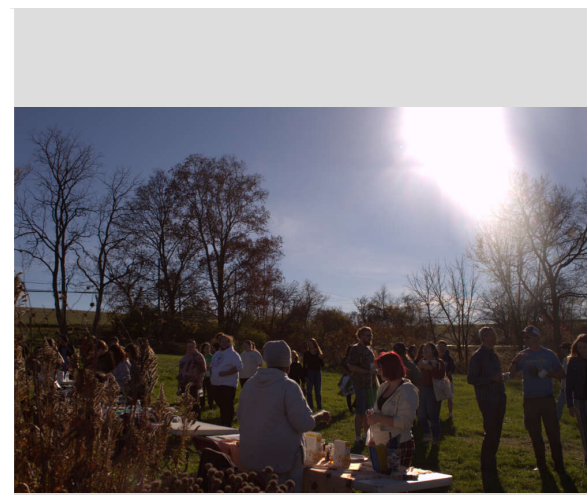
1

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

225000

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

- Flower garden
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Herb garden
- Roadside/rights of way planting



SU Beekeeping Club table at Harvest Fest (Credit: Rhylee Gangstad)



SU Beekeeping Club table at Harvest Fest (Credit: Rhylee Gangstad)



Pulling frames at the hives (Credit: Derek Straub)

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 Bee Campus USA committee partnered with the SU Beekeeping Club, which held weekly meetings focused on hive updates, beekeeping skills, educational documentaries, honey tastings, and bee related crafts and activities. The Club also held numerous activities at the hives for student members to get hands-on experience working with honeybees. The SU Beekeeping Club was also represented at the monthly meetings of this region’s beekeeping club, The Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley. The Club hosted two presentations to outside groups at the hives to discuss beekeeping and to increase awareness of honeybees and other pollinators. These presentations were for the Sunbury Boy Scouts and incoming SCORE students. The Club also participated in four beekeeping exhibits that included live bees and honey tasting. These exhibits were for the Center for Environmental Education and Research (CEER) Open House, the Sustainability Office’s Harvest Fest, and the SU Activities Fair. One of the most visible SU Beekeeping Club activities on campus is the Club’s honey sale. This is a labor-intensive project that involves summer and fall honey extractions, washing bottles, bottle filling, label design/printing/application, and sales. This year, the Club harvested a record 430 pounds of honey. Sales were primarily to the campus community, though some honey was used to make a positive impact through advancement and recruitment efforts. In addition to the sales, the Club participated in three successful collaborative sales events with the Sustainability office (CEER-up, Earth Day Celebration, and the Stocking Stuffer Sale).

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

25

How many people attended those events (in total)?

350

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

2

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

2



At the Hives (credit: Derek Straub)



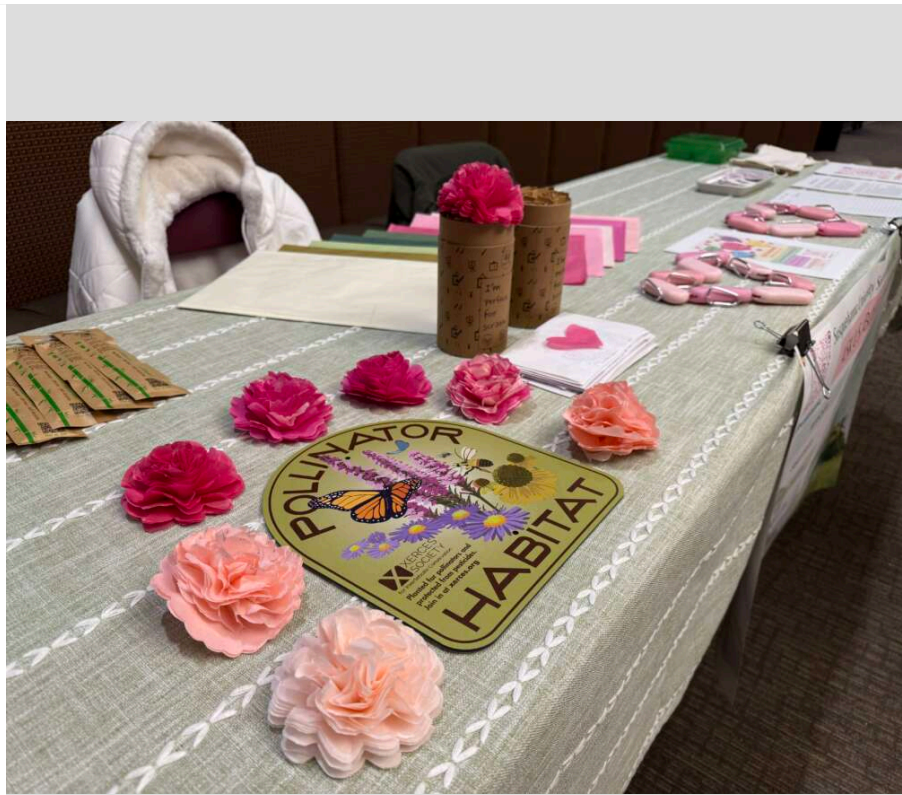
Harvesting honey (Credit: Derek Straub)



Samples at Harvest Fest (Credit: Rhylee Gangestad)



Leave the Leaves 2 (Credit: Greg Severyn)



Sustainability Office tabling (Credit: Cale Richards)

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.

There is a formal herbicide applicator's training provided to restoration interns for Chesapeake Conservancy that includes a certification.

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

1

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

10

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

1

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

10

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

In addition to the educational campaigns by the SU Beekeeping Club, the Freshwater Research Institute continues to support local stream restoration and other ecological efforts that ultimately improve pollinator habitats.

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

12

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

25

Policies & Practices

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

IPM: We implemented a bee friendly IPM plan in 2019 and have been following it since. Avoiding pesticides: Some portions of campus (old farm fields) we have used mowing as a way to slowly eliminate and prevent unwanted (invasive) weeds. One example is mowing fields with poison hemlock more frequently and before it goes to seed to discourage it from spreading and other plants to take over. Athletics: Our focus is to use pesticides to promote safety for athletes and students or overall plant health. That is on everything from grass athletic fields, campus lawns, trees, shrubs and plant beds. This is not for aesthetic purposes, but functionality. Neonicotinoids: We were phasing out of neonicotinoids before we joined Bee Campus. Once we use up a particular product we haven't replaced it. As we have used up the inventory of these products, we have very carefully followed the label and guidelines to protect pollinators. Some methods have included but aren't limited to the following: Treat in areas and at times pollinators won't be active, split applications (use herbicides on flowering weeds 1 week or more before insecticide apps), etc.

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

Outside contractors work through us so practices related to pesticide use have been encouraged and followed.

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

Matt Wilson (Freshwater Research Institute) and Matt Slingerland (Facilities) keep up to date with current thought and practices in this regard.

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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use



Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We had a positive response to the inclusion of two Leave the Leaves signs in very visible spaces on our campus during the Fall 2024 semester.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Susquehanna University Integrated Pest Management Plan.pdf](#)

<https://www.susqu.edu/campus-life/our-campus-and-location/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives#bee>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant List.pdf](#)

<https://www.susqu.edu/campus-life/our-campus-and-location/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives#bee>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Pennsylvania Native Plant Nurseries.pdf](#)

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/LandscapingwithNativePlants/BuyNativePlants/Pages/default.aspx>

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https://instagram.com/http://sustainable_su