



Bee Campus USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Randolph College Lynchburg, Virginia

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Hillside Garden Club Pollinator Garden Tour



Randolph College Nursery School teachers with an observational hive

Science Festival & Pollinator Vision Tabling 4/24/2019

Coding Camp Garden Tour 7/9/2019

Second Group Coding Camp Garden Tour 7/30/2019

Critters & Cyanotypes Art Student Tours 9/7/2019

Hillside Garden Club Pollinator Garden Tour 9/11/2019

Observational Beehive Outreach Day 10/9/2019

Jefferson Forest High School Garden Tours 10/15/2019

Nursery School Hosting Observational Hive 10/17/2019

We had an informational table at the Randolph College Science Festival, held for children annually, where we curated a display demonstrating how pollinator vision helps them navigate to flowers and the color patterns that are invisible to our human eyes. In October, a local beekeeper set up a large observational beehive for us in the centrally located Student Center. We had posters and displays to discuss beekeeping and acknowledge the difference between honeybees and native, wild bees.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Common Buckeye visiting the coreopsis in Randolph College pollinator garden in mid-July

In addition to the service learning events, our grounds staff planted five new native redbuds, a new native maple, a new native pine, and one new butterfly bush. In the organic garden, staff added pollinator friendly landscaping and seeded all of the low-mow hillsides with a feed-a-bee mix.

SERVICE LEARNING



Randolph College students plant the campus' first pollinator garden on Earth Day



Randolph College students breaking open milkweed seed pods and sowing seeds on our hillsides



Randolph College Nursery School sowing seeds in a low-mow site on campus

Pollinator Garden Planting and Seed Sowing, 120 active participants, 4/22/2019

Organic Gardening Pollinator Habitat Improvement, 14 participants, 10/20/2019

Sowing Milkweed Seed, 40 active participants, 10/29/2019

Nursery School Seed Sowing, 13 active participants, 11/6/2019

April 22, 2019 at Randolph College was a big day for us. We hosted our first-ever Earth Day Mini-Festival. The event featured the James River Association, a Master Beekeeper with her observation hive, and the Randolph College Natural History and Archeology Collection. The Collection highlighted Virginia native plant and animal specimens. At the event, we planted the first pollinator garden on campus. It is 250 sq. ft. located in a very visible location in front of our Science Building on our front lawn. Native milkweeds, sunflowers, coreopsis, and annuals, among numerous other perennial natives were purchased through a local nursery and planted in the garden. Students from both the College and the Nursery School helped plant these and seed the remaining space. The annuals provided initial color while the perennials become established and this method seemed to work quite well. The garden was lush through the summer and even ignited a number of tour inquiries; we hosted nearly 30 members from a local garden club to discuss installation and maintenance. The garden required little maintenance and looked lovely – meaning we will be able to plant more after this test location.

CURRICULUM & CONTINUING EDUCATION

A number of courses discuss pollinators and pollinator protection. In Economic Botany this year, the final topic involved analyzing cultural uses of plants. The studies students analyzed considered how honeybee and wild bee populations affect the seed set on sunflower crops and identified interactions between these different pollinating populations. In the Climate Dynamics and Global Change course, students formulated a climate resiliency plan with specific, actionable goals to address pollinator population declines on campus. The introductory courses on zoology, botany, and environmental science all discuss pollinators as a part of their course content as well.

EDUCATIONAL & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



The new pollinator garden included a custom sign detailing the types of plants used, the benefits of these natural areas, and some information on what makes it valuable to pollinators.

This past year we have installed five new, permanent exterior signs on campus to accompany rain gardens, low mow areas, and the newly planted pollinator garden. These signs have information about the value these urban natural areas provide for wildlife and pollinators specifically. The pollinator garden sign describes how community members can support pollinator health in their own lives and details how this pollinator garden directly addresses pollinator declines. The signage has been really well received and we anticipate incorporating additional signage as able.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

The campus continues to maintain a pesticide-free "back" thirty acres of forested area. Any pesticide use on campus is targeted and only used when deemed the most efficient method of eradication of target pests. Invertebrate pesticides are used exclusively indoors to maintain pest-free living and working spaces and only applied as-needed. The herbicides used in exterior areas are only applied by licensed applicators in specific locations, following best practices.

Over the past year, we have prioritized completing our native plant list. We are pleased to say we have completed the list due to the dedication of our student interns. The list is in the final editing stages and has an anticipated public release in 2020. We are currently updating accessibility standards to ensure it is available for all. It will be published on the Randolph College Sustainability webpage.

We have been working closely with our City of Lynchburg Bee City program as they also develop their regional sources list. Throughout 2019, we have begun developing our IPM and regional sources list, but they are still in progress.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List — Not yet publicly available.

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — In progress.

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan — In progress.

CONTACT US!

Committee — Bee Campus Working Group, Allison Brooks, abrooks@randolphcollege.edu, Karin Warren, kwarren@randolphcollege.edu

Website — <https://www.randolphcollege.edu/sustainability/resources/>

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