

Bee City USA - Decatur

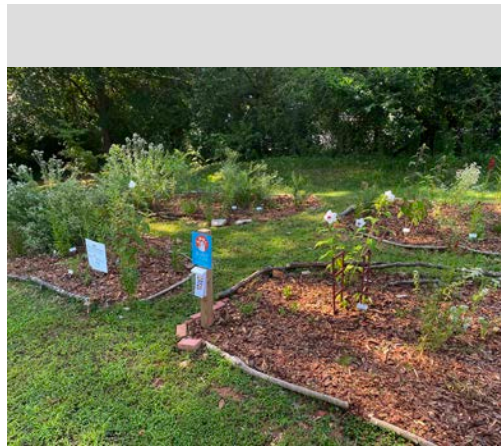
Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

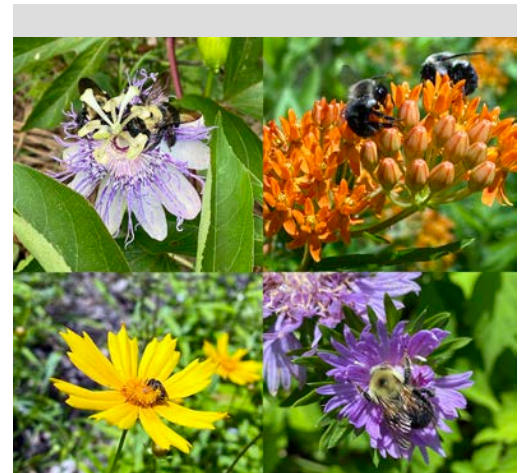
COVID-19 didn't halt work at either of the two dedicated pollinator habitat spaces maintained by Beecatur. At the Willow Lane site (115 Willow Lane; corner of Willow and Superior), the city installed a much-needed official pet waste disposal station. Meanwhile, Decatur residents John Dunn and Patti Shropp hand-crafted a beautiful set of plant identification markers. These durable metal markers are a wonderful addition to the site, enhancing the its educational value to visitors. In May, 13 plants purchased via our Gifts That Grow program were installed at Willow Lane. Pollinator Habitat Coordinator Claudia McDavid did a fantastic job organizing work days throughout the year with a terrific group of volunteers from DeKalb Master Gardeners, Beecatur and the Upper Superior neighborhood. Wearing masks and trying to keep socially distant, maintenance work days were held in June, July, August, September and October. Likewise, at the Church Street Pollinator Habitat (811 Church Street; corner of Church and Bell, at the entrance to historic Decatur Cemetery), multiple maintenance days were held, and in September, 14 additional native flowering plants were installed at the site.



Entrance to Decatur's Willow Lane Pollinator Habitat



Decatur's Church Street Pollinator Habitat



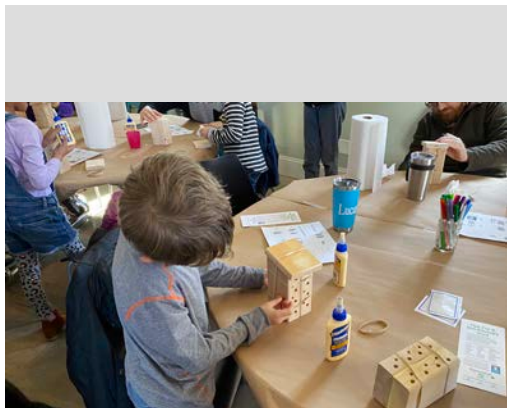
Bees foraging in our pollinator habitat.

Education & Outreach

In 2020, our education and outreach activities included a visit to the Little Forest Preschool, where we talked about three types of spring bees -- mason bees, mining bees and honey bees -- which students there might soon encounter in their



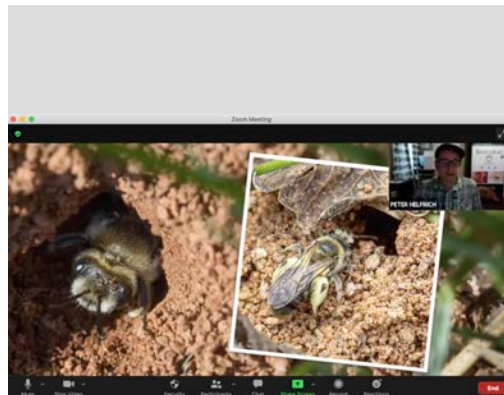
outdoor classroom space. Beecatur also participated in the city's annual celebration of Georgia Arbor Day, tabling and distributing literature about bees, selling Mason Bee houses and taking Decatur Pollinator Pledge sign-ups. Our annual Mason Bee Workshop was attended by 21 students, making and decorating Mason Bee houses to take home just in time for these early emerging bees to move in! We partnered with Wylde Center to present an online Lunch & Learn talk via Zoom called "Bee-Yond Honey Bees: Meet Your Native Bees." Zoom was also the venue for a native bee talk presented for Panola Mountain State Park's home school group or students. In June, the City of Decatur officially declared National Pollinator Week in the city. While COVID-19 forced the cancellation of our planned festival on the square, we moved educational elements of pollinator week online (<https://www.beecaturga.com/npw2020>). Our Pollinator Pledge program is another long-term, ongoing initiative. To date, some 78 City of Decatur homeowners have pledged to keep their properties pollinator friendly. (<https://www.beecaturga.com/pledge>)



Participants in our annual mason bee house workshop build and decorate bee houses to take home for their yards.



In February, we participated in the city's annual celebration of Georgia Arbor Day, distributing literature, taking Pollinator Pledge sign-ups and selling Mason Bee houses to raise funds.



Beginning in March, most of our outreach efforts moved online, like this talk about Native Bees presented as part of the Wylde Center's Lunch-n-Learn series.

Policies & Practices

Working with the city's Environmental Sustainability Board, we are providing input as the city begins the process of formally reviewing and revising its landscaping policies. As guidance we have reviewed other Bee City USA's IPM plans. In September, Beecatur members Claudia McDavid and Therese May met with the ESB via Zoom to discuss the problem of widespread residential mosquito control spraying throughout Decatur. Out of this meeting stemmed a broad-based initiative for 2021 to help educate city residents about the dangers posed by pesticides used in mosquito control to bees and other pollinators. Our website now features a comprehensive collection of information related to the mosquito spraying issue (<https://www.beecaturga.com/mosquito-spraying>). New Beecatur mosquito signs were designed and produced and are available for purchase (<https://www.beecaturga.com/mosquito-signs>). Our Pollinator Pledge program is



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Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [NATIVE PLANT LISTS _beecatur.pdf](https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-lists)

<https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-lists>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [NATIVE PLANT GROWERS _beecatur.pdf](https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-growers)

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Yard signs are one component of a broad initiative planned for 2021 designed to discourage residents from spraying their properties against mosquitoes.



Learn More

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