



Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Durham, North Carolina

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Bee Downtown and East Durham Children's Initiative: The kids of East Durham Children's Initiative suiting up and checking out the hives



Museum of Life and Science's Party for the Planet event had tables full of pollinator education and fun!

Durham Bee City Committee

Bee Bash 2019 was a collaborative effort from the Durham Bee City committee. The event took place on June 19, 2019 in honor of National Pollinator Week.

Many of our committee member's organizations were represented: the Durham County Beekeepers Association had an observation hive on display; local experts from Bee Downtown were there with answers to your pressing pollinator questions; Toxic Free NC provided education on pollinator protection and habitat promotion; and Honeygirl Meadery was offering their latest variety of mead flavors.



Durham Public Schools Hub Farm's Ashley Meredith sharing the wonder of bees with DPS students

Attendees could also sample and purchase local products made from the hive including honey and candles. Approximately 200 individuals showed up for the fun.

Honeygirl Meadery

In June 2019, HoneyGirl Meadery celebrated pollinators by throwing their first annual Pollinator Party in Durham! Approximately 200 people showed up on a Saturday to enjoy some mead, honey and more sweet treats. \$1 from every glass sale supported Durham's very own Bee City organization. They released an exclusive small batch of mead made with Durham honey all from hives from Bee Downtown, had a free pollinator seed giveaway and a pollinator planter painting booth. Durham Bee City stickers were also available for sale at the event. Many "buzz"-worthy vendors were there including Beehive Yourself, Keep Durham Beautiful, Durham County NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, Toxic Free NC, Durham Central Park, ReBloom, Wuerker Bee Apiary and Durham Beekeepers Association.

Honeygirl Meadery and Buddha Bee Apiary joined forces for a "Mead & Beesign" bee box painting class; similar to Wine & Design, but with a honeybee hive as the canvas and mead instead of wine. The class price covered painting materials, a jar of honey, honey-inspired baked goods and one glass of mead. Instead of participants keeping their painting creations, they were featured in the backyard of one of Buddha Bee's Host-a-Hive members.

Lee Attracting Birds and Bees and Hana Lee

With a background in studio art and organic landscaping, Lee provides bird and bee friendly art, education and design that celebrates art with nature. Hana Lee is a branch of this mission providing artistic services and seasonal event design, creating sustainable, bee friendly, seasonal botanical goodness through local plants and flowers. From seed to compost, all works are created with love and true eco-friendly practices. In 2019, Lee executed a pollinator program with approximately 30 kids from Voyager Academy. Lee also created a number of bee friendly weddings.

Museum of Life and Science

The Museum of Life and Science's education team completed two weeks of pollinator focused labs. "Pollination Science," "Neat Nectar," "Pollen Counts," and "Backyard Conservation" were some of the fun topics that families learned about.

Durham Central Park

For the entire month of June, Durham Central Park had a booth at the Durham Farmers' Market where pollinators were celebrated in honor of the month's Pollinator Week. Here, Durham Central Park offered educational activities for kids and a tour of Durham Central Parks' pollinator friendly gardens and Bee Hotel. 2,500 bee hotels were sold to Durham residents at the market.

Bee Downtown

Bee Downtown participated in four Drink The Honey events with Burt's Bees throughout the year! Ben the Beekeeper from Bee Downtown shared bee facts and stories with newly hired employees, and how they can help our precious pollinators. There were about 40 people in attendance at each one. Bee Downtown hosted three Summer Hive Tours at Bull City Cool, each with about 15 people in attendance. Two of these tours were held for American Tobacco Campus Employees, and the third tour was held for a team at Ancora. Everyone was "buzzing" with excitement to suit up and work the hives with them.

Bee Downtown visited East Durham Children's Initiative four times this year, once during every season. They introduced the bees and read a story about the hive during their first visit, bottled honey with the class for the next visit, played a pollinator game for the third visit, and last but not least, they suited the children up in veils and went on a "hive tour!" Bee Downtown engaged with the same 30 children

throughout the year, in hopes to make a lasting impact.

Bee Downtown hosted a public Beehive Launch Event for their partner, Appalachian Mountain Brewery at Picnic Durham during April 2019. They had their beautifully painted hives on display, clear observation hives for everyone to interact with, a honey tasting, and adorable bee-themed costumes to try on!

Burt's Bees

Burt's Bees and Bee Downtown partnered four times for a Drink the Honey Orientation. During these special on-boardings, 40 new employees learn about pollinators through sessions on bees and beekeeping. These sessions provide an opportunity to see the bees in our wall hive in action as well as view the Good of the Hive mural on the side of the Burt's Bees building painted by Matt Wiley and some of the Burt's Bees employees. These orientations support the connection to pollinators.

To engage Burt's Bees family members (ages 8-14), Burt's Beesus hosted Take Your Child to Work Day on April 26 which gave kids an opportunity to engage with a beekeeper while viewing the observation hive. This program helps pique interest in beekeeping and the love of bees to the next generation.

During Pollinator Week, Burt's Bees hosted tours of Burt's Coop and our observation hive. This event was open to the public and brought out the Durham community to learn about bees and watch them at work.

Burt's Bees sponsored a showing of *The Pollinators* at the Power Plant. This fascinating movie is directed by Peter Nelson and follows bees on their journey around the United States pollinating crops that are so crucial to our food supply.

On September 20, 400 Burt's Bees employees engaged in a bioblitz to capture images of species in nature with the iNaturalist app in support of E.O. Wilson's Half-Earth Project. 1,456 images were collected at the Brumley, Eno and Horton Grove.

Keep Durham Beautiful

Keep Durham Beautiful partnered with Fullsteam Brewery to throw an all-out bee-fest with honey beer, bee-related vendors and a spelling bee with a twist. In addition to the Spelling Bee, live bees, bee-related products (mead, honey and more), seeds, and other educational tools were offered to attendees. Many of the Bee City committee member's organizations tabled along with other environment-related organizations: Bee City USA Committee, Triangle Land Conservancy, CompostNow, Honeygirl Meadery, BeeHive Yourself Honey, Leaf & Limb, Master Gardeners, Durham County BeeKeepers, and Apiopolis. Approximately 250 individuals showed up for the event.

Keep Durham Beautiful hosted the third annual Bee Bash in partnership with many of the Durham Bee City Committee member organizations. Durham County Beekeepers Association had an observation hive on display; local experts from Bee Downtown were there with answers to your pressing pollinator questions; Toxic Free NC provided education on pollinator protection and habitat promotion; and Honeygirl Meadery was offering their latest variety of mead flavors. Attendees could also sample and purchase local products made from the hive including honey and candles. Approximately 200 individuals showed up for the fun.

Keep Durham Beautiful had an educational table at the Duke Gardens Durham Gardeners Fair in July. They reached about 50 people at this event. In 2019, they also continued to share their pollinator educational kits to teachers through an ongoing check out program. These kits increase students' understanding in science, math, and language arts by connecting them to plants, pollinators, food, and gardens. Keep Durham Beautiful hosted three educational tours at the KDB pollinator garden once it

was open to the public. The garden contains signage with information on the plants that are planted there. At Bull City Ciderworks' Ciderfest and anniversary party, Keep Durham Beautiful tabled sharing information on pollinators reaching nearly 1,000 attendees for each event. Throughout the year, the organization shared pollinator educational information via their newsletter and social media channels.

Triangle Land Conservancy

On June 22nd, Triangle Land Conservancy hosted "Get Wild! Buzzin' Buddies" at Walnut Hill Nature Preserve. This preserve is set to open to the public in April 2020. Attendees got a sneak peak of the preserve and saw what projects that are taking place there, including TLC's work with partner pollinator organization, Apiopolis! This program included a nature walk with a pollinator scavenger hunt, and several games and crafts related to bees, butterflies, birds, and more.

Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA) hosted a pollinator plant sale fundraiser on November 2, 2019 at Pearl Mill Preserve. They distributed pollinator plants to approximately 35 people. ECWA provided educational programming about pollinators to those that participated and visited the preserve that day. The pollinator garden at Pearl Mill is in its third year and is maturing.

Durham Public Schools Hub Farm

The Durham Public Schools Hub Farm is an outdoor learning center in north Durham. In 2019, the Hub Farm continued to maintain three active honeybee hives and educate every student who comes on a field trip about the importance of pollinators. In the 2018-2019 school year, they engaged over 3,000 students in pollinator education and trained five high school interns in beekeeping. In June of 2019 they hosted a World Pollinator Day celebration on the farm with games, activities and food. Over 300 people and 20 volunteers attended the event.

Toxic Free NC

In 2019, Toxic Free NC equipped 46 community scientists with training and equipment to collect water samples from 13 sites across North Carolina to test for the presence of bee-harmful insecticides. Durham sites included Hope Creek, Ellerbe Creek, and the DPS Hub Farm. They gave a presentation on bee-harmful pesticides to the Durham Bee Club on May 20.

Additionally, Toxic Free NC provided education, bee-safe bug spray recipes, "Spray Free Zone" signs, and other pollinator protection and habitat promotion outreach at the following Durham-based community events, engaging with approximately 445 people: Hub Farm Spring Festival, Durham Farmers Market, Bee City Bee Bash, Honeygirl Meadery Pollinator event, Blooming with Books, and The Pollinators film screening; as well as 10 additional pollinator-related events outside of Durham.

SEEDS

SEEDS is a two-acre urban garden and kitchen classroom in the heart of Durham. SEEDS develops the capacity of young people to respect life, the earth, and each other through growing, cooking, and sharing food. They had two pollinator education days last summer, one on June 17th and the other on August 5th with about 10 attendees on each date.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Geer Street Learning Garden



Museum of Life and Science's volunteers working together to plant more pollinator-friendly plants

Museum of Life and Science

The Museum of Life and Science's biggest pollinator event of 2019 was "Party for the Planet," which was a day full of environmentally friendly festivities. The Museum received funding for several native plants (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*, *Asclepias incarnata*, *Eupatorium maculatum*, *Rudbeckia fulgida*, *Echinacea* sp. and *Solidago caesia*) that were installed by volunteers into a new pollinator garden located on the Ellerbe Creek Greenway. Several vendors were there promoting pollinators. 76 people attended the event.

The Museum's landscaping team and volunteers tackled their ongoing project of adding more pollinator plantings to the grassy area that borders the Museum along Murray Avenue.

They are attempting to replace any traditional grass with flowers and native grasses. They also installed a small pollinator garden outside the Museum's parking garage.

2019 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Museum's Magic Wings Butterfly House--one of the largest butterfly houses on the East Coast. It is a 35-foot tall glass conservatory home to over 50 different species of butterflies. To celebrate the anniversary, families were able to sign up to install a new pollinator area by Ellerbe Creek. This effort created more habitats for all of Durham's butterflies and other pollinators.



Volunteers at Keep Durham Beautiful's Pollinator Garden at Bull City Cool

Keep Durham Beautiful

The KDB Pollinator Garden was created to support pollinators- especially our essential bees and butterflies. This space was an empty lot for 47 years until 2019, when a partnership between Keep Durham Beautiful, Reinvestment Partners, Bee Downtown, North Street Community Garden, and the City of Durham was formed. 91 volunteers gave 328.5 volunteer hours to plant over 55 pollinator plants in five garden beds. There were six workdays to make it happen. 120 cubic yards of mulch were used. KDB hosted a grand opening that celebrated the hard work and completion of phase one of the garden. Mayor Pro Temp Jillian Johnson read the pollinator resolution.

Extra Terrestrial Projects

Extra Terrestrial Projects continued with their work at Prairie Island, a native prairie at the trailhead of the American Tobacco Trail. In September, 33 volunteers from VF Outdoors LLC performed maintenance work at the site. This event was a partnership with Keep Durham Beautiful and Activate Good.

Durham Public Schools Hub Farm

With the help of a grant from the Australian-based company 'Flow Hive', in 2019 the Hub Farm grew their apiary education program by purchasing a special educational top-bar beehive with viewing panes, building an observation deck, planting a pollinator garden (80 square feet), and installing a museum-quality informational sign. This has allowed Hub Farm to teach people of all ages about bees much more effectively. Today, honeybee education is a key part of every single field trip, tour and public event Hub Farm has at the farm.

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle has approximately 700+ square feet of pollinator plantings at the Geer Street Learning Garden. Located between one of the poorest census tracts and one of the most prosperous business districts in Durham, the Geer Street Learning Garden is a flourishing urban green space. The garden has twelve raised vegetable beds, an outdoor classroom space, fruit trees, a cob pizza oven, a small greenhouse, two beehives, vermicompost system, perennial rain gardens, mushroom logs, pollinator habitats and areas for community gatherings all on only a quarter-acre lot!

Trees Durham

In October, 12 volunteers from the Tree Keepers program and Pearsontown Elementary planted 12 trees at Pearsontown Elementary, a year-round school in South Durham. Planting trees on the school grounds and playgrounds of Pearsontown was particularly important because the school year there starts in mid-July and kindergartners through 5th graders, teachers, staff, and after-school kids are out on the playground during the hottest parts of the summer. The shade from the trees will help provide relief from the heat, protection from harmful sun exposure, cleaner air, and much beauty! In addition, the trees will provide students with an opportunity for learning about the environment and serve as gathering spots at outdoor school events.

In November 2019, 29 trees were planted at Global Scholars Academy, a charter school that serves a 100% minority student population. The grounds are located on the former site of the Royal Ice Cream Parlor, which was the site of early anti-segregation protests. The trees were a combination of flowering and shade trees, with many of them being native species. The locations were chosen to provide shade to the buildings and playgrounds. 60 volunteers from Circle K International, Durham Rotary, Global Scholars Academy and the community participated in the event. Some of the tree species planted were Redbud, Serviceberry, Crape Myrtle, Shumard Oak, and Red Maple Brandywine.

Keep Durham Beautiful and TreesDurham

In celebration of the winter holidays, Trees Durham, Keep Durham Beautiful, Durham Rotary, El Futuro and Scrap Exchange partnered to give away 300 trees to Durham residents. Each household was allowed one tree. The event was hosted in the Lakewood Shopping Center. Residents could pick from the following tree species: Nuttall Oak, Sweetbay Magnolia, River Birch, or Hophornbeam.

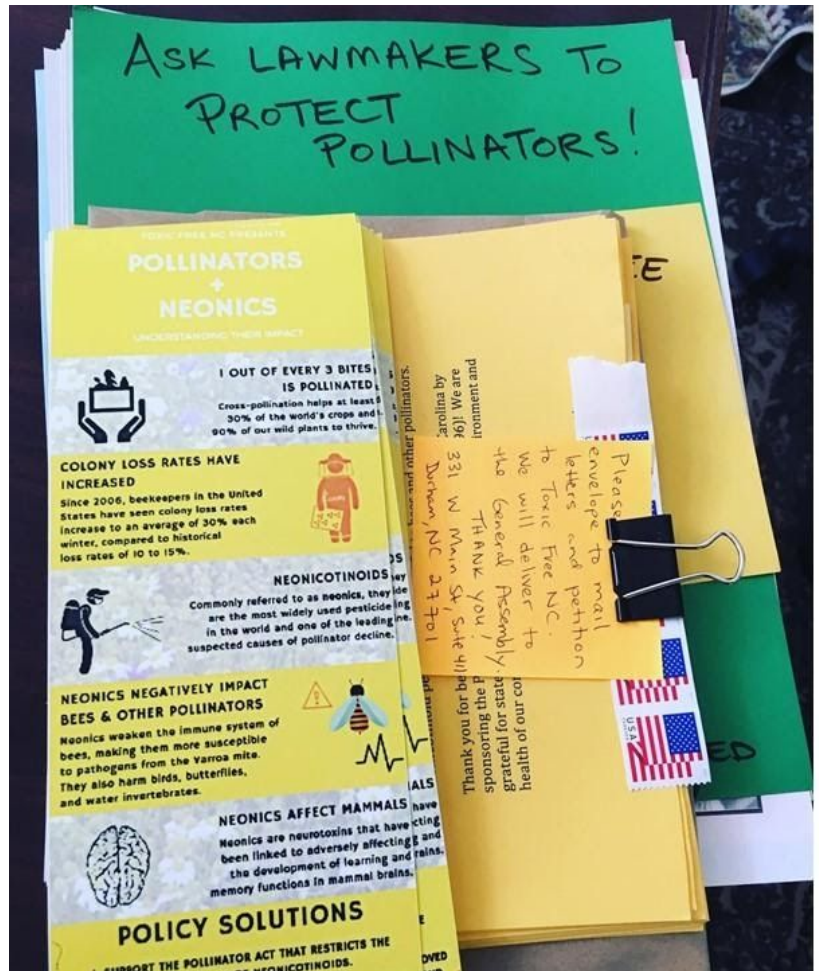
Durham County Office of Sustainability

In December, Durham Bee City's committee member, Tobin Freid, organized a tree planting with 18 volunteers. They planted 21 trees in East Durham near East Durham Park. These trees will serve as forage and habitat to all biodiversity.

POLICIES & PRACTICES



Durham Bee City and Toxic Free NC's "Spray Free Zone" signs to encourage neighborly consideration of pollinators when using residential pesticides



Toxic Free NC gathered letters from community members in support of the 2019 Pollinator Protection Act

Durham Bee City Committee proudly supports the efforts taken by committee member and executive director of Toxic Free NC, Alexis Luckey. She and her team continue to promote the Pollinator Protection Act. In 2019, they galvanized beekeeper allies to advocate for a state law limiting the residential sale of neonic pesticides.

They have also been the lead organization in the “Keep the Hives Alive” campaign. This campaign educates individuals on pollinator decline and provides policy recommendations which are also taken to Bayer CropScience, the number one bee-killing pesticide producer. Organizations such as Durham Public Schools Hub Farm and SEEDS that augment the efforts of Durham Bee City have also taken part in making pest management more pollinator friendly. The Hub Farm and SEEDS utilize sustainable practices for their land and pollinator habitat.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —

<https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/SoutheastMixedForestrx5FINAL.pdf>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — <https://www.curenursery.com/> ,

<https://www.mellowmarshfarm.com/>

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan —

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

CONTACT US!

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Tania Dautlick of Keep Durham Beautiful at the Duke Gardens Durham Gardeners Fair sharing information on pollinators