



Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



WEBSTER, FLORIDA

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Male monarch on echinacea. Photo: Phyllis Stiles/Xerces Society

We hosted many varied activities throughout this first full reporting year. Numerous articles have appeared in our area newspapers with information about Webster being the first city in the entire state of Florida to become a Bee City. The Great Sunflower Project was featured in one article. The Villages Daily Sun, The Sumter County Times, The Sumter Express, The Sumter Shopper and The Leesburg Daily Commercial have all helped to spread the word.

The local Master Gardeners have had two bee experts from the University of Florida give talks on these amazing insects. The University in Gainesville now has a new Bee Laboratory Building dedicated solely to bees and Bee College!

We celebrate City Government Week in Florida each year at the City Hall. Bee City USA - Webster was celebrated as our newest event. About 15 people came to the City Hall where we listened to a talk given by our own Mr. Chris Werner of Indian Summer Honey Farm in the Webster area. He described the life cycles of the various types of honey bees (queen, drone, worker), their duties, hive construction, mating of the queen, tending to the eggs, larvae, making of honey, wax and guarding the hive. Mr. Werner explained about the production of queens which he ships around the country. He also explained about loading up hives on trucks and taking them to orchards and fields of crops in California to pollinate the fruit, nuts and vegetables.

Another Bee and Pet Fest was held on May 12. This fest had around 50 guests to listen to the State Bee Inspector and a country and western singer; plus enjoy the dog costume contest, bloodhound exhibition by the County Sheriff's Department, bounce houses, popcorn, cotton candy for the children; and vendors selling local honey.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

We hosted the solitary Bee Condo Contest during our Bee and Pet Festival at the City Park. The date was May 20, 2017 and only two people entered. These were constructed of large blocks of wood with various drill bit sizes used to form a Bee Condo. These were mounted on poles in the ground.

A 6-member group from our County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society celebrated the National Pollinator Week in June 2018 by planting a pollinator garden on each side of our "Welcome to Webster" sign. Small signs were placed by the various species of pollinator plants identifying them by name. There are two Bee City USA signs, one on each side of the garden. This area is on the main thoroughfare called Market Boulevard.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

Our committee is composed of:

Mr. Jim Davis - Ag Center Director as Advisor
Ms. Lisa Sanderson - Master Gardener Coordinator - Advisor
Ms. Deanna Naugler - City Manager
Mr. Michael Harris – Chair (City Council member through 2017)
Ms. Barbara Kane - Secretary & Treasurer
Ms. Pam Arnold - Photographer & PR

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List— Lists of pollinator plants are kept in City Hall for those interested to pick them up, purchase them near Webster and start their own garden.

Regional Native Plant Supplier List—Shady Oaks Native Plant Nursery, Sumterville, FL, with List.
Medina's Nursery, Webster, FL with list

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan—To be developed

CONTACT US!

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Website—<http://www.websterfl.com/information-page.html>