

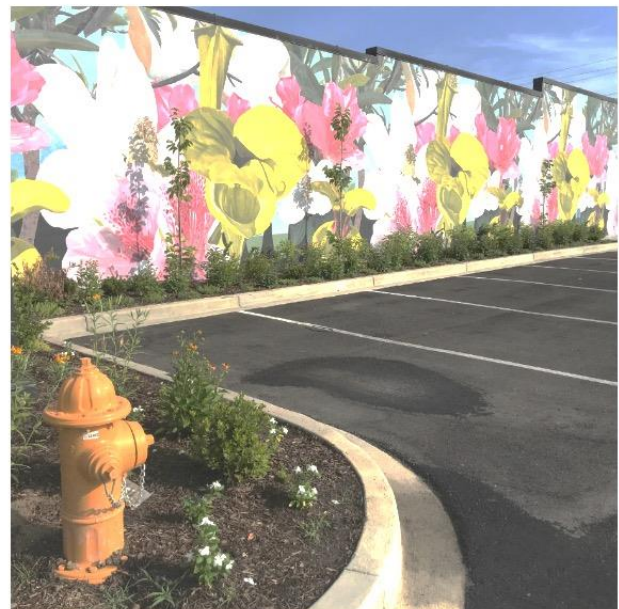


# Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



## LAKE CITY, SOUTH CAROLINA

### EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Lake City citizens enjoyed several enrichment opportunities in 2018. In June, dozens of Boys & Girls clubbers, their guardians and teachers, all worked together for several hours to plant the perimeter of our newest public art installation, a gorgeous, hyper-realistic honeybee mural. The event was timed so it fell right in the middle of National Pollinator Week. The participants took breaks in the shade to hear short lessons on pollinators, had snacks and made a bee-themed craft to cool down from the heat.

The following day, an adult education seminar was offered at Moore Farms Botanical Garden entitled "Pollinator Celebration," where roughly 20 pollinator enthusiasts came together to learn about the best plants for attracting an array of pollinators. Bee folklore and history, along with beekeeping resources, were shared. Participants crafted seed bombs, a bejeweled butterfly "drinking" bowl, and hummingbird feeders with nectar, taking everything home with them.

In October, the horticulture staff from Moore Farms Botanical Garden changed out the annual plant material at both of the pollinator-specific murals in town, giving them new visual interest for the winter months.

In November, Moore Farms welcomed celebrated plantsman and educator Dr. Patrick McMillan as he taught a class entitled "Gardening for Life - How to Maximize the Diversity of Pollinators and Wildlife in Your Garden."

The garden's education and outreach team routinely gives hands-on pollinator talks and hosts low-cost activities with homeschooler groups and out in the local schools, year round.

## POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

Each year, we notice more pollinator activity, likely due to the variety and multi-seasonality of our plant material. With careful selection, we have essentially ensured there is always something in bloom regardless of season or temperature extreme. We also plant inclusively for many species of beneficial insects, not singularly honeybees. We welcome native bees, hummingbirds, bats, beetles, flies, moths and butterflies. It has been a joy to educate the public on this fact, that while honeybees are essential for food production and flower power, many other insects contribute ecological services as well. How fortunate we are for the efforts of all our hardworking winged friends!



## POLICIES & PRACTICES

Our committee is made up of full-time employees of Moore Farms Botanical Garden, from the education/outreach and horticulture departments. MFBG is a hybrid, both a bastion of botanical research and an idyllic pleasure garden for patroness Darla Moore. We are responsible for reaching a broad audience, ages toddler to elder, and educating them on ecological topics. In summer, especially during National Pollinator Week, we organize pollinator-themed volunteer projects, family craft-based classes and lecture-based adult

classes. Through this vehicle of public engagement, we sincerely hope pollinator conservation becomes a priority for our local families.

We haven't published an official IPM strategy, but we are prioritizing this for the calendar year of 2019. We have dramatically reduced our frequency and intensity of synthetic herbicides and pesticides, hand-pulling weeds the majority of the time and utilizing horticultural oils and mechanical removal over caustic insecticides. In the rare instance we determine a synthetic pesticide is needed for weed control in a wide swath (i.e. traffic islands) we spray early in the morning before insect populations are awake or active, and reschedule spraying if it is a windy day, preventing harmful drift.

**Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List**—To be developed

**Regional Native Plant Supplier List**— To be developed

**Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan**— To be developed

## CONTACT US!

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**Website**— <https://visitlakecitysc.com/bee-city-usa/>

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



*An empty lot transformed into a restful garden in downtown Lake City.*