



# Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



## Gillette, Wyoming

### EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Christy Bell discusses bees as pollinators



Pollinator committee investigates a native sweat bee nest

The Pollinator Committee partnered with the Master Gardeners and Campbell County Extension to have a booth at the 2019 Campbell County Ag Expo located at Complex, Gillette's premier events center. Over 700 3rd graders visited our booth to look at insect cases featuring native pollinators, view pollinators under microscopes, and take pictures with our bumblebee photo board.

During the Campbell County Master Gardeners Annual Tree Sale, the Pollinator Committee partnered with the Campbell County Conservation District to provide free copies of the Promoting Pollinators on Your Place handbook. The Tree Sale Committee also worked the Pollinator Committee to highlight pollinator friendly trees and educate visitors about the importance of providing trees for pollinators.

On April 6, the Pollinator Committee worked with the Garden and Landscape Educational Expo (GLEE) Planning Committee to host Gillette's fourth annual Gillette Pollinator Day Celebration at GLEE. During this day-long educational event and pollinator celebration held at Complex, over 250 community members attended workshops and lectures free of charge to learn about Wyoming's native pollinators and planting for pollinators. In between lectures, participants were invited to take pictures with our bumble bee photo board and praying mantis, and stroll through our educational booths which featured

our informational pollinator posters. Booths included, the Pollinator Committee with handouts on native bees, monarchs and milkweed, and native pollinator-friendly plants and the Northeast Wyoming Seed Library with free packets of native wildflower seed. All attendees received a Be a Friend to Pollinators brochure and Promoting Pollinators on Your Place handbook provided by the Campbell County Conservation District.

During National Pollinator Week, the Pollinator Committee teamed up with the Urban Orchard and Campbell County Public Library to host a celebration of Wyoming's Native Bees on June 22. Christy Bell opened the event by introducing participants to the fascinating world of Wyoming's Native Bees and lead attendees through a crash course of native bee id. After the workshop participants were invited to the Urban Orchard to participate in our June pollinator count, set out butterfly puddlers, and install our Gold level Habitat Hero signage. With Christy Bell's help, participants were able to locate a thriving sweat bee nest complete with a cuckoo bee!

During the months of May, June, July, and August, the Pollinator Committee and Urban Orchard Committee hosted pollinator counts at the Urban Orchard, which involved counting the number of native bees, honey bees, butterflies/moths, flies, and wasps. During our July 2019 count, we documented a two-fold increase in pollinator activity when compared to 2018 and during our August 2019 count, the number of pollinators at the Urban Orchard tripled!

## POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Pollinator committee volunteers proudly show off their Habitat Hero certification

In 2019, the Pollinator Committee once again partnered with the City of Gillette Parks Division to encourage Adopt-A-Planter participants to select pollinator-friendly plants. Each summer, the City of Gillette invites local nonprofits, civic groups, businesses, and individuals to adopt and care for one of the community's 96 beautification planters throughout the summer. Adopt-A-Planter participants were able to easily locate pollinator-friendly plants for their plants by looking for the bee symbol placed next to pollinator friendly species on the pre-selected Adopt-A-Planter plant list, and they received an electronic version of our pollinator friendly planting guide.

The Pollinator Committee also worked to protect and create new pollinator habitat this year. An area of native showy milkweed along one of our major roads was designated as a Monarch Waystation through Monarch Watch. We teamed up with Campbell County Parks and Recreation to expand the pollinator garden at the Urban Orchard, a community fruit tree orchard that residents can harvest from for free located in Complex Park. The pollinator garden at the Urban Orchard also earned Gold status through Audubon's Habitat Hero program. The pollinator garden located in front of the Campbell County Extension Office in downtown Gillette was also awarded Silver level Habitat Hero certification.

The North Community Garden installed a new pollinator garden to delight its volunteers with spring and summer blooms, and provide habitat and forage for native pollinators. We also worked with Gillette College to complete the installation of a demonstration pollinator rain garden in front of the Gillette College Technical Education Center. This garden also features educational signage and benches to encourage community members to linger and learn about pollinators and urban water runoff in our community.

## POLICIES & PRACTICES



A Wyoming native bumble bee visits the pollinator friendly Habitat Hero area at the Urban Orchard

The Pollinator Committee worked with the City of Gillette Parks and Beautification Board to add a new "Go Green" category to our city's annual Landscape Beautification Awards. This new category recognizes Gillette's status as a Bee City and Tree City and acknowledges those homeowners, businesses, institutions, civic groups, and non-profit organizations that have made sustainability a key feature of their landscape design by incorporating wildlife or pollinator habitat, water-wise gardening techniques (rain barrels, cisterns, drip irrigation), use of native plants, low impact development practices, along with other sustainably-minded landscape design features. The Parks Board has given three Go Green awards since 2019.

The Pollinator Committee was also invited to present the importance of urban wildlife gardens to native bees and monarch butterflies to the City of Gillette Parks and Beautification Board.

On March 19, 2019 the City of Gillette proclaimed April 6 as Gillette Pollinator Day and recognized Gillette as an affiliate of Bee City USA and a signatory of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The City of Gillette in conjunction with the Campbell County Master Gardeners to complete the requirements of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to join the Leadership Circle by taking 8 or more actions to protect the monarch butterfly.

**Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —**

[http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/\\_files/documents/resources/pollinators/pollinatorguide.pdf](http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/_files/documents/resources/pollinators/pollinatorguide.pdf)

**Regional Native Plant Supplier List —** As a Master Gardener group, we are prohibited from endorsing businesses

**Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan —** The City of Gillette Parks Division utilizes an IPM plan, but there is no URL link.

## CONTACT US!



The Pollinator Committee poses for a picture after conducting a pollinator count.

**Committee —** Gillette Bee City Pollinator Committee

**Website —** <https://www.ccgov.net/282/Master-Gardener>

**Social Media —** <https://www.facebook.com/CampbellCountyMasterGardeners/>