



## Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education

# ASHLAND, OREGON



*L to R: Banyan Botanicals with their approved garden sign, Nancy and the Mason Bee House workshop, Peggy Mee's garden, Carolyn and Albert tabling at the Growers Market PHOTOS: Kristina Lefever*

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

BCUA hosted or participated in these educational events: 1) Classes at North Mountain Park Nature Center: - Build a Bee House| Feb 10| 2-3:30pm| Kristina Lefever & Nancy Appling| 12 attendees - Growing Pollinator Gardens| June 16| 10am-12pm| Kristina Lefever| 6 attendees - Protecting Pollinators and People In the Garden | Sept 22| Kristina Lefever| 5 attendees 2) Tabling events: - Bear Creek Salmon Festival| Oct 6| 125 attendees - Community Seed Swap & Scion Exchange| March 31| 100 attendees - Ashland Growers Market| 6 times| 120 attendees 3) Pollinator Garden Tour (see below): - 2nd Annual Pollinator Garden Tour| July 15| 84 attendees

Non-BCUA Hosted Events: - Pollinator Puppet Theatre at North Mountain Park - 11 people - Oregon Honey Festival| August 20| 400 attendees - Kristina Lefever made several other 'Pollinators in the Garden' presentations, including one for the Mountain Meadow community's Arbor Day celebration, the Ashland Garden Club, and the Jackson County Master Gardeners.

2018 marked our 2nd Annual Pollinator Garden Tour. We invited all pollinator gardeners to a Pollinator Gardener Social, and 16 gardeners chose to participate. The gardeners chose Sunday, July 15, as the date for the Tour.

The participating gardeners submitted a description and picture of their garden for the tour booklet, and for the second year, Phyllis Stiles, provided a welcome letter inside the front cover!

We advertised the tour in the Parks and Rec Recreational Guide, on Facebook, in a press release, with flyers, and in letters in the paper. Individuals purchased a ticket and received a tour booklet, which included a map, so they could select the gardens they wanted to visit on this self-guided tour. We were pleased that over 80 people participated in the Tour.

During 2018, we approved 18 more gardens for our Approved Pollinator Garden Program, for a total of 51 at the end of 2018. Of these, 10 belong to Ashland Garden Club members and 12 are located at local businesses, including North Mountain Park.

We tabled at the Ashland Growers Market 5 times during the summer to engage shoppers in pollinator conversations. We had fun talking about the importance of pollinators, especially our native bees, provided plant lists and other information, talked to people about our pollinator garden program, and encouraged people to sign up for our 2nd Annual Pollinator Garden Tour. In addition to educating local residents about pollinators and Bee City USA Ashland, tabling at the Market provides a good opportunity to connect with tourists and share the Bee City USA program information with them. We also tabled at a Community Seed Swap hosted by the Bellview Grange.

Nancy Appling, Tom Nash, and Kristina Lefever gave a class and hands-on workshop about mason and leafcutter bees. After an overview of pollinators, the participants had fun drilling and assembling the nests.

Kristina gave several presentations about Growing Pollinator Gardens at the North Mountain Park Nature Center. The presentation explains the role of municipal governments in pollinator conservation, describes the various pollinating insects and pollinator plant characteristics, and provides information about how to create a pollinator garden. She gave half a dozen similar presentations around the Valley at other community venues.

Kristina continues her quarterly column in the local paper – the Ashland Daily Tidings – called The Pollinator Connection, writing about the importance of pollinators, pollinator landscapes, habitat and overwintering sites, and connectivity, as well as happenings in the pollinator community.

Ongoing conversations and sharing within the community is another way to educate people about the importance of pollinators and pesticide-free pollinator landscapes.



*L to R: Sheet mulching at Riverwalk, neighbor Neal and Carolyn, spreading mulch. Some of the crew who helped with the sheet mulching. PHOTOS: Kristina LeFever*

**POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT**

# POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

BCUA hosted or participated in these events:

We began working with the Riverwalk Community to turn an Ashland 'pocket' park into a pollinator garden park. This project was suggested by Carolyn Hunsaker, a Riverwalk resident, who has since joined our BCUA subcommittee. In addition to a number of planning meetings among BCU team members, we organized several work parties with BCUA team members and Riverwalk residents. On 8/2/18, Kristina, Carolyn, and Albert of BCUA worked with 6 Riverwalk residents to solarize the middle, grassy area by covering it with plastic, after Parks staff cut the grass very short, and sheet mulched the front beds with cardboard and wood chips. In late November, we replaced the clear plastic with black plastic with the intent of letting it sit through the winter. On 12/10/18, Carolyn, Kristina, and Neal, another Riverwalk resident, sheet mulched an area in the back corner after it was treated with a non-synthetic herbicide by Parks staff.

Park staff contributed man hours, herbicide, and wood chips to help make this project happen. We will be planting this garden with pollinator plants in spring and fall of 2019.

BCUA continues to maintain the small pollinator garden that we planted at the end of 2017 at The Grove, the office of Parks and Rec on East Main St. We had several small weeding parties in 2018. We purposefully leave the plants in their 'weedy' state through the winter; we plan to add signage explaining our maintenance practices, identification of the pollinator plants, and information about pollinators' varied nesting habits.

BCUA continues to help maintain the small rain garden planted at the Ashland Creek Park community garden. We participated in two weeding parties in 2018.

We would like to express our appreciation for the great support from the Parks and Rec staff, for our subcommittee and our pollinator gardens!

Non-BCUA hosted events: Kristina Lefever is a member of the Ashland Garden Club, and a small team of Garden Club members plants and maintains the demonstration Heirloom Garden at North Mountain Park. Kristina and another Garden Club member replanted the Corner Garden, a small garden in front of North Mountain Park Nature Center as a pollinator garden in 2018, and continues to maintain it.

## POLICIES & PRACTICES

Bee City USA Ashland is fortunate to be a subcommittee of Ashland Parks and Recreation. The BCU subcommittee currently is comprised of four community members, an Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and our liaison, Libby VanWyhe, manager of the North Mountain Park Nature Center. Our sub-committee works with two overarching goals: - Create pollinator friendly landscapes - Educate the public about pollinators and their conservation.

Ashland Parks and Rec is responsible for maintaining the parks and some of other properties of the City of Ashland, and follows the IPM plan on those properties. Ashland Parks and Rec native plant list is referenced when new plantings are needed.

[Recommended locally native plant species list](#)

[Regional native plant supplier list](#)

[Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan](#)

## CONTACT US!

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