Bee Campus USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education

Blue Ridge Community College
Flat Rock, North Carolina

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Blue Ridge Community College was proud to host the Flight of the Butterflies movie screening (September 27) in conjunction with Bee City USA - Hendersonville, Mountain True, and Conserving Carolina. Over 100 people attended and the movie was shown in both Spanish and English. The Mayor of Hendersonville spoke and I was able to welcome everyone and tell them a little bit about our Bee Campus initiatives. After the screening, Estela Romero, international monarch butterfly expert, was available for Q&A. Children were able to hold monarch caterpillars and make butterfly headbands. It was a very fun and educational event.

During the 2018 Blue Ridge Spring Picnic (March 21), the Bee Campus Committee hosted a booth where employees and students could come and spin a huge spinning wheel (think *Price is Right*) and depending on the number the wheel landed on they would answer a question about bees and pollinators. Everyone who answered a question received a seed packet of pollinator flowers and a BeeKind bumper sticker. Everyone who played was also entered to win a drawing. Prizes included a hummingbird feeder, the Bee Movie, and a gardening gift basket. A local beekeeper, David Foti, was also in attendance answering questions and giving honey samples to interested attendees.

Blue Ridge was honored to host the North Carolina Beekeepers Association and the WNC Gardening Symposium (October 3) at our Blue Ridge Conference Hall. Blue Ridge's President, Laura Leatherwood, spoke at both events and shared with them our excitement about being a Bee Campus and a summary of our efforts thus far.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT (& SERVICE LEARNING)

Our students designed a pollinator garden as part of a service learning project they completed in their Biology 242 class. Also, our landscapers added planting to our already established butterfly garden.

Three of our students completed a service learning project as part of their Biology 242 class where they studied pollinator plants and designed a garden that would go into a mulched area outside the Arts and Sciences building. This year our students will bring that garden to life. This year our students will bring that garden to life as their May 7, 2019 final project.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

Our committee is made up of faculty and staff across all College divisions. Each member is passionate about sustainability and our bee campus efforts. They participate in various outreach efforts including our Spring Picnic pollinator game.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List, Regional Native Plant Suppliers
Pollinator Friendly IPM Plan

CURRICULUM

Biology 111 and most of our Horticulture classes include discussion of pollinators, but these courses cover it in depth: Biological Pest Management, Organic Crop Production, Plant Materials I & II, Advanced Plant Materials, Permaculture, and Landscape Design I & II.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

Due to limited funding last year we had to make some tough choices about signage. In the end, we decided our first purchase should be three permanent Bee Campus signs to post around campus. This year we will purchase educational signage to go in our gardens.

CONTACT US!

Committee: Sustainability Committee/Bee Campus Committee; Carol Ann Lydon, Chair; ca_lydon@blueridge.edu

Website: **Blue Ridge Community College Bee Campus** [https://www.blueridge.edu/bee-campus]