



Bee Campus USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



University of Connecticut Storrs, Connecticut

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



The UConn Farm Fresh Market offers fresh local produce from our Spring Valley Student Farm, baked goods from our "Not Just Desserts" UConn Bakery, local honey and many other local products each week from May through September.



The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm hosted farmers markets on Thursdays from May through September in 2019.

UConn Bug Week
bugs.uconn.edu

July 21 - 28, 2019
For details & registration information visit the website bugs.uconn.edu

<p>Pollinators Sunday, July 21 (3-6PM) 4-H Education Center, Auerfarm in Bloomfield <i>Beehives, Pollinator Plants, Activities</i> All Ages Event Suggested Donation \$15 per Family</p>	<p>Insect Collections Tour Thursday, July 25 (1PM, 2PM, 3PM) UConn Campus in Storrs <i>Movie, Exhibits, Activities, FREE Ice Cream!</i> All Ages Event FREE and Open to the Public</p>
<p>Insect Wonders at the Farm Wednesday, July 31 (10AM - 12PM) Spring Valley Student Farm in Mansfield <i>Insect Collecting, Crafts, Bug-Bingo, More!</i> All Ages Event FREE and Open to the Public</p>	<p>Bug Walks Saturday, July 27 (10AM - 1PM) Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon <i>Live Insects, Bug Hunts, Garden Tours</i> All Ages Event FREE and Open to the Public</p>
<p>AntU Thursday, July 25 (12 - 4PM) UConn Biology/Physics Building in Storrs <i>Exhibits, Live Ant Colony, Tours, Giveaways</i> All Ages Event FREE and Open to the Public</p>	<p>CT Science Center Bug Week July 21 - 28 <i>Butterfly Encounter, Bug-themed Programs</i> Visit the Connecticut Science Center for ticket prices.</p>

Photo Contest
Additional details and guidelines can be found at bugs.uconn.edu/photo-contest.
Prizes for first, second, and third place!
Submission Deadline August 9, 2019

UConn COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION **BUG WEEK**

UConn Bug Week 2019 Activities & Event.

EcoHouse Presents...

The Pollinators

Tuesday, Feb. 25th
7-9PM
Join us in the SU Theatre for a screening of the film plus a Q&A with the director & producer!

Many thanks to our sponsors!

UConn UConn I o E PSLA

This was the flyer used to promote the screening of "The Pollinators" film, which was hosted by Eco House on February 25, 2020.

Our education and outreach activities included:

- "The Pollinators" Film Screening - February 25
- UConn Bug Week - July 21-28
- Farm Fresh Market on Fairfield Way on Thursdays, from May through to September
- UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference - October 3, 2019
- Free Pollinator Puppet Building Workshops hosted by The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at UConn - September 15, 2019
- Earth Day Spring Fling - April 16, 2019
- Homemade Honey Sale by the BeeKeeping Club - November 8, 2019.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Different varieties of flowers blooming at the UConn Eco Garden.



A view of the UConn Eco Garden.



The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm.



UConn students work to remove invasive species during a trail cleanup in the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) on October 19, 2019

UConn students completed invasive species removal and trail maintenance in the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) on campus on October 19, 2019. This event had 23 volunteers.

Julia Cartabiano, the Spring Valley Student Farm Manager, planted milkweed at the farm to create more pollinator habitat.

The Spring Valley Student Farm plants a variety of flowers, food crops, and forest plants, with the help of the 11 farm residents and volunteers that assist on Farm Fridays throughout the year.

The EcoGarden Club, comprised of about 15 students, also planted new pollinator plants at the Mansfield Community Eco Garden, which they work on throughout the year from May to October.

The EcoGarden Club planted herbs, flowers, and vegetables in 2019.

Also, UConn planted hundreds of native tree species throughout 2019, including different species of oaks, dogwoods, and pine trees.

SERVICE LEARNING

The course SPSS 1125 Insects, Food and Culture in Fall 2019 was a service learning course. Student group projects were developed on various insect related topics including pollinators. The first group project was to develop an educational 36x42 poster to be exhibited at the Willimantic Public Library. Two student groups developed their posters on the topics of:

- 1) What are pollinators and how do we interact with them;
- 2) Problems that pollinators face (this poster also gave tips on what we can do to help pollinators).

These projects had 4 students per group.

The second service learning group activity was a hands-on demonstration for an after-school program. One of the activities was centered around pollinators. Undergraduate students taught kids about bumblebees and honey bees, played a game that taught bee morphology, and kids had a chance to handle bumblebee specimens.

CURRICULUM & CONTINUING EDUCATION

The for-credit courses containing information on pollinators included BIOL 1102 Foundations of Biology, BIOL 1110 Introduction to Botany, EEB 2208E Introduction to Conservation Biology, EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World, EEB 2244E General Ecology, EEB 2245W Evolutionary Biology, SPSS 1110 Fundamentals of Horticulture, SPSS 1115 Turfgrass Management Lab, SPSS 2110W Sustainable Plant Pest Management Communication, SPSS 3440 Small Fruit Production, SPSS 3830 Horticultural Entomology, and SPSS 3840 Integrated Pest Management.

These courses focused on or included lessons on plant ecology, pollinator biology, integrated pest management practices, pollinators in agriculture, and landscaping for pollinators.

The UConn Extension Master Gardener certification program is taught in five locations in the state each year, beginning in January. As part of this training, Master Gardeners commit time as volunteers working through their county's UConn Extension Center & the Bartlett Arboretum to provide horticultural-related information and assistance to the community. This is an educational outreach program that offers courses and workshops throughout the year, including: Insects and Arthropods 101, Native Shrubs for Landscape Use, and Beekeeping Through the Year (Parts 1 to 3).



One of the courses offered by the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program features native plant species.



The UConn Extension Master Gardener Program hosted a booth at the Woodstock Fair on August 20, 2019.

EDUCATIONAL & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



This was an example flyer used for postings around the UConn Storrs campus to raise awareness about UConn PIRG's Save the Bees campaign.



A sign hanging in McMahon Dining Hall that includes information about the types of foods that need bees for pollination.

There were 150 flyers posted (temporarily) that advertised the UConn PIRG Save the Bees Campaign. On these flyers and the 10 permanently installed signs, there was information and facts about the protection of pollinators. This included information on the foods that require pollination and the fact that 1 out of 3 forkfuls of food are a product of pollination. The 10 signs were permanently installed in the dining halls, so students will see them everyday as a reminder of the importance of pollinators. These signs were posted to raise awareness about the role of pollinators in our food systems and ecosystems.

POLICIES & PRACTICES



The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm creates and enhances pollinator habitat with the help of the farm residents and volunteers each year

The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm and the EcoGarden Club uses organic fertilizers and non-chemical pest prevention for their crops. There are different strategies for pest management for the rest of the UConn Storrs campus. For example, grass clippings are left on the lawns to degrade and return nitrogen back to the lawn and turf grass surfaces are aerated to encourage healthy soil. When applicable, organic fertilizers are used.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —

http://nenativeplants.uconn.edu/pollinators_4_1535294473.pdf

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — <http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/view.php?id=1536>

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan —

https://ecohusky.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2041/2020/02/UConn-IPM-turf-and-ornamental-Final_112019.pdf

CONTACT US!

Committee — UConn Bee Campus USA Committee, Patrick McKee, patrick.mckee@uconn.edu

Website — <https://ecohusky.uconn.edu/bee-campus-usa/>

Social Media — Twitter- @uconnos, Instagram- @uconnos, Facebook- UConn Office of Sustainability