

Bee Campus USA - East Georgia State College

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

In addition to being a Bee Campus, East Georgia State College is a Tree Campus Higher Education affiliate. Each year, the two groups host a tree planting ceremony on the EGSC Swainsboro campus where a native pollinator-friendly tree is planted in dedication to a current or former campus employee. This is a community event hosted by the Tree Campus Committee and led by a member of the Georgia Forestry Commission who gives a talk on the importance of trees to pollinators and our environment and how to properly plant and care for them. In December of 2021, a Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*) that provides pollen for insect foragers was planted in honor of Mrs. Sonya Kirkland, a long-time employee of the college. With grant assistance from the local Mill Creek Foundation, students and faculty installed a wildflower garden on the college's Swainsboro campus. The garden, measuring about 200 ft², features a variety of wildflowers common to the southeast. Throughout the year, students helped maintain the garden and plans are to expand upon it and install additional gardens in the upcoming year. EGSC also maintains a college community herb and vegetable garden containing various mints, rosemary, thyme, basil, and vegetables like cucumbers, squash, eggplant, and strawberries. The garden is maintained by students and attracts many honeybees from the campus apiary and other local pollinators.



Arbor Day tree planting ceremony on East Georgia State College's Swainsboro campus in December 2021.



East Georgia State College students and faculty installing a wildflower garden on campus in April 2021.



Established wildflower garden on the East Georgia State College Swainsboro campus in September 2021.

Education & Outreach

Despite the ongoing pandemic that prevented us from our usual visits to local schools, East Georgia State College had a very active year participating in and/or hosting five large community events by handing out pollinator-educational



materials to kids and adults. Tables were set up during the annual Pine Tree Festival (Swainsboro, Ga), the GreenFest Sustainability event (Statesboro, Ga), the Farm Days event (Statesboro, Ga), and the Summer Reading Program (Swainsboro, Ga). At each event, honeybees were displayed in an observation hive, and pollinator-friendly basil plants and milkweed, along with sample jars of honey from the EGSC apiary were handed out to visitors free of charge. In addition, local grants allowed us to purchase hundreds of books on honeybees, other pollinators, and gardening for kids and adults of all ages, which were distributed with no charge to the public during these events. In September, the college hosted another honey extraction event for campus personnel and community members. Everyone present was invited to help uncap honey frames from the campus apiary and take a sample home with them. During most of these events, East Georgia State College's Miss EGSC, Anita Cerpovicz, was present to help hand out books, plants, and educational activities to people. Anita took on pollinator awareness and education as part of her pageant platform during her reign from fall 2021 to May 2022. Overall, an estimated 1000 people of all ages were directly impacted by these efforts, and many, many more were influenced through newspaper and television media coverage.



East Georgia Beekeeping Club member, Karolina Cerpovicz, showing honeybees to visitors during the community summer reading event in Swainsboro, Ga in June 2021.



Extracting honey during East Georgia State College's campus/community honey extraction event in September 2021.



Miss East Georgia State College (Anita Cerpovicz) handing out pollinator-educational books and activities to a visitor during the GreenFest Sustainability event held in Statesboro, Ga in October 2021.

Courses & Continuing Education

Nearly all 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. For example, students in Terrestrial Ecology helped maintain and enhance the college's pollinator herb garden with the installation of mason bee hives that were produced by other students as a project for their three-dimensional art course.





Herb and vegetable garden with three mason bee hives on the Swainsboro campus of East Georgia State College.

Service-Learning

n/a

Educational Signage

No new signage was installed in 2021.





Policies & Practices

n/a

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<http://www.ega.edu/bee-campus/integrated-pest-management-plan>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<http://www.ega.edu/bee-campus/pollinator-list>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

Learn More

