



Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Rome, Georgia

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



The Bee Board poses with Phyllis Stiles after her talk in Rome



A student learns from Master Gardener and Bee Board member Ginny Word at Bee Fest

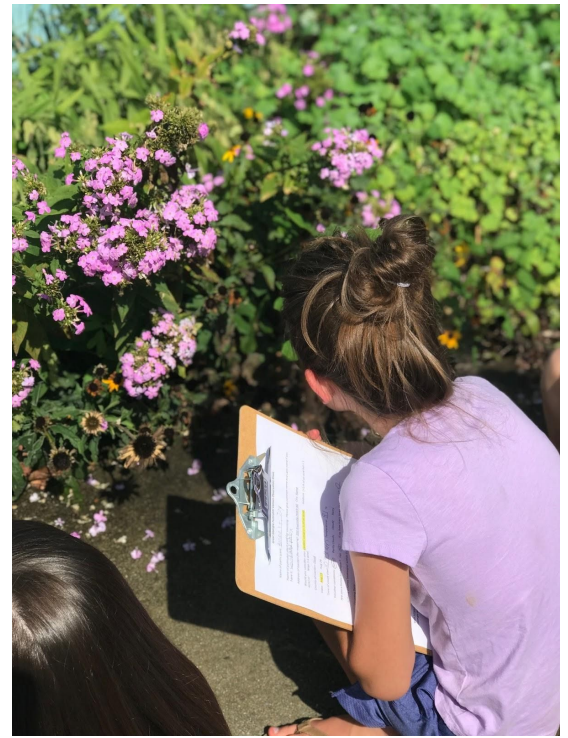
In 2019, Bee City USA-Rome, GA participated in 8 pollinator conservation events and hosted 5 out of those eight events.

Our first two events and last event of the year were in partnership with other local organizations to provide free seeds and pollinator information to the general public, along with selling our Bee Rome merchandise to raise money for our local pollinator plots.

These events included our Rosie the Riveter Memorial Day celebration in March, where we discussed the historical importance of Victory gardens during WWII and encouraged the 64 participants to plant their own gardens with pollinator plants. We also attended a planting day at our local community garden in May where 15 residents of that community attended, and in October we gave out information at Chiaha, our annual fall arts festival where we interacted with over 150 residents and visitors alike.



Students and parents alike sit entranced by a buzzing story time at the library led by Bee Board member Tiffany Abbott-Fuller



A student conducts the Great Georgia Pollinator Census

The bulk of our events occurred during National Pollinator Month. To kick off the festivities, we hosted Phyllis Stiles at our monthly Rome-Floyd Beekeepers Association on June 6, where she gave a talk about pollinators and Bee City USA to 66 attendees who were a mix of beekeepers and interested citizens.

Our next event was Bee Day at the Library on June 12 where members of our Bee Board and local educators put on a free story time for 88 children and adults. The program included an educational puppet show on bees, and composting.

On June 19, we hosted a Pollinator Themed Sip and Paint where the 19 participants could learn about pollinators as they painted their own masterpiece! A portion of the proceeds from this event went toward our pollinator plots.

On June 22, we wrapped up National Pollinator Week with our most popular event, Bee Fest at the Farmers Market. We partnered with Between the Rivers Farmers Market to bring fun crafts for kids, an observation hive, Bee Rome merchandise, and an interactive scavenger hunt to our local market so citizens could understand the relationship between pollinators and the food we eat. We interacted with over 165 people at that event.

The final event we hosted was the Great Georgia Pollinator Census on August 25. In partnership with our local environmental education center, we put on a homeschool program for 22 students to educate them about the importance of pollinators, how they pollinate, and then had the students participate in the census. It was a busy and wonderful year for Bee City USA - Rome, GA.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Improving the raised beds



Free veggies at the community garden

For Arbor Day 2019, our Bee Board worked with our Tree Board to select the Willow Oak as the tree species to be planted for our Arbor Day Celebration. Eighteen Willow Oaks were planted on the median of a major entry to Rome. These trees are an important habitat or food source for many insects including aphids, leafhoppers, treehoppers, lace bugs, plant bugs, leaf beetles, weevils, larvae of long-horned beetles, gall wasps, walking sticks, and caterpillars of moths, butterflies, and skippers.

In March of 2019, we helped make improvements to the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Garden located at the Museum of Flight to make it more pollinator friendly, and in a better light location.

We also assisted with the removal of invasive species at the Native Plant Demonstration Garden at our local environmental education center. Areas of privet and ivy were choking out native plants.

We also continued maintenance of our three pollinator plots located throughout our county's parks, and enhanced a community garden by replacing worn-out boards on raised beds to make more appropriate areas for both vegetables and pollinator plants.



Hive boxes at South Rome Garden



Happy bee at the pollinator plot

POLICIES & PRACTICES

We have worked with our Parks and Rec department to reduce spraying overall, and follow the guidelines set by the UGA IPM.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —

<https://www.KeepPromefloydBeautiful.org/bee-city-usa>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — <https://www.KeepPromefloydBeautiful.org/bee-city-usa>

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan — not available

CONTACT US!

Committee — Bee Board, Andi Beyer, andi@romelabels.com and Monica Sheppard, monicashep@comcast.net

Website — <https://www.keepromefloydbeautiful.org/bee-city-usa>

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



The Bee Board with Phyllis Stiles