

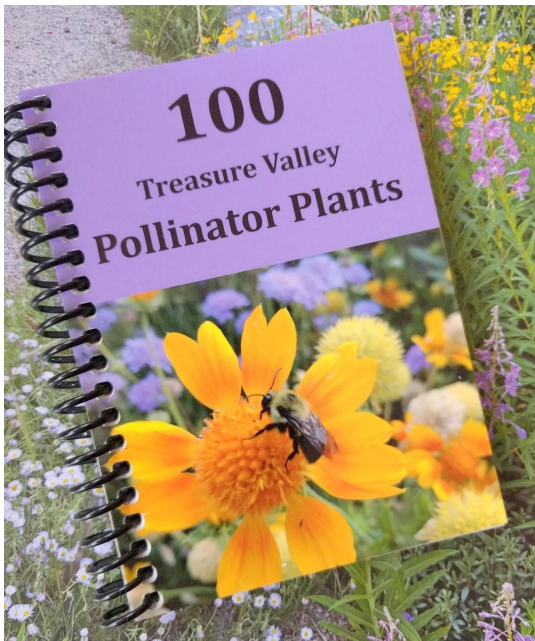


Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Garden City, Idaho

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Cover of "100 Plants" book



Library Book donation sticker



Chinden Gardeners Club booth at Pollinator Celebration

Our 2019 Speaker Series at Garden City City Hall included 5 speakers on various topics concerning pollinator conservation. Experts on wasps, bumble bees, plants, habitat design, and how gardening for birds helps pollinators helped to enlighten over 100 people. The August presentation included a tour of the Pollinator Habitat. The annual Pollinator Celebration hosted 153 people and included pollinator identification walks, 14 vendors, activities for kids, and a film highlighting home, public and farm pollinator gardens. We were highlighted in a local newspaper for influencing the installation of pollinator gardens, and written up in Edible Idaho's fall issue. Both of these publications reach thousands of citizens. We donated \$300 to our local library to purchase books about helping pollinators. They put up a display for the month of May with these books and more.



BEE CITY

Garden City Fights for Pollinators

STORY AND PHOTO
BY COURTNIIE DAWSON

A crowd surrounds a man with a butterfly net, anxious to get a glimpse of his catch. He takes a plastic cup and scoops it into the mesh, retrieving a sweat bee, a solitary pollinator harvesting pollen and nectar to feed its young. As the crowd swarms in to get a closeup view, the insect buzzes around its container. The volunteer turns from the crowd and releases the imprisoned sweat bee, which zips away to a nearby flower to continue its errands.

This spectacle is just one of several you can find at the yearly Pollinator Celebration hosted by Bee City USA's chapter in Garden City. The celebration is an opportunity for beekeepers, scientists, gardeners, conservation groups and more to team up and showcase the importance of our local pollinators. And it's days like today that put a smile on the face of every member of the Bee City Garden City (BCGC) committee.

Bee City USA is a nationwide organization dedicated to teaching urbanites about the importance of pollinators. Garden City, Idaho, was the 13th city in the United States certified as a Bee City USA location,

"There is nothing scarier than a bug-free property," says Judy. "But in a short time, we had an amazing diversity of beetles, hummingbirds, bumblebees... Just goes to show, if you plant it, they'll find it."

The pollinator garden is now in its third year. The plants have grown strong and healthy and continue to flourish under the careful watch of the Bee City volunteer team that tirelessly weeds the garden and maintains the walking paths.

"I love the work days, working as a team in the garden. It really feels like being part of a community," says Bee City committee member Robyn Dawson.

When the volunteers aren't hard at work in the pollinator garden, they focus on public education events. BCGC hosts a lecture series in which experts present on conservation and protection of the thousands of species of pollinators, including wasps, bumblebees and flies. The educational efforts cumulate into the yearly Pollinator Celebration, which features tours of the completed Pollinator Garden.

The Bee City Garden City team says that their efforts are only the

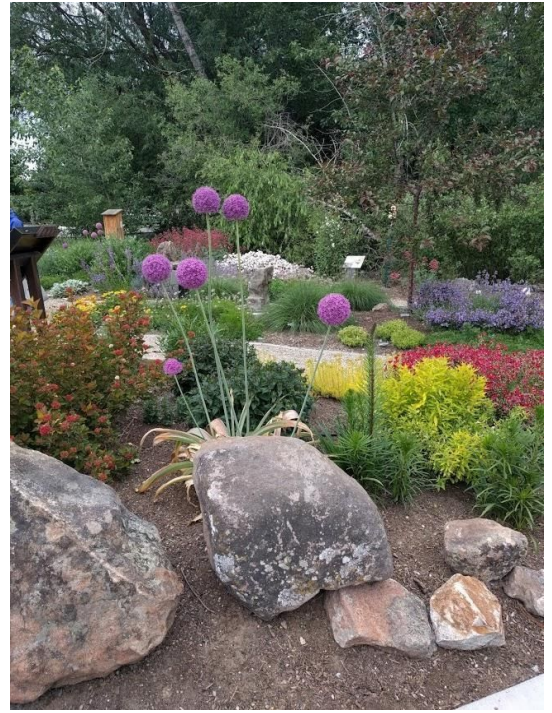
Edible Idaho article

Summer found us tabling at 3 local events, giving out information and recruiting volunteers. "The Secret Life of Bees" was presented at 2 local schools. The highlight of our year was the completion of the pocket-size, spiral-bound, 118 page book "100 Treasure Valley Pollinator Plants" in December. The initial printing of 288 copies is sold out and 500 more are on order. The book highlights a plant per page, with a photo, plant information, pollinators attracted, and a "native" icon where indicated. It is organized by plant type, then season, in order to assist in creating gardens in bloom all seasons. Funds from the sale of these books will enable us to continue and extend our outreach. The only disappointment this year was our inability to convince the City of Garden City to implement an IPM Plan. Written material was presented in March when the Comprehensive Plan was re-written, and again at a City Council meeting in May. No steps have been taken to implement a plan, and it was not included in the Comprehensive Plan.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Pollinator Habitat East Side, May 2019



Allium in Pollinator Habitat, June 2019

We were made aware that the City of Boise is adding pollinator pockets to several parks, and a large area to one of the parks. The Merician Co-op Gardeners added a pollinator garden to their food garden.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

Nothing has been done yet. The only known pesticide-free area managed by the City is the Pollinator Habitat.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —

<https://gardencityidaho.org/index.asp?SEC=4C0FCAA8-077E-4F44-9974-323C068AEE5B>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — The list does not contain a supplier list. However, our new book list 3 local nurseries whose plants do not contain neonicotinoids.

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan — The City of Garden City does not have one.

CONTACT US!

Committee — Garden City Pollenteers

Website — <https://gardencityidaho.org/index.asp?SEC=4C0FCAA8-077E-4F44-9974-323C068AEE5B>

Social Media — <https://www.facebook.com/Bee-City-USA-Garden-City-1219475004738229>