



Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



TALENT, OREGON

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



L - R: 1) *Laura Ferguson at the ruins in Ephesus, Turkey.* 2) *This garden was designed by Robin McKenzie.* 3) *Bradley is showing his plaque at the Pollinator Week sign.* 4) *Talent's mayor, Darby Ayers-Flood; garden designer Gerlinde Smith; Bee City USA-Talent chairperson, Dolly Warden; and City Councilor Stephanie Dolan cut the ribbon on the City Hall pollinator garden.* 5) *Ginny Ross and Dolly Warden of Bee City USA- Talent handing out seed packets at Talent Harvest Day Parade.* 6) *Making the mosaic pieces that will be the pollinators in the mosaic wall.*

With a population of 6,492, Talent was the second city to be certified in the nation. Here's an overview of Talent's education and outreach activities for 2018.

January 16

The entire city population was invited to attend the Development Fair to learn more about community groups, local and state agencies and their representatives. Our Bee City USA Subcommittee had a table at which we talked to people and gave out information as well as literature pertaining to pollinators. Over 100 people attended the event.

March 3 & April 7

Working with our Talent Garden Club, BCU Talent sponsored presentations about pollinators. The first one was Laura Ferguson, speaking on the Secrets About and From the Bees We Find in Our Gardens. She emphasized the innate wisdom of the hive and a return to harmonious apiculture. There were about 40 people in attendance. This was Laura's second time presenting to this group. She has a certified pollinator garden and lives in Talent.

Local resident and landscape designer (Rockbird Gardens at www.rockbirdgardens.com), Robin McKenzie presented to the Talent Garden Club on “Planning and Growing a Butterfly Garden.” Robin has a certified monarch butterfly waystation in her yard. Attendance was about 45.

June 6

Bradley Wilson, received an award from the City of Talent for his volunteer contributions for pollinators starting at the first meeting of persons gathered to make Talent the second Bee City USA in 2014. Bradley almost singlehandedly regenerated the first city pollinator garden when it was threatened with fungus. He was featured in the monthly newspaper *Talent News and Review* for July 2018. Another person featured in the *Talent News and Review* for July was Karen Rycheck, a local mosaic artist who, with the help of city citizens, is creating a glass mosaic of pollinators that will be attached to a wall at City Hall.

June 23

Our major celebration of pollinators was during National Pollinator Week when we also dedicated the City Hall Pollinator Garden, which the previous year was simply a drawing on a piece of paper. Attendance was about 55.

Tabling — May 5; July 6 and 13; and August 3, 17, 24, and 31

We tabled at the spring plant sale of the Talent Garden Club. Then we tabled at the Artists and Growers Market in Talent for six evenings in July and August. We also asked that people sign a pledge not to use synthetic pesticides in their yards and gardens. About two-thirds of the people would sign. Market days were in July and August. Our last tabling was at the Talent Harvest Day Celebration. We had at least 50 people in all coming to our table.

October 6

We participated in the Talent Harvest Day Parade. Six people distributed 275 pollinator seed packets as we walked along in the parade. This was our seventh year to hand out seeds at the parade. Two others in our group carried our banner. Afterwards, we tabled in front of City Hall by the pollinator garden. We had crafts and art activities for children and information on pollinators and their gardens for adults.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



L-R: 1) Beverly Weaver of Bee City USA Talent Subcommittee is pictured here in her own certified pollinator garden. 2) This strip of land is the smallest of the city's pollinator gardens. 3) City Hall showing off its pollinator blooms. 4) Talent Pollinator Garden located by the Roundabout.

City Hall Pollinator Garden

Our second city pollinator garden was started in 2017 and completed in 2018 with its dedication on June 23, 2018 right on time for National Pollinator Week. Our garden club took the lead in creating this garden.

Skateboard Park Pollinator Garden

Another city garden planted in 2018 is located next to the city's skateboard park. It's really tiny, but the alternative (weeds) was simply not acceptable. Again, the garden club took the lead.

Talent Pollinator Garden

This garden was our first city pollinator garden. It got off to a bad start in 2016 as the area was sprayed with glyphosate before planting with pollinator plants. Bradley Wilson singlehandedly saved the garden. It is currently thriving. Now our pollinator garden requests are surging! One Talent Garden Club member, Gerlinde Smith, has been volunteering to design city gardens. In 2018 we had two new gardens by her design: the City Hall Pollinator Garden and the Skateboard Park Pollinator Garden. Soon we will have the Postage Stamp Pollinator Garden at the Post Office and other pollinator gardens at the Police Station, the Talent Historical Society, and the Talent Community Building.

Residential Gardens

The momentum is building as are residential pollinator gardens. In 2017, we had nine gardens certified; we are now at 24 certified pollinator gardens. The gardens are certified at the time of a visit by a Talent Garden Club member and a Bee City USA- Talent Subcommittee member.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

Each subcommittee member has a special gift that he or she brings to our work. We all do much more also. Jim Thompson is an artist who does such things as our programs and flyers. He is also an articulate writer who developed the IPM Policy. Beverly Weaver is a plant expert and does the certification of the pollinator gardens. Ruby Reid is our secretary and has our minutes ready at the end of our meeting. Ginny Ross can be counted on to interact with the public at our tabling and outreach events. Dolly Warden helps in getting us organized and staying on track with agendas as well as handling our budget.



Talent Adopts Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan!

On January 11 and February 20 Jim Thompson and Dolly Warden met with Councilor Stephanie Dolan in her office to discuss the city's Integrated Pest Management Policy. On May 9th, a study session with Bob Johnson of Irvine, California was held on the policy by the Talent City Council and invited guests and presenters (about 50 people). On September 6 and 27 and on October 11, meetings were held with representatives of Public Works, City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Together for Talent Committee as well as outside consultants. Talent Parks and Rec voted to accept the IPM Policy on November 14, and the City Council approved it on December 5.

Jim Thompson, member Together for Talent and Bee City USA- Talent, proudly shows the newly adopted IPM policy.

Our native species list was developed prior to our Bee City USA resolution's adoption in 2014 but not voted on, nor officially adopted yet, by our city council.

[Recommended Local Native Species List](#)
[Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan](#)

CONTACT US!

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Website: <http://cityoftalent.org/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=7>