

# Bee Campus USA - University of Georgia

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.*

**Pollinator Garden Planting, UGA Horticulture Farm: New pollinator garden built near UGA Bee Lab. Used mostly recruit plants from farm compost waste to plant garden \*Hosted by committee members Dr. Jennifer Berry and Dr. Lewis Bartlett\* Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association Monthly Meeting, Athens UGA Extension Office: Monthly meetings include guest lectures from UGA faculty and grad students on various pollinator-related topics, demonstrations in the adjacent garden, and garden plantings/maintenance**

*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?*

46

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

10

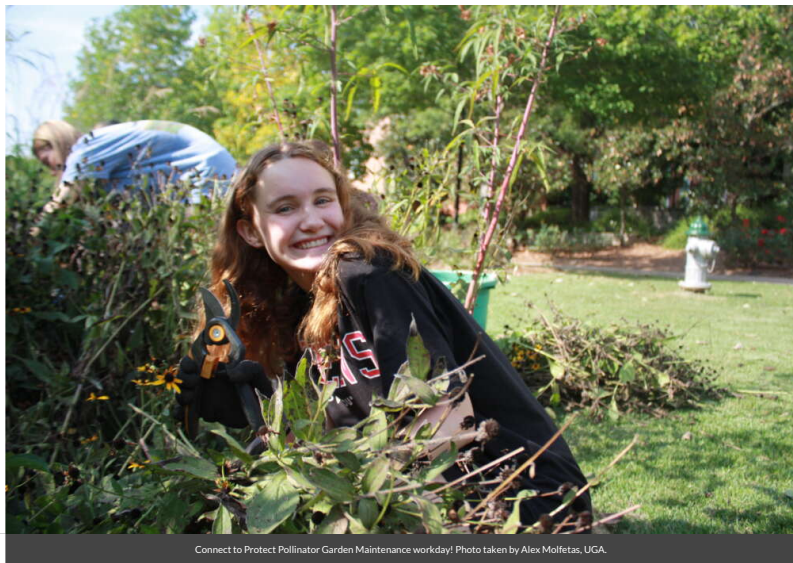
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

40075

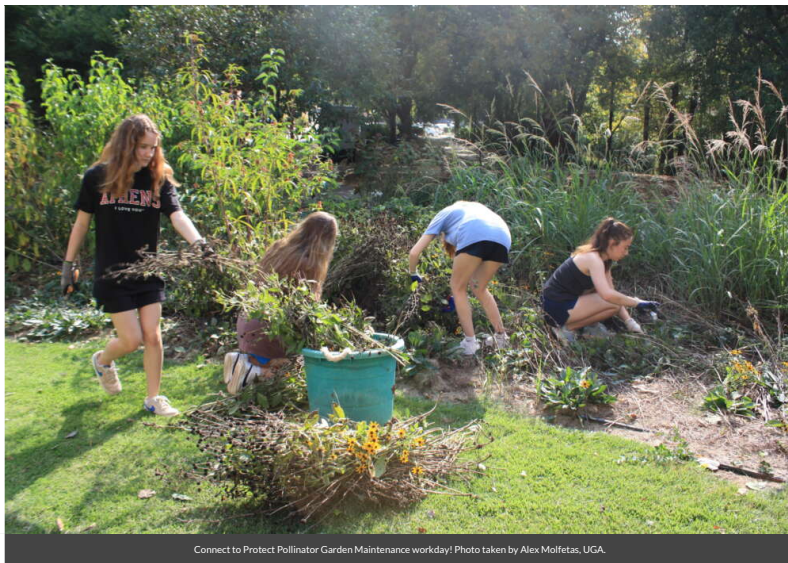
*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.*

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting

- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



Connect to Protect Pollinator Garden Maintenance workday! Photo taken by Alex Moffetas, UGA.



Connect to Protect Pollinator Garden Maintenance workday! Photo taken by Alex Moffetas, UGA.

## Education & Outreach

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

Earth Week Education, Tate Plaza UGA 13th Annual Native Plant Sale, State Botanical Garden of Georgia Walhalla High School Visit, Altizer Lab-Odum School of Ecology Pitman High School Virtual Lab Tour, Altizer Lab-Odum School of Ecology Santa Lucia School Virtual Lab Tour, Altizer Lab-Odum School of Ecology Morehouse Scholars Odum Visit, Altizer Lab-Odum School of Ecology Monarchs, Invasive Hornets and their Impact on Pollinators, Wormsloe Historic Site \*None were hosted by the committee as a whole, but all Altizer Lab events were hosted by committee member Dr. Sonia Altizer\*

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

15

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

1597

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

90



## 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.*

**Continuing Education Courses: Monarchs & Beyond: Pollinator Stewardship August Friends First Friday Monarch Butterflies Planning for Pollinators: Their Biology and Habitat Requirements Entomology for Gardeners: Identifying & Understanding Common Backyard Arthropods Insect Pollinators in Our Gardens Connect to Protect Leadership Workshop The Bee-utiful Work of Native Bees Native Plants and Insect Pollinators Grow Your Own Prairie in North Georgia For Credit courses: Ecology of Campus Designing Ecologically Positive Solar Arrays Agroecology and Sustainable Farming Hydroponics and Protected and Controlled Environment Horticulture Plant-Animal Interactions Honeybee Health Bees, Beekeeping & Pollinator Conservation Ecology of Infectious Diseases**

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

**8**

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

**178**

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

**9**

*How many participants attended those continuing education courses?*

**154**

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

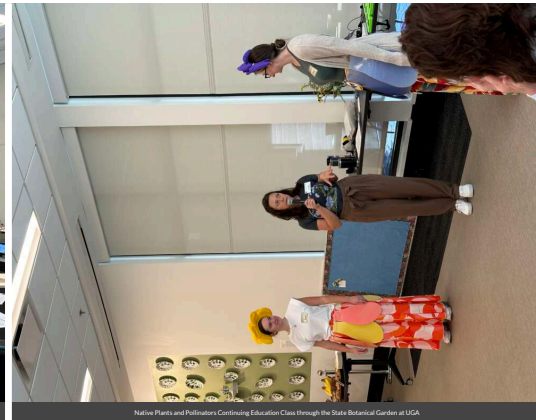
In the Ecology of Campus class, students engaged in Pollinator Garden Habitat maintenance on campus by learning about the importance of having suitable habitat for pollinators across a variety of locations via the Connect to Protect Program. The class weeded and trimmed plants in a Connect to Protect garden on UGA campus and saw how even a small garden patch can be extremely beneficial to pollinators. In the Designing Ecologically Positive Solar Arrays class, students worked with an external project partner in a nearby town to design an ecologically-friendly backyard solar farm that will provide habitat for pollinators and future research and collaboration opportunities with UGA students and faculty. They did research on real life costs and challenges with the property and designed many aspects of the plans to benefit pollinators

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 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

30



## Policies & Practices

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

**“How IPM Works for Pollinators Prevention through Plant Selection:** UGA’s landscape experts choose pest-resistant plants that thrive in Georgia’s climate, reducing the need for pesticides. Many of these plants are also excellent food sources for pollinators, ensuring they can flourish without being exposed to harmful chemicals. **Monitoring and Early Detection:** Regular monitoring of UGA’s landscapes and green spaces allows the Facilities Management Division to identify potential pest issues before they become full-blown infestations. This early detection helps minimize the impact on plants and pollinators alike, as fewer treatments are needed. **Targeted, Minimal Chemical Use:** Sam Stephenson, UGA’s IPM Foreman, employs preventive care for weeds and pests during the “dormant” months (December – February). This approach involves pre- and post-emergent treatments strategically timed to coincide with periods of low activity on campus. When chemical treatments are necessary, UGA uses the least harmful options available and applies them strategically, using targeted spot spraying for specific weeds and manual removal of others to ensure a more sustainable approach. This minimizes harm to non-target species, particularly pollinators, and reduces pesticide drift. **Creating a Campus Haven for Pollinators:** Through thoughtful pest management and a deep respect for the role pollinators play in our environment, UGA is leading the way in creating safer, more sustainable landscapes. IPM isn’t just about controlling pests—it’s about nurturing a thriving ecosystem where pollinators can flourish, benefiting everyone who calls our campus home. Together, IPM and pollinator conservation ensure that UGA’s landscapes are not only beautiful but buzzing with life.”

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

**No**

*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.*

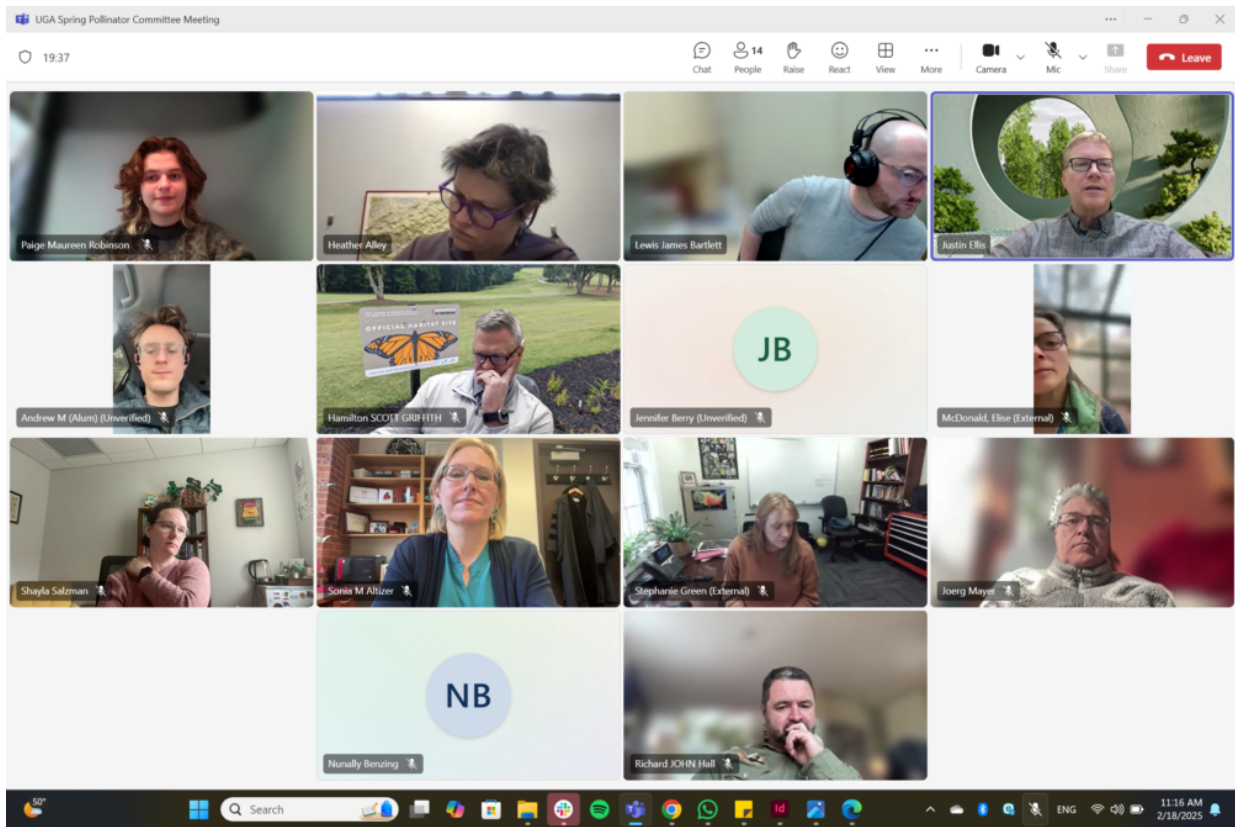
- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

There have been many benefits from the formation of an expert Advisory Board for a new pollinator habitat plan, the Vet Med Pollinator Meadow. This has created some good interactions between Grounds and pollinator habitat advocates to identify approaches that are both ambitious and pragmatic ensuring that implementation and maintenance are considered. Our Pollinator Habitats mapping project continues to bear fruit in measuring our progress over time and deepening the resources we have for Living Lab educational programs.

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Committee Photo



Most recent committee meeting via Teams in February 2025

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UGA-IPM.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://sustainability.uga.edu/community-engagement/pollinators/sustain@uga.edu>

<https://www.instagram.com/pollinateuga/>