



Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Hayesville, North Carolina

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Pollinator Expo vendor & Tractor Parade Venn diagram twirl

Predictions of rain caused our committee to postpone our May Pollinator Expo and five weeks later we had predictions of rain again. We hosted the 2nd Pollinator Expo, in spite of the rain; 14 Loyal vendors, resource specialists, and local artists were equally determined to share news on pollinators.

Rain drizzled all day and we still provided organic pest solutions, native plants, and information and materials needed to create and decorate a pollinator garden. There was something for everyone whether they love birds, butterflies or gardening.

Bee City Hayesville is fortunate to be connected with the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District. Bee City Hayesville can piggyback on the Clay SWCD education and outreach efforts all year long. Bee City Hayesville message, of sharing knowledge regarding the importance of sustaining pollinators, was incorporated in many programs.

Earth Day activities was one event with 100 people enjoying dozens of table top demonstrations held

on the highly visible town square. There were Bee Keepers, Native & Ornamental Plant Sales, and Art Craft tables.

Bee City received additional exposure at Clay SWCD Friends of Ag breakfasts. Improving habitat and increasing pollinator food sources were discussed during presentations on soil health and cover crops. Clay County's Annual Tractor Parade had 200 people of all ages participating in our Bee City interactive activities for our food source interconnectedness. Who would have thought a hula hoop Venn diagram could turn into such fun?

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Community Gardens & Growing Greens for Good Project recipients

Fall and winter months Hayesville Bee City and 37 Hayesville Ag Science students studied the need for pollinator habitat and the role of milkweed for Monarchs as we planted additional milkweed in our county's Rain Garden.

Clay SWCD, Bee City Hayesville, and Master Gardener volunteers worked together in the newly constructed raised bed pollinator gardens. 11 of us distributed pollinator flower seed packets, bookmarks, pencils, and a terrific booklet on wildflowers, thanks to our generous partners, NC DOT, to

the visitors of the community gardens. Master Gardener students also encouraged growers to plant gardens; saying even small gardens can be beneficial.

Clay SWCD, NC Environmental Educators, and Hayesville High School combined efforts and funds to distribute raised bed garden kits to families suffering with food insecurity. High school students grew the bedding plants, built and installed the raised beds, and helped the new owners maintain their small gardens. This project was very rewarding as it provided 20 students life lessons on growing food, giving to those in need and it helped restore pride and independence for 15 families.

Conservation is a practical tool for all our resources and during a Clay SWCD Friends of Ag breakfasts presentations on soil health and cover crops also incorporated best management plans which improve pollinator habitat and provide pollinator food sources to 40 well fed listeners.

Our county rain garden and community gardens will continue to be maintained and additional plantings will be necessary.

POLICIES & PRACTICES



Clay County Rain Garden (prior to spraying and planting)

Prior to our 2nd Pollinator Expo we connected with the NCDOT Roadside Environmental Crew. We discussed their use of pesticides and learned they consider the use of pesticide when deciding their roadside sites and type of flowers. We were happy to learn some flower seed is drilled in and requires

little pesticide use for NC DOT to maintain the beautiful blooms.

Clay County's Rain Garden has required some spraying. We read and applied a minimal amount of herbicide according to directions but because we used mulch to eliminate many of the undesirable weeds very little herbicide was used.

Mindsets and old wives tales may be changing but it is slowly and we must continue to work with local farmers, government and the public.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List — N/A

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — N/A

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan — N/A

CONTACT US!



Partners preparing for conservation field day

Committee — Bee Friendly Committee

Website — N/A

Social Media — www.Beecityhayesvillefacebook.com