



Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Lots of organizations hosted events and collaborated in 2018 to spread pollinator love to young and old!

Our Bee City Committee partnered with the **Durham Hotel** for our second annual Bee Bash on June 19th! An estimated 200 community members visited the roof of the hotel for some bee fun, a honey-themed drink and snack menu, and beautiful city views. Bee Downtown beekeepers showed off some of their clear observation hives, allowing attendees to safely get up close and personal with the bee community. We also had a raffle for a few sweet treats, a tour of the **Bee Downtown Community Apiaries**, and time for attendees to check out new balm, soaps, and honey from Bee Downtown. Local pollinator friendly organizations also had tables for attendees to learn about their work and how to get involved.

The Bee City Committee also hosted a table at the **Museum of Life and Science's** Pollinator Day! The table consisted primarily of an "identify the monarch butterfly" game, as well as information on pollinator week events, pollinator friendly garden practices, native plant suggestions for pollinator health from the master gardeners extension, pollinator word search, and other pollinator resources.

On June 9th, **Keep Durham Beautiful** hosted their first ever Pollinator Garden Tour- by bike! This 6-8 mile cruise through city streets and trails gave 57 participants an opportunity to experience some of the hidden gems that keep our pollinators happy in Durham! Selected sites included gardens, hives, bee hotels, and more. There were 10 stops on the ride, with guides at each site that gave a brief presentation and tour. We ended at **Honeygirl Meadery** for an exclusive mead tasting. Participants also learned what they can do to be a friend to pollinators from local non-profits and pollinator advocates.

This fall, **Keep Durham Beautiful** was excited to donate 22 adult and children books that focus on pollinators to the Durham County Public Library! The books are available for public check-out so that anyone interested in learning about pollinators on their own time can do so!

Four “Bee Smart School Garden” Educational Kits were established for checkout from the **Keep Durham Beautiful** office for educators and volunteers to use for youth education about pollinator habitat and preservation. Focusing on pollinator education and protection from a gardening standpoint, kits were purchased from the Pollinator Partnership. They include a full teacher curriculum, complete with handouts, lessons, visual aids, and tests, and hands-on learning materials such as a garden starter kit, bee hotel, and pollinator identification kit.

Hanna Lee Flowers has contributed to our pollinator efforts through education and creating by example. They hosted **Durham Garden Center** workshops which centered around landscaping for pollinator habitats. These workshops had about 5 participants. When they make arrangements weddings, they source from only bee friendly, local farms. Lastly, they include information on pollinators in their Clean Water Habitat project in three schools, which helped educate around 75 students!

Burt’s Bees and Bee Downtown partnered three times for a Drink the Honey Orientation. During this special on-boarding, 40 new employees learned about pollinators through sessions on bees and beekeeping. They also examined the Good of the Hive mural on the side of the building and the observation hive. These orientations ensure that employees have a greater connection to the pollinators they are

To engage their employees’ younger family members, **Burt’s Bees** hosted an invaluable Take Your Child to Work Day on April 11th in which 40 children of employees learned about the observation beehive, and The Good of the Hive mural and mission. This program helps pass the love of bees down to younger generations!

During Pollinator Week, **Burt’s Bees** also hosted a Burt's Bees Coop Tour where Burt's Coop and Observation Hive were open to the public. During this event, around 300 community members came out for an opportunity to learn about the roles of bees and watch them at work.

Triangle Land Conservancy hosted “Get Wild! Pollinators” at their Horton Grove Nature Preserve on April 22nd. Attendees learned about the different pollinators that call Horton Grove home, played pollinator games, and installed a bat house!

Triangle Land Conservancy also hosted four after-school environmental education programs centered around pollinators. Roughly 126 students in k-5th grades came out to Horton Grove Nature Preserve and Brumley Nature Preserve. The objectives of the programs were to “understand what pollination is and how it helps plants reproduce, understand how pollination benefits plants, animals, and humans, and then participants can identify some local pollinators and consider how plants attract particular pollinators.” Students participated in age appropriate nature walk/scavenger hunt and some different games and activities to demonstrate pollination.

On May 2nd, The **Durham City County Appearance Commission** hosted Garden-to-Glass: Pollinator Gardens, Bees & Related Products. They featured guest speakers from Bee Downtown, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Honeygirl Meadery, and TreesDurham. 50-100 residents attended and learned how these local “bees-nesses” shape biodiversity in Durham and how the Durham community has helped shape these Durham grown companies. Topics included: pollinator garden design and implementation in Durham’s urban and rural settings, Durham pollinator gardens, bees, honey and their locally produced goods, bee keeping and local policy in Durham’s urban and rural settings, and City/County landscape and tree guidelines. There was also a Question and Answer section. By the end of the event, participants were able to identify design strategies for the successful integration of a pollinator friendly landscape into a site while addressing safety and accessibility guidelines, and identify needs, strategies, zoning policies, and codes for beekeeping in urban and rural settings.

Honey Girl Meadery hosted Adult Workshop: Honey and Mead on April 22nd. The workshop began downtown at the Durham County Cooperative Extension’s Teaching Kitchen for a Cooking with Honey demonstration and lunch. 25 participants were given copies of the recipes to take home so they could continue cooking with honey! They then moved to Honeygirl Meadery, where they took a tour of the facility and learned about making

honey wine. The meadery tour included samples and a Honeygirl wine glass so that participants could truly appreciate the hard work our pollinators do!

To help spread awareness, **Honey Girl Meadery** also attended and tabled at the Honeybee Day at the NC State Farmers Market on August 18th! Here, they spoke with residents about the plight of the honeybee and how important they are for humans.



Durham Hub Farm had an impactful year filled with projects that benefited pollinators! They hosted Hub Farm Spring Fest and Hub Farm Fall Fest. Each included farm tours, chicken time, bee demonstrations, and educational booths! Keep Durham Beautiful, The EPA, and master gardeners were also present to table. About 100 people attended each event, totaling 200!

EcoBloom, the Hub Farm's annual field trip for 5th graders, featured the Bee Station where each student gained invaluable pollinator information. Additionally, they gave Bee Lessons to five classes! Hub Farm saw

1,000 students who each visited the bee station for approximately 10 minutes.

On four separate occasions, **Bee Downtown** visited 25 students at East Durham Children's Initiative's preschool to do educational programming focused on bees. Starting with an introduction to bees, each program went more in depth in explaining the importance of bees.

Bee Downtown gave four community hive tours at their apiary in downtown Durham. Each tour had 15 attendees and lasted for two hours. Participants got to wear an official beekeeper's suit, work the hives and sample fresh, local honey, all while learning just how vital these insects are to our local and global ecosystem.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



To get more pollinator plants planted in the community, Keep Durham Beautiful hosted a Pop-Up Pollinator Plant Giveaway at the South Durham Farmers Market on September 29th. The plants were purchased from Cure Nursery in Pittsboro with funding from the Triangle Community Foundation as part of a Pollinator Program grant award and given to . In return for receiving the plants, KDB asked recipients to plan to participate in a plant exchange in the near future. Varieties included: Monarda Didyma (Scarlet Beebalm) Sambucus Canadensis (American Black Elderberry), Solidago Ceasei (Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod),

Pycnanthemum Virginianum (Virginia Mountain Mint), *Allium Cernuum* (Nodding Onion), *Amsonia Hubrichtii* (Hubricht's Bluestar), *Callicarpa Americana* (American Beautyberry), *Asclepias Tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed), and *Eurybia Divaricata* (White Wood Aster).

In addition to their Pollinator Plant Giveaway, Keep Durham Beautiful also hosted a Tree Giveaway! In December, 250 native trees were distributed to Durham residents to plant on their own properties. The trees that were given away included several that help our pollinators, such as American Holly's, Chaste Trees, Magnolias, and Olives.



Keep Durham Beautiful contributed to 18 Durham Public School Pollinator Gardens. They distributed 60 *Monarda didyma* (Scarlet Beebalm), 60 *Pycnanthemum virginianum* (Virginia Mountain Mint), 60 *Amsonia hubrichtii* (Hubricht's Bluestar), 60 *Eurybia divaricata* (White Wood Aster), 60 *Phlox stolonifera* (Creeping Phlox), 60 *Erygium yuccifolium* (Rattlesnake Master), totaling 360 plants! The gardens were planted by students with

instruction on their importance as pollinator habitats.

Keep Durham Beautiful established a pollinator plant grow out program at four Durham Public schools - Southern High School, Riverside High School, Lowes Grove Middle School and Northern High School - across two growing seasons - resulting in 3,400 pollinator plants cultivated for sale to the public, creating more pollinator habitat (est. 3,400 square feet), educating high school students in nursery management and business practices, while raising funds to successfully perpetuate the program.





Keep Durham Beautiful and Durham County Public Libraries partnered to create a Pollinator Seed Library! These libraries, with 7 different pollinator seed varieties packaged by volunteers into individual custom-labeled seed packets, have been established at two (soon three) Durham County Public Libraries. Included is educational information, thus enhancing the seed libraries providing not only the vegetable seeds that they had previously but also pollinator plant seeds.

With the help of 100 middle schoolers, Hub Farm planted Barn Beds 1 & 2. Bed space was reclaimed from grass outside the barn. A total of 300 square feet was transformed! They also revamped space outside of their garden to create an Exterior Garden Bed. This 528 square feet project was also completed with 100 middle schoolers. Hub Farm also added 10 plants to existing beds (480 square feet).

In November, Durham Central Park created a pollinator garden that is roughly 2,000 square feet! Nearly half of the garden is a hillside covered with native grasses. This project was funded by the Town and Country Garden Club and installed by Bountiful Backyards.

North Street Neighborhood utilized a grant from Keep Durham Beautiful to create a 208 square feet pollinator garden. They used a grant from the City of Durham to install fruit trees and a retaining wall with holes to support drainage. The garden was installed by 13 volunteers who live in North Street Neighborhood.

A Boy Scout Troop of 15 installed a pollinator garden along one edge of North Street Neighborhood's shared community outdoor space. This garden is 560 square feet and retained by logs collected by two neighborhood volunteers. There are roughly 150 plants in this garden, all of which were donated. The troop also installed two bat boxes in nearby trees.



POLICIES & PRACTICES

Durham's Bee City USA Committee is comprised of local nonprofit organizations, businesses and individuals who are each committed to pollinator welfare. We collaborate together on some events to combine each of our resources, networks, and brainpower. Other events are hosted independently. Our collective strengths are utilized to promote pollinator education, habitat creation and enhancement, and conservation throughout Durham.



Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List—

<https://keepdurhambeautiful.org/programs/durhambeecityusa/>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List— <https://keepdurhambeautiful.org/programs/durhambeecityusa/>

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan—

CONTACT US!

Committee— Joanne Andrews, Committee Chair - joannetandrews@gmail.com

Website— <https://keepdurhambeautiful.org/programs/durhambeecityusa/>