

# Bee Campus USA - University of Texas at Austin

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Beevo Beekeeping worked closely with Jim Carse, the manager of UT Landscaping Services, to revamp a plot of land that hosts the club's on-campus beehives. Beevo coordinated landscaping events to educate club members about the types of native plants already in the hive site. Additionally, more native pollinator-friendly plants were incorporated into the hive site area including honeysuckle, four nerve daisy, turk's cap, flame acanthus, and snake herb. Invasive species were also removed, and ground-covering plants like Asian jasmine were pruned back. Beevo members maintained the hive site landscaping by watering the plants 2-3 times a week. Overall, 15 members attended the education, landscaping, and watering events. After receiving a grant from UT's Office of Sustainability Green Fund, the Beevo Beekeeping Society broke ground to build a pollinator garden on the University of Texas' campus. Garden plans were drafted with the collaboration of Beevo Beekeeping Society, American Society of Landscape Architects, UT's Green Fund Grant Program, and UT Landscaping Services. Student organizations, such as Texas Iron Spikes and Texas Lassos Service Organization, as well as interested members of the student population, volunteered on weekends to work at the gardens. Volunteer activities included clearing the area for planting, weeding, moving mulch, planting, and watering plants. Volunteer workday sessions were composed of 20 to 25 volunteers, and four workdays occurred over a span of three months. Upon landscaping completion, Beevo members maintained the garden by volunteering to water the plants 2-3 times a week.



UT students volunteer to prep an herb garden at Beevo Beekeeping Society's pollinator garden site.



Members of the Beevo Beekeeping Society pose for a group photo at a landscaping event in the on-campus hive site. At the event, members planted pollinator-friendly plants and removed invasive species.



## Education & Outreach

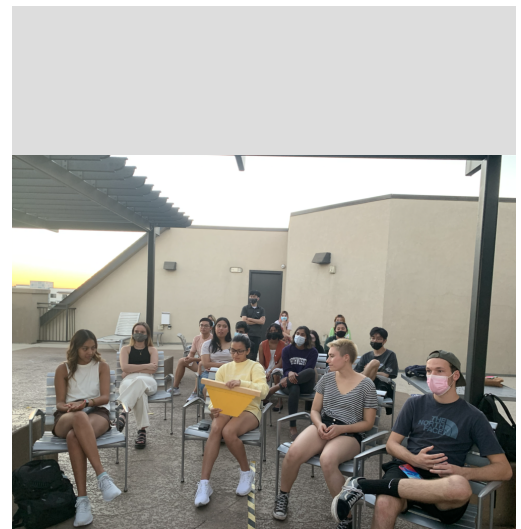
In the Fall Semester of 2021, the Beevo Beekeeping Society, or Beevo, initiated a partnership with The University of Texas' Farm Stand to educate the student population about pollination, conservation, and sustainability. The Farm Stand hosted several farmers market events in the heart of UT campus, and Beevo occupied a table where market-goers could learn about Bee Campus USA, pollination, club events, and more. The Beevo Beekeeping Society table featured poster boards with information about pollination, beekeeping, sustainability, and conservation. Students could chat with Beevo members about the importance of pollination, and were encouraged to attend future hive checks to learn more about beekeeping. The UT Farm Stand markets draw large crowds of students, between 250-300 each market, and about twenty Beevo members participated across two Farm Stand events. This collaboration is ongoing, with Beevo occupying a permanent pollinator table at the Farm Stand. The Beevo Beekeeping Society also hosted two "Beekeeping 101: Hive Check Training" events, where members from Beevo and UT's student population were invited to learn the basics of beekeeping. Attendees were taught about different types of beehives, beekeeping equipment, and the biology of honey bees. Attendees were also educated on the different aspects of a hive, such as the honeycomb, brood, and honey. While this event dealt with non-native honey bees and their importance in pollination, attendees were also educated about the general importance of pollination and native pollinators.



Members of the Beevo Beekeeping Society run an informational table at UT Farm Stand. Market-goers could learn about pollination, Bee Campus USA, and beekeeping.



Members of the Beevo Beekeeping Society and general UT Austin students pose for a collective group photo at a Beekeeping 101 event.



Attendees at a Beekeeping 101 event hosted by the Beevo Beekeeping Society examine an example top-bar honeycomb frame.



## Courses & Continuing Education

UT Austin offered nine different courses in 2021 for undergraduate students to learn about the importance of pollinators and pollination, listed below: BIO 122L: Structure, Physiology, and Reproduction of Seed Plants Lab, Dr. Jose Panero BIO 206L: Freshman Research Initiative Bugs in Bugs Stream, Jo Anne Holley & Dr. Nancy Moran BIO 311D: Introductory Biology II, Dr. Ann Thijs BIO 322: Structure, Physiology, and Reproduction of Seed Plants, Dr. Jose Panero BIO 359K: Principles of Animal Behavior, Dr. Felicity Muth BIO 373L: Ecology Lab, Dr. Lawrence Gilbert BIO 435L: Entomology, Dr. Alexander Wild EVS 311: Field Seminar in Sustainability, Dr. Jennifer Gillespie NSC 109: Freshman Research Initiative Biodiversity research stream, Dr. Nancy Moran Additionally, Laurel Trevino, College of Natural Sciences staff and UT Austin Bee Campus USA committee member, collaborated with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to offer a non-academic course series, Native Bees of Texas, to the general public. This three-session course discussed native bees' role in ecosystems, life history, behavior, identification, pollinator habitat conservation with best management practices and native plants for native bees.







## Service-Learning

The Beevo Beekeeping Society broke ground in the summer of 2021 to build an on-campus pollinator garden. This project was made possible by the UT Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, who graciously designed plans for the garden, and the Green Fund Grant from UT's Office of Sustainability. UT Landscaping services also proved instrumental in organizing workdays and project timelines. From August and onward, the Beevo Beekeeping Society hosted four service-learning events where general volunteers and club members worked to help remove invasive plants, till the soil, plant pollinator-friendly plants, and more. Project leaders from Beevo took the opportunity to educate volunteers on the importance of the garden for pollinators and native ecosystems.







At a pollinator garden landscaping workday, a volunteer removes Johnson grass, a non-native plant growing in the pollinator-garden site.



A group of volunteers after working to solarize Bermuda grass in the Beevo Beekeeping Society pollinator garden site.



Volunteers work to remove non-native plants at the Beevo Beekeeping Society pollinator garden site.

## Educational Signage

UT Austin hosts two pollinator gardens on campus with permanent educational signage: a butterfly garden and a pollinator orchard. The Beevo Beekeeping Society is also working to install a permanent sign at their pollinator garden.



### UT Orchard & Pollinator Garden

This urban orchard, managed by UT Landscape Services, showcases native and adapted fruiting trees & shrubs for Central Texas' challenging soils and climate.

The pollinator garden contains plants that provide food and habitat to attract and sustain beneficial insects and pollinators.

For a virtual map and more information, scan the QR code below



Signage at a butterfly garden on UT Austin campus.

Signage at a pollinator orchard garden on UT Austin campus.

Tentative design for signage at the Beevo Beekeeping Society pollinator garden.

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## Policies & Practices

The University of Texas at Austin has successfully maintained our integrated pest management plan, drafted and proposed in 2020. This plan features actions such as selecting appropriate turf species for certain areas, providing good drainage, inspecting land for pests and diseases, testing soil, and striving for a diversity of plant species.

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [IPM Plan Jim Carse.pdf](#)

<https://utexas.app.box.com/s/zud883x94gyr8g9fhi2568ls9ayn847h>

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

<https://utexas.app.box.com/s/6qlr5p6david6591slblgh717on501eqm>

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:** [Native Plant Supplier List.xlsx](#)

<https://utexas.app.box.com/s/6qlr5p6david6591slblgh717on501eqm>









A member of the Beevo Beekeeping Society prunes plants in the club's on-campus hive site during a landscaping workday.

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[Learn More](#)



UT Austin's Bee Campus USA committee working to coordinate pollinator-friendly initiatives.

