

Bee Campus USA - East Georgia State College

Report on 2023



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

In 2023, EGSC students in the Beekeeping Club, Circle K, Garden Club and STEMM Clubs worked together to enhance a pollinator-friendly Memorial Garden on the EGSC campus. Among the plants added to the garden were Firebush, Mt. Airy, Dwarf tickseed, Blue anise hyssop, Whirling Butterflies Gaura, False Indigo, and Dwarf Virginia Sweetspire. A mason bee house was also added to the Memorial Garden. Additional plants were added to a campus wildflower garden and an educational Pollinator Habitat sign was set up. The campus's pollinator-friendly herb garden was weeded and maintained by EGSC students. African Blue Basil plants were rooted and potted in the campus greenhouse and given out free of charge to community members at various events throughout the year. In all, an estimated 400+ basil plants were distributed. Several hundred packets of wildflower seeds were also given out during the year. East Georgia's Tree Campus Higher Education and Bee Campus committees collaborated to host an Arbor Day Event on November 7, 2023, with the planting of a pollinator-friendly American Holly tree and two American Fringe trees on its Swainsboro campus.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?

3

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

25

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

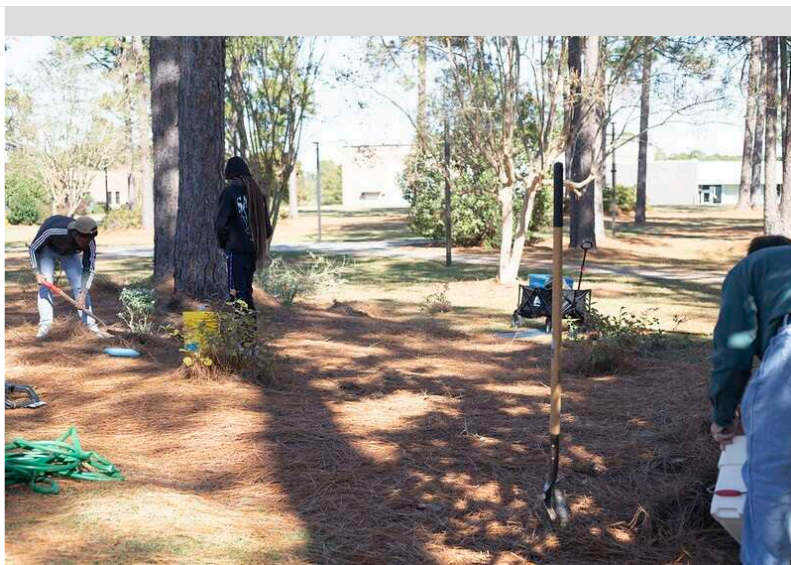
1100

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Herb garden
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- School garden



Wildflower garden on East Georgia State College's campus in Swainsboro, Georgia.



Students from East Georgia State College's Beekeeping Club enhancing a pollinator-friendly Memorial Garden on campus.

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

East Georgia State College (EGSC) participated in several local community events in 2023. Among these were Statesboro, Georgia's annual GreenFest Sustainability event (2/18), Swainsboro's Pine Tree Festival (5/6), Family and Friends Fun Day on the college's Swainsboro campus (9/22), an Old Farm Days event in Statesboro (10/28), and an Emanuel County Farm Days event in Swainsboro (11/16-17). At each of these events honeybees from the college's apiary were on display in an observation hive. Pollinator-friendly basil plants, age-appropriate books on pollinators and pollinator gardening, and other educational information were handed out free of charge. In addition, free samples of honey extracted from the campus beehives were given away. An estimated 1300 people of all ages were reached among all these events. On September 7, members of the Bee Campus committee and EGSC hosted its annual community honey extraction party. Approximately 50 members of the local community visited the campus to learn about the importance of honeybees, and extract honey obtained from the campus hives. People of all ages helped to uncap the frames of honey, spin it out using a manual extractor. After straining, visitors were able to bottle a sample jar to take home. This activity has been so popular that for the first time, campus honey was also extracted by community members during EGSC's Family and Friends Fun Day on September 22, and an off-campus honey extraction was done as well for a Hillel Club to help celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. EGSC students, faculty, and staff also visited four local schools throughout the year to read books to primary, elementary, and middle-school students on pollinators and pollination, and why it is important to help protect pollinators. An observation hive with bees from the college apiary were brought along and students were given honey sticks and age-appropriate activity booklets to help

them learn more about pollinators. Sets of 8-10 different books on honeybees, butterflies, and other pollinators were donated to each school's media center as well. Presentations about EGSC's outreach activities, pollinators and pollinator protection were made by members of the Bee Campus Committee to Swainsboro, Georgia's Seedling Garden Club on March 13, and to residents of Bethany Lodge in Statesboro, Georgia (8/25). In addition, EGSC hosted a community tree-planting event for Arbor Day (11/7) with the planting of an American Holly and two American Fringe Trees on its Swainsboro campus. Students from the college's Beekeeping Club brought honeybees and pollinator information to participate in Swainsboro's celebration of National Walk in the Park Day. Fifteen to twenty families had the chance to see honeybees up close, sample some honey sticks and learn more about pollinators and how important they are while enjoying a nice walk together!

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

17

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1900

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

2

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2023?

1





New sign in East Georgia State College's wildflower garden, Swainsboro, Georgia.



Signage seen as visitors enter the main campus of East Georgia State College in Swainsboro, Georgia.

Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2023, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.

Nearly all of our Introductory Biology and majors Biology courses involve a discussion of pollination, pollinators, and their importance to the environment and our lives.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

18

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

360

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 in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

12

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.

Students in East Georgia State College's Beekeeping Club have the opportunity to work with and learn about honeybees and other pollinators. When they first join, they typically have never worked with honeybees and are very nervous about handling them. However, once they overcome their apprehension, most of them enjoy the bees! While the Beekeeping Club gives students the opportunity to learn more about honeybees, honey, and honey extraction, it is also a service club that focuses on community outreach and education. The students visit local schools to read to kids and promote the importance of pollinators to the environment and our lives. They participate in community events and distribute educational material to community members. After learning themselves, students in the club instruct and show visitors of all ages how to extract, strain and bottle honey.



East Georgia State College Beekeeping Club students learning about honeybees in the college apiary.



East Georgia State College's Beekeeping Club member, Adelle Lucas (left), showing a visitor how to uncap honey to be extracted during the college's annual Family and Friends Fun Day community event.



Hunter Groover (back, left), a member of East Georgia State College's Beekeeping Club, talks to young visitors about honeybees and pollination during Swainsboro, Georgia's National Walk in the Park Day event.

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

East Georgia State College continuously works hard to minimize the use of pesticides on its campus. Booklets on Protecting Georgia Pollinators are distributed at many events throughout the year, along with kid and adult-friendly

booklets from the EPA on Integrated Pest Management.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
Not that I am aware of.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
no

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

Learn More

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>

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

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