

Bee Campus USA - East Georgia State College

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

East Georgia State College's Bee Campus USA committee joined up with the college's Tree Campus Higher Education committee to host an Arbor Day event on March 8, 2022. Twelve campus and community members were present for the planting of three pollinator-friendly trees – a *Franklinia alatamaha*, a *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Button bush), and a *Nyssa ogeche* (tupelo). The ceremony included a talk by a member of the Georgia Forestry Commission on the importance of trees and how to properly plant and care for them. In addition, the chairperson for the Tree Campus USA committee discussed its campus and community mission, and the Bee Campus USA chair talked about the important role many trees have in supporting pollinators. Everyone present was given the opportunity to take home pollinator-friendly seedlings and basil plants and educational material on trees and pollinators. On September 7, the campus hosted a 9-11 remembrance ceremony with the planting of a pollinator-friendly Robinson Flowering Crabapple (*Malus 'Robinson'*). About 20 people attended this event and gave their thoughts about that day. The Crabapple tree is planted in the center of campus with a plaque and will be enjoyed by people and pollinators for years to come. While no new gardens were established in 2022, the wildflower garden planted on campus last year, and the herb garden planted several years ago were cleaned up and enhanced with new pollinator-friendly plants. This is an on-going project, and the hope is to establish additional gardens on campus in the upcoming year.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

4

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

300

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

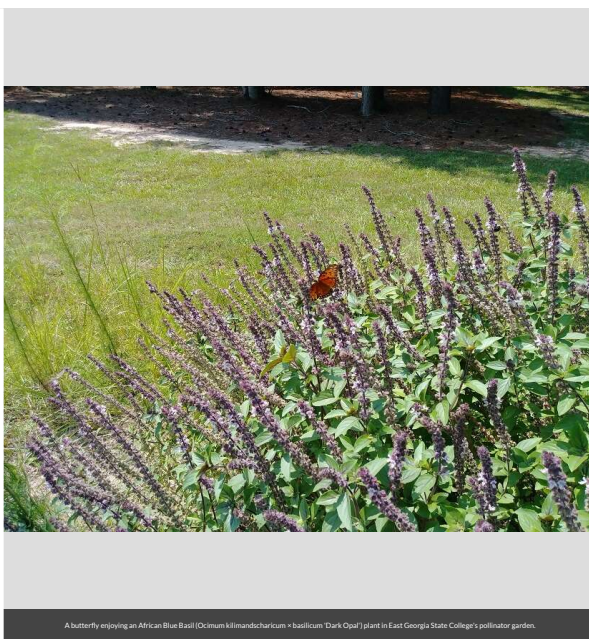
6

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Herb garden
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- School garden



Campus and community members attending East Georgia State College's Arbor Day Celebration on March 8, 2022.



A butterfly enjoying an African Blue Basil (*Ocimum kilimandscharicum* + *basilicum* 'Dark Opal') plant in East Georgia State College's pollinator garden.



A pollinator-friendly Robinson Flowering Crabapple tree planted during East Georgia State College's 9-11 remembrance ceremony held on September 7, 2022.

Education & Outreach

East Georgia State College had a busy and exciting year hosting and participating in many honeybee and pollinator outreach activities. A big focus of the college was the free distribution of various books on pollinators and pollinator gardening to kids and adults of all ages. Funding for the books and other educational material was generously provided by the local Mill Creek Foundation, the Georgia Beekeepers Association, and the East Georgia State College Foundation. Among the outreach events was the Pine Tree Festival held in Swainsboro, GA, the Onion Festival in Vidalia, GA, the Old Farm Days event in Statesboro, GA, Emanuel County's Farm Days event in Swainsboro, GA, and a Garden Club event held on the EGSC campus. At each of these events, the college set up tables displaying live honeybees in an observation hive and gave away educational books, samples of honey from East Georgia's apiary, pollinator-themed activity sheets, African Blue Basil plants, and other educational material. These four events alone impacted an estimated 950 community members. East Georgia State College also hosted two community events that helped to better educate the campus and surrounding community members about honey, honeybees and other pollinators. On September 22, nearly 50 people attended EGSC's annual campus/community honey extraction party where anyone present could help extract, filter, and bottle honey harvested from the beehives in the college apiary by members of East Georgia's Beekeeping Club. A few days later, on September 24, East Georgia hosted its annual Family and Friends Fun Day during which the Beekeeping Club displayed honeybees and gave out books, honey, basil plants, and other educational material to nearly 250 visitors to campus. In addition, EGSC students, staff, and faculty hosted kids on its campus and also visited local elementary school classrooms to read age-appropriate pollinator-themed books to the children. All in all, nearly 360 students and their teachers were impacted by these activities. During most of the school visits, a set of pollinator books was donated to each classroom teacher, and another set to the schools' media center. College personnel were also involved in hosting an Arbor

Day event and a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony, both of which featured the planting of pollinator-friendly trees. The Arbor Day event was hosted by both the school's Bee Campus and Tree Campus Committees and included talks on the importance of trees to pollinators and our environment, how to plant and take care of trees, and the distribution of pollinator-friendly trees to those in attendance.

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

15

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1900



Courses & Continuing Education

Nearly all of the biology faculty at East Georgia State College (EGSC) include lessons in their for-credit courses about pollinators, environmental factors that affect pollinators, and their importance to the environment. These courses include Biology I and II courses for both majors and nonmajors, Entomology, Ecology, and Integrated Science. In addition, these topics were brought up in Chemistry I and II classes and a Science in Society seminar course.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information last year?

5

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

200

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information last year?

How many participants attended those courses?

Service-Learning

n/a

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on and off-campus?

How many students participated in service-learning projects last year to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

Educational Signage

Two additional educational signs dealing with pollinators and pollinator-habitats were obtained in 2022, but have not been installed to this point. The hope is to have these signs in place in the campus wildflower and herb gardens in spring 2023.

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed last year?

2

Policies & Practices

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- **Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan**
- **Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use**

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.ega.edu/about/sustainability/bee-campus/integrated-pest-plan.html>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.ega.edu/about/sustainability/bee-campus/pollinator-friendly-plants.html>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://botgarden.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Recommended-Native-Plant-Nurseries-List-GNPI-SBG-August-2022.pdf>

Learn More

<https://www.ega.edu/about/sustainability/bee-campus/index.html>

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