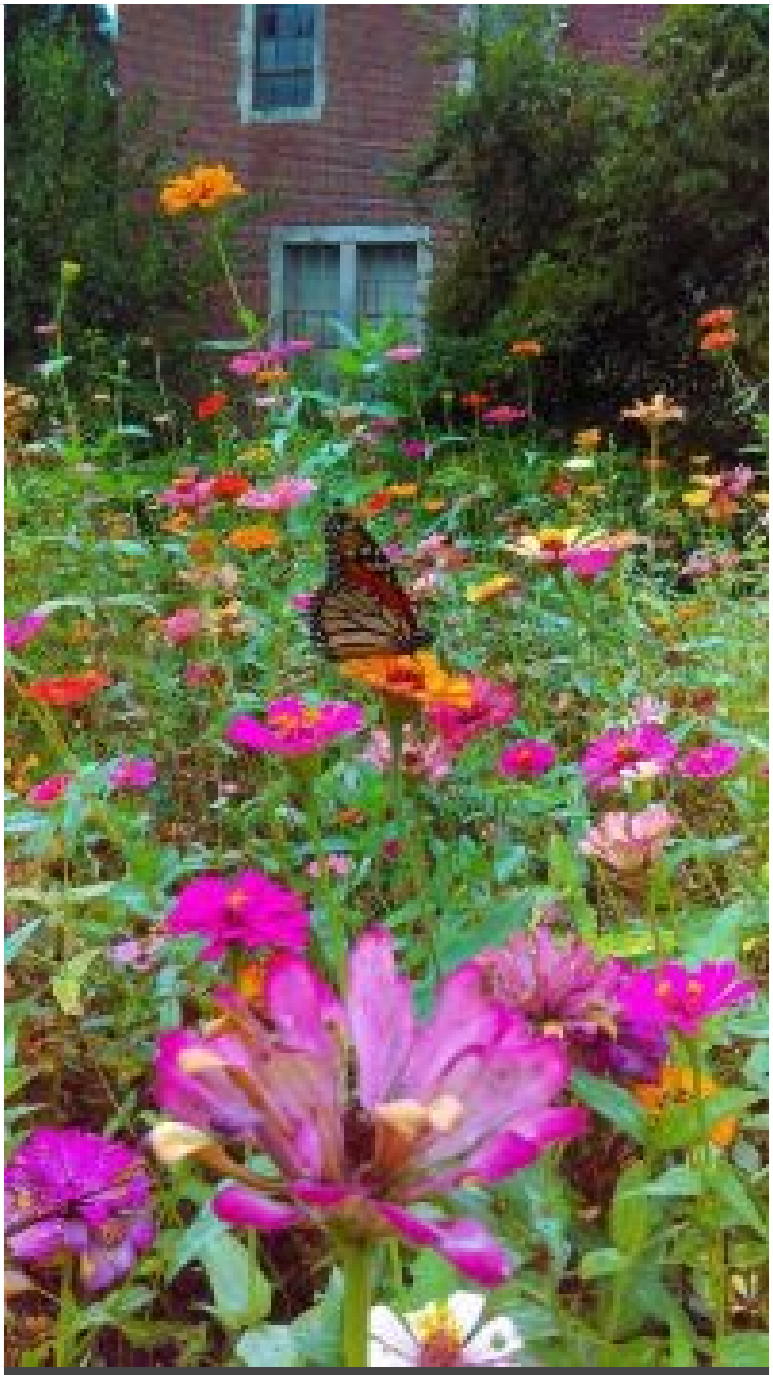
Bee Campus USA - Agnes Scott College

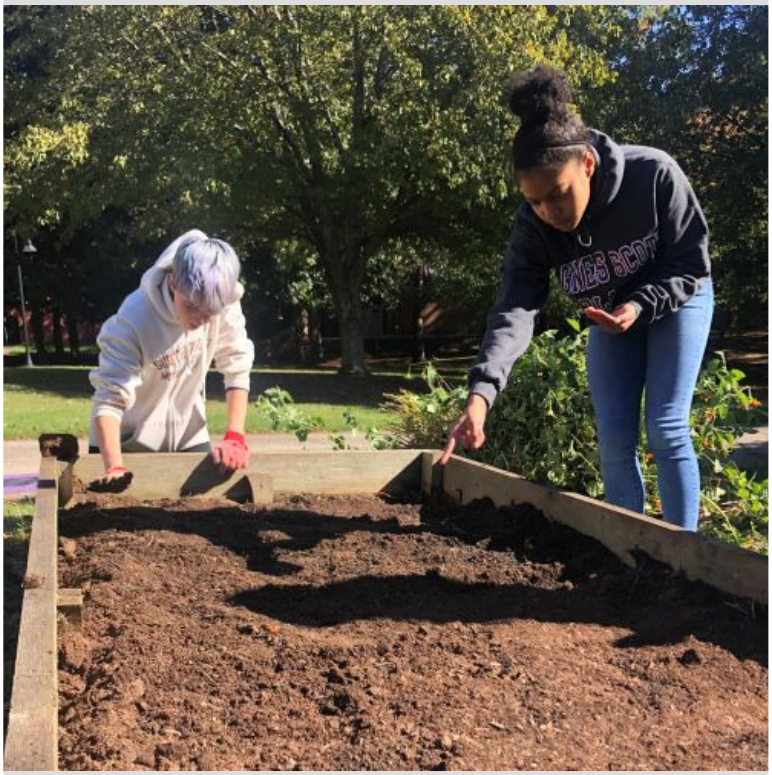
Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

In conjunction with Alum and Organic Gardener Lois Swords, Bee Society members had the opportunity to participate in a number of garden work days to perform maintenance on Agnes Scott's existing pollinator habitat. On the weekend of November 2nd, 2019 students were welcome to come throughout the day to work on the garden in an effort to prepare it for winter. Dead zinnias as well as bermuda grass were cleared and fresh soil was laid in the beds. Carrots were planted in one of the raised beds--co-gardening with crop/vegetable plants has been shown to increase the production of both species and impart essential nutrients.



Pollinator in the garden during habitat enhancement workday.

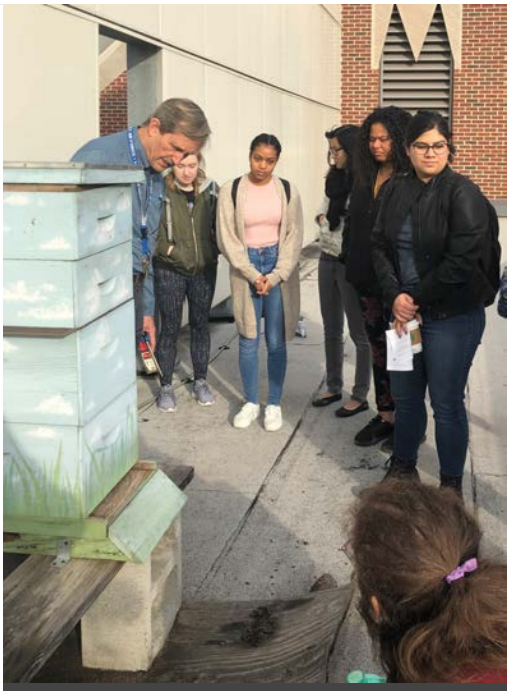


Students working in the garden

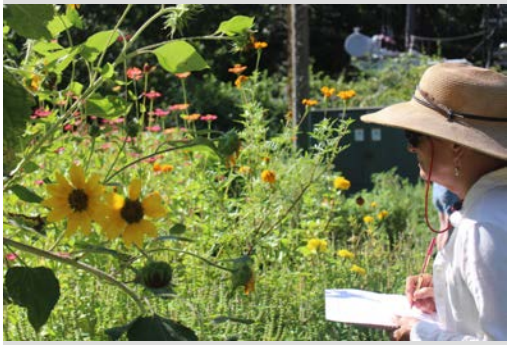
Education & Outreach

Spring of last year, the Bee Society at Agnes Scott held it's annual Bee Aware Week. Bee Aware week is a week-long

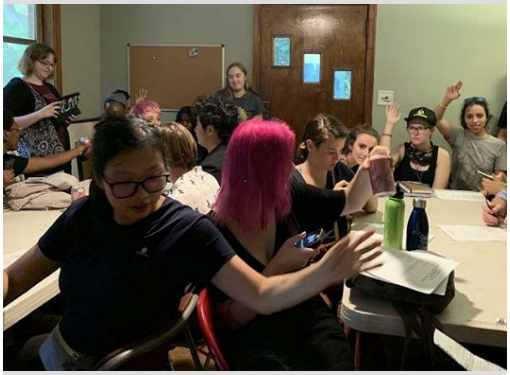
celebration of pollinator conservation during which Bee Society members host related programming such as gardening activities, beekeeping tutorials, informational tabling and honey sales in the dining hall, and documentary viewing. To kick off the new school year, students were invited to participate in the Georgia Pollinator Census on August 23rd and 24th by observing and counting pollinators in Agnes Scott's pollinator garden. Later this past fall, on October 5th, students were welcomed back to the pollinator garden to engage in some citizen science through the use of the Bumble Bee Watch app to collect data on Agnes Scott's resident bumble bee species. On November 4th, 2019 Bee Society members went on a guided tour of the campus hives with our advisor and Professor of Biology, Dr. John Pilger. Eleven students received a mini-lesson on honeybee biology and behavior and were able to observe the campus hives. Dr.Pilger discussed some hallmarks of hive behavior, seasonal patterns, the impact of die-offs and possible causes for our previous hive losses, capturing swarms of honeybees, and the process of harvesting honey in the summer months.



Guided tour of the campus hives with Dr. John Pilger.



Lois, the campus gardener, leading the pollinator census count



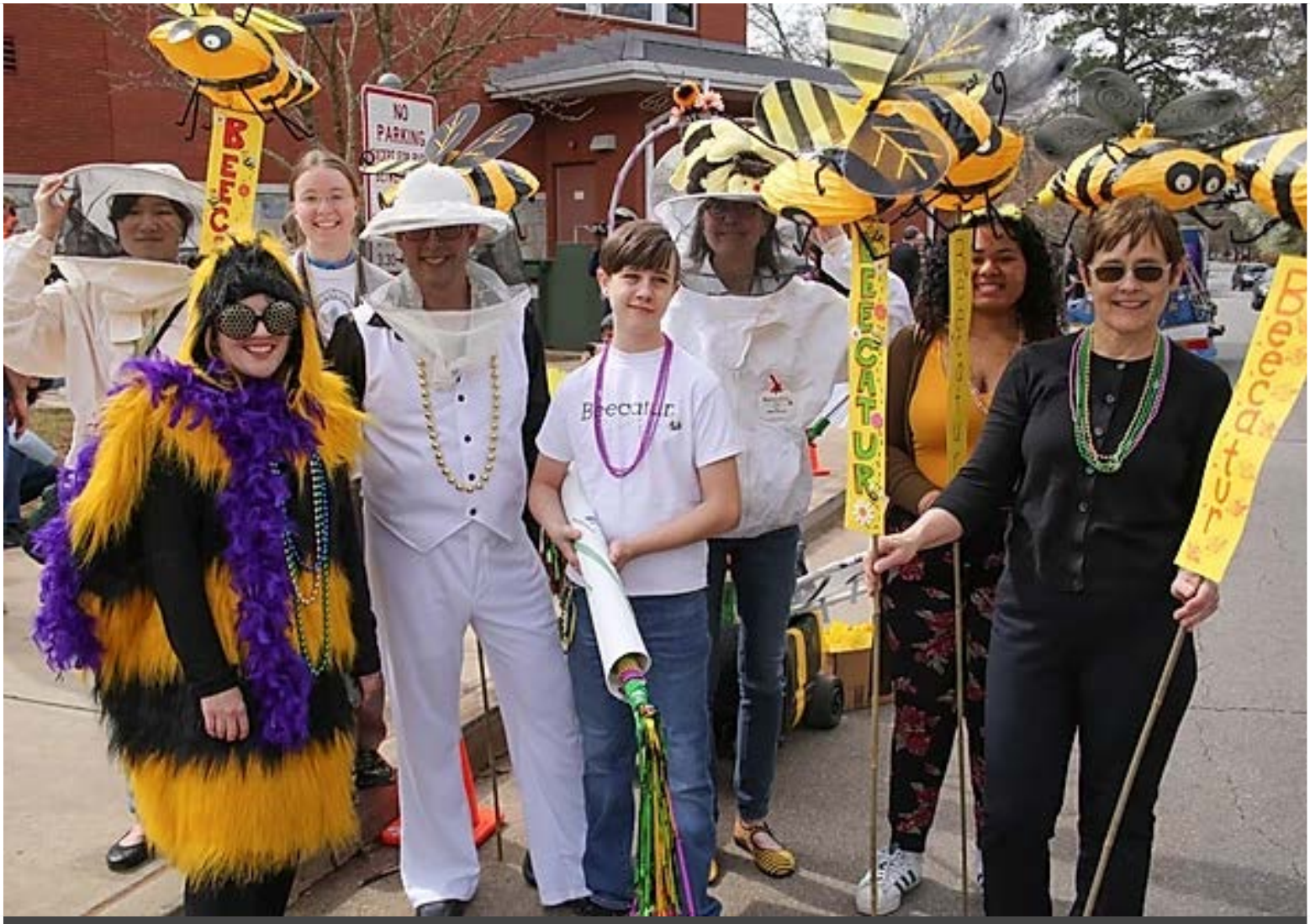
Agnes Scott students at a Beecatur meeting in 2019

Courses & Continuing Education

Service-Learning

During the spring semester of 2019, following our initial certification as a Bee campus, Bee Society members had the

opportunity to take part in numerous educational and service-learning projects. Members aided Decatur's Bee City group "Beecatur" at the Annual mead Road Mardi Gras parade to create decorations and floats as well as dressing up, marching, and handing out informational flyers and pamphlets. As part of our annual "Bee Aware Week" of programming with the Bee Society, approximately ten Agnes Scott students came out for a garden work day with gardener Lois Swords in late April 2019. Sixteen students, along with Center for Sustainability Fellow Emma Dufresne, and Alum gardener Lois Swords took part in the Georgia Pollinator Census on August 23rd and 24th by observing, identifying, and counting pollinators in the pollinator garden. Bee Society members were invited to attend the Beecatur monthly meeting on September 9th, 2019. A record number of 20 students came out to learn about Beecatur's work, mission, and the importance of pollinator conservation in our community. On October 27th, five students volunteered with Beecatur to raise awareness by marching in the annual Decatur Halloween parade. Students dressed up as various pollinators, carried banners, and distributed information leaflets on the detrimental effects of mosquito spraying on beneficial, non-target insects with the slogan "Don't turn your backyard into a graveyard".



Agnes Scott students at the annual Beecatur annual Mead Road Mardi Gras.

Educational Signage

A hand painted sign created by Lois Swords was posted designating Agnes Scott's garden as the "Pollinator Garden." Additionally, a sign saying, "Do not spray herbicide" was written in Spanish for any Spanish-speaking landscape workers.

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An initiative of the Xerces Society

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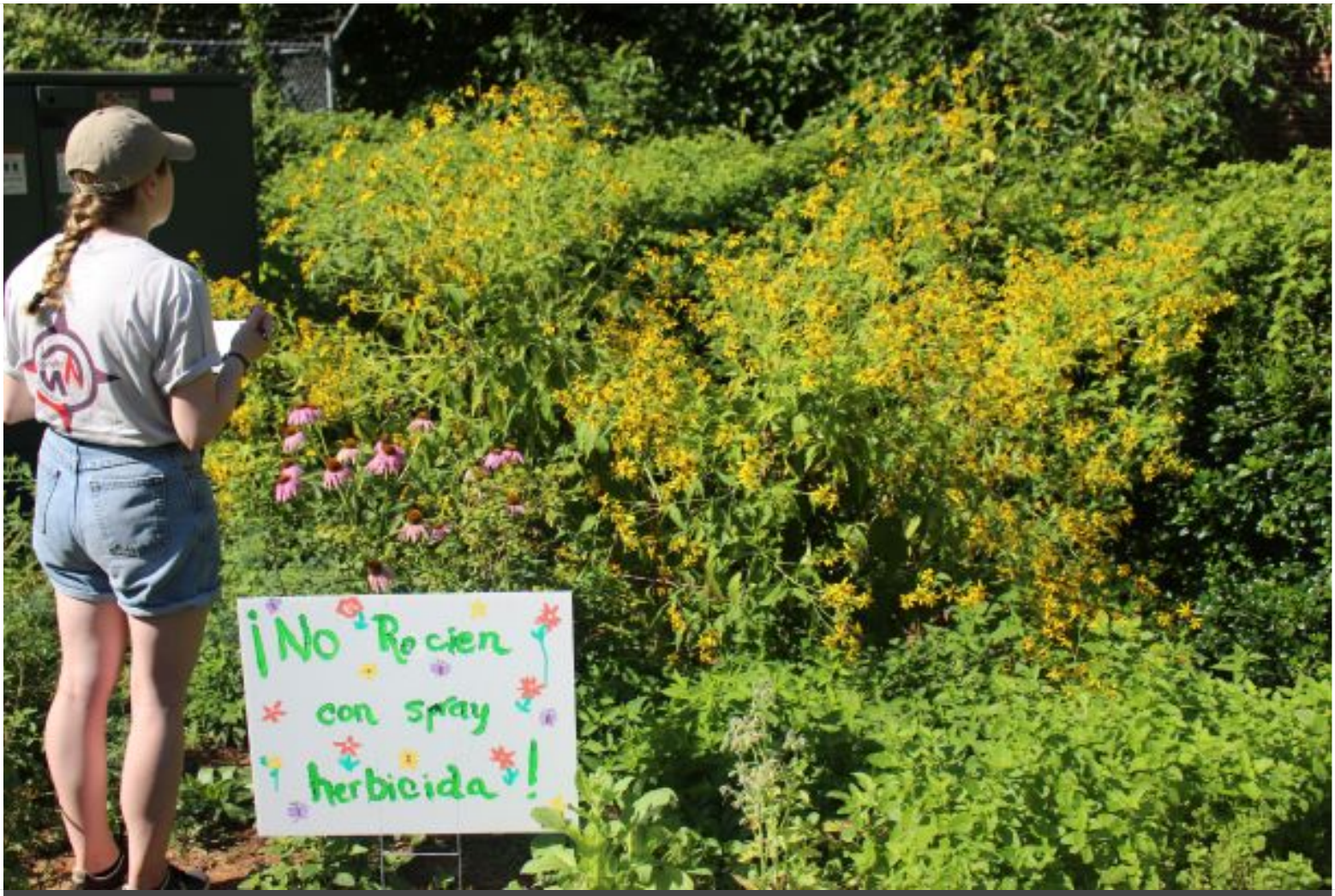

Student counting pollinators next to "Do Not Spray Herbicide" Sign in Spanish

Policies & Practices

Round table discussion between Brightview (landscape company) and Bee Campus USA Committee held in November of 2019 to establish goals of IPM. Campus Pollinator Habitat Plan adopted as well.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: Agnes Scott College IPM.docx
https://www.agnesscott.edu/sustainability/landscape/agnes-scott-college-ipm-draft.pdf
Recommended Native Plant List:
https://www.agnesscott.edu/sustainability/landscape/campus-pollinator-habitat-plan.pdf
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

https://www.agnesscott.edu/sustainability/landscape/campus-pollinator-habitat-plan.pdf

Agnes Scott College Integrated Pest Management Plan

Approved by Bee Campus Committee 2/21/20

Prepared by Alaina Bandanza '20- Bee Campus Committee Chair

Introduction

Agnes Scott College's Center for Sustainability and Office of Facilities work closely together to promote the sustainability of the college through thoughtful landscape and maintenance practices. In accordance with our goals as a Bee Campus, the purpose of this IPM plan is to reduce the use of chemical pesticides on Agnes Scott campus in order to prioritize safe habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

Background

Agnes Scott has contracted BrightView since 2000 for landscape management. BrightView utilizes an integrated pest management (IPM) plan in caring for Agnes Scott grounds which states: "Preventing and controlling problem insects, diseases and weeds is sometimes a challenge. All products used are done so within an integrated pest management program".

Following the establishment of Agnes Scott college as a Bee Campus, a round-table discussion was organized in November, 2019 with the BrightView Account Manager for Agnes Scott, as well as the Regional Director of Technical Services in order to highlight our goals in protecting pollinators and promoting safer, more sustainable habitats for all organisms.

Preview of the Integrated Pest Management Plan approved by the Bee Campus Advisory Committee

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Learn More

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