

Bee Campus USA - University of Connecticut

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

UConn students completed an invasive species removal and trail maintenance in the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) a number of times this year on 3/22, 4/19, 9/8, 10/25, 10/27 and 10/28. Cumulatively, these trail cleanups has 19 volunteers. Spring Valley Student Farm under Interim Farm Director, Jessica Larkin Wells, revitalized the Edible Forest Garden to host a variety of local pollinator-friendly species. This event had 35 volunteers. The farm also cared for wild milkweed and other pollinator-friendly species on the property as well as hosting 'Farm Fridays' during the Fall semester having a total number of 181 volunteers.. The EcoGarden Club revitalized their vegetable gardens, planting local pollinator friendly species. This had 5 volunteers. UConn Outing Club hosted a trail maintenance in the nearby Joshua Trust to remove invasive species on 10/20 with a total of 7 volunteers. UConn also planted a hundreds of native tree species including oaks, pine trees and dogwoods. Ocean Research and Conservation Association partnered with a variety of organizations on campus such as the Office of Sustainability and the UConn Recovery Community to cleanup litter all across campus on March 27 and October 17 with 175 volunteers. The UConn Master Gardener Program expanded its pollinator garden at the Litchfield County UConn Extension Center with the help of volunteers across 6 different days in 2021. The work included weeding, planting, identifying plants, documenting plant growth and insects, taking photographs, and creating plant ID tags. The species planted included mountain mint, zinnia, Agastache, and Nepeta.



The Spring Valley Student Farm Edible Forest Garden Renovation that regenerated the land to host a variety of local pollinator-friendly plants a landscape.

Although a reduced student population was on campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of UConn faculty and staff members gathered to plant the annual Class Tree for the graduating class of 2021. This year's official class tree, a Saucer Magnolia, was planted next to the Wilbur Cross Building, which houses a number of UConn offices and departments.

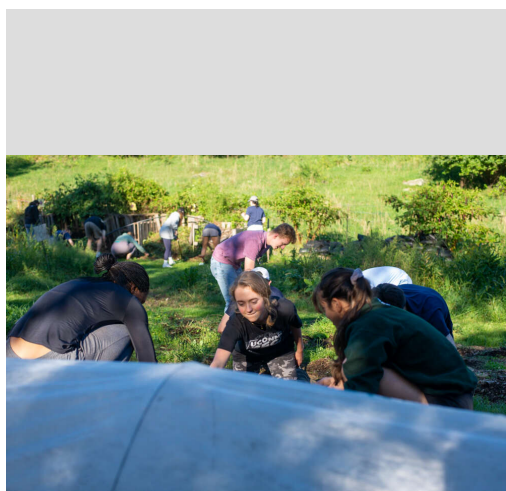
Education & Outreach

All events listed below were hosted by groups and organizations that have representatives on our UConn Bee Campus Committee and/or participate in pollinator-related outreach and education within our UConn campus and local communities. 1. UConn Extension is celebrating Bug Month from July 1 – 31 with virtual programs and resources for the entire family. All ages were welcome for the events, which included bug-related crafts, recipes, an activity to win a free bug kit, Connecticut Science Center programs and a photo contest. 2. NatureRx at UConn: Connecting with nature for better well-being and mental health – In-person event to discuss the importance of connecting with your natural environment and protecting natural spaces as well as your own mental health. January 19th, 2021 3. The UConn Extension Master Gardener Program and Darien Library co-hosted a class titled "Make Your Own Mini-Greenhouse to Start Seedlings." The UConn Advanced Master Gardener Alice Ely taught this class. 4. The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group hosted the UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference on November 9th, 2021 with 4 hours of presentations featuring current science-based research and information on supporting pollinators in managed landscapes. This program is designed for growers and other green industry professionals, landscape service providers, landscape architects and designers, town commissions, municipalities, schools, and homeowners. 5-6. The UConn Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series on Nature and the Environment hosted two lectures related to pollinators in 2021. The first was titled "On The Effects Of Multiple Landscape Transformations" and featured the renowned Landscape Ecologist and Conservation Biologist David Lindenmayer. He presented and discussed his research and new insights on the environmental impacts of multiple landscape transformations. The other Teale Lecture titled "The History and Future of Conservation" featured Michelle Nijhuis, the Journalist and author of "Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction." 7. The UConn Reads program hosted an event called "UConn Reads Forum: The Great Derangement: Climate Change And The Unthinkable" which was an interdisciplinary forum with author Amitav Ghosh as well as with a multidisciplinary panel comprising esteemed faculty members and students from across the University. The forum featured a presentation by Dr. Ghosh, followed by a thoughtful panel discussion with the author initiated by themes in Dr. Ghosh's book, The Great Derangement. April 22, 2021 (Earth Day) 8. The UConn Stamford Student Activities and the Stamford Museum and Nature Center co-hosted the Winter Farm Market every Sunday from February 21-March 31 featuring locally grown and made products. 9. The UConn Sustainable Community Food Systems Minor and Spring Valley Student Farm hosted a Career Event on March 25th. This event featured Herb Virgo from Keney Park Sustainability Project, Dianisi Torres from CLICK, and Sally Milius from Grow Windham. A discussion with UConn alumni and future employers about careers focused on the intersections of food, sustainability, environmentalism, and social justice. 10-11. The Planting Our Roots collaborative effort hosted two events in 2021. The first was the Planting Our Roots Celebration and Mural Painting co-hosted by UConn EcoGarden, BAILE, Spring Valley Student Farm, and NAISA on April 3rd. This featured seed planting,



local food celebration, and mural painting event for students to "Plant their roots" or culturally relevant foods. The second event called the Planting Our Roots Food Access and Justice Panel was co-hosted by UConnPIRG, EcoGarden, Dining Services, BAILE, and SVSF on February 4th. The description stated "Join us to discuss aspects of food distribution across Connecticut, local farm and urban agriculture, legislation enhancing food access during the pandemic, and the current pitfalls and inefficiencies that prevent statewide food justice." 12. The UConn Benton Museum, EcoHouse, and UConn Reads program co-hosted a film screening for "Anthropocene: The Human Epoch" on March 5th. Virtual Zoom webinar: A cinematic meditation on humanity's massive reengineering of the planet, "Anthropocene: The Human Epoch" is a feature documentary film from the multiple-award winning team Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier and international acclaimed photographer Edward Burtynsky. 13. The CLAS Activist-in-Residence Program, The Asian and Asian American Studies Institute, the Honors Program, UConn Spring Valley Student Farm, El Instituto, Anne Gebelein, and Kimberly Vasquez co-hosted the Trip to Rose Berry Farm educational event. This event included a morning of picking apples and squash at Rose's Berry Farm in Glastonbury, CT. Winny Contreras, farm manager, will discuss crop production as well as the realities of Mexican migrant farm labor in CT. Ms. Rose will discuss family farming in the CT River Valley and challenges to bringing you local, healthy food. Lunch will be served on the Rose family back deck. Transportation will be provided from campus, and this opportunity is limited to 30 students. 14. The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm and Community Outreach co-hosted the Preserving the Edible Forest Garden event and Farm Fridays. The Edible Forest Garden event was held on October 9th, but the Farm Fridays were offered every Friday throughout September and October 2021. These were educational and volunteer opportunities for the UConn community to come and help out at the Spring Valley Student Farm. Gather with us to learn about permaculture by caring for our designed ecosystem, the Edible Forest Garden! After engaging with the plants living in the EFG, we will enjoy some jams and preserves made from some native and invasive plants growing here at Spring Valley Student Farm. All are welcome in our garden and at our table! 15. Grow Windham and UConn Community Outreach co-hosted a volunteer event at the Grow Windham Community Gardens on October 9th. Help us maintain our gardens you are also supporting the Willimantic community combat the larger issue of food insecurity. Volunteers are advised to wear long pants and long sleeved shirts. Garden clean-up tasks can vary from weeding, mulching, building garden beds, or composting garden beds. Community Outreach Transportation will be provided to and from the service site.





UConn students volunteer during Farm Fridays at the Spring Valley Student Farm.

PLANTING OUR ROOTS PRESENTS...

Food Access & Justice Panel

Join us to discuss aspects of food distribution across Connecticut, local farm and urban agriculture, legislation enhancing food access during the pandemic, and the current pitfalls and inefficiencies that prevent statewide food justice.

SAVE THE DATE

**FEBRUARY 4, 2021
6:00PM**

ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/955568117967](https://zoom.us/j/955568117967)
PWD-ZXH0VEMRNC8DDFH3UVRPTMRXNE3YUT09

HONORS EVENT!

This event flyer was used on social media and posted publicly so that UConn students would attend the event titled "Food Access and Justice Panel" hosted by Planting Our Roots, a collaborative UConn effort.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

Career Event

**THURSDAY
MARCH 25, 2021
4:30-5:30PM**

FEATURING:
HERB VIRGO - KENNY PARK SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT FOUNDER
DIANIS TORRES - CLICK EDUCATOR, COORDINATOR, MASTER GARDENER
SALLY MILLS - GROW WINDHAM DIRECTOR

Do you dream of transforming the food system to create a more equitable, humane and sustainable society?

Join a Discussion with UConn alumni and future employers as they discuss their careers focused on the intersections of food sustainability, environmentalism, and social justice

REGISTER
<https://forms.gle/71niCe3uBuuuy97>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
<https://sl.engagement.uconn.edu/scls/>

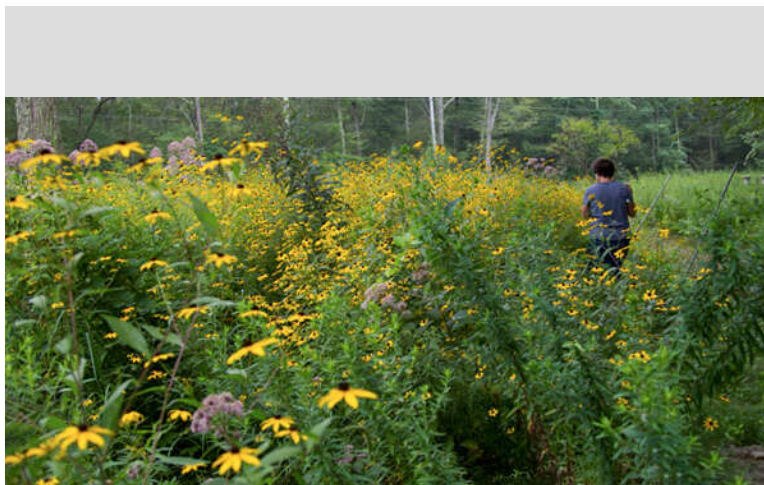
The UConn Sustainable Community Food Systems minor program hosted a career panel event to encourage UConn students to pursue careers related to food sustainability, environmentalism, and social justice.

Courses & Continuing Education

For-credit Course: ARE 1110 Population, Food, and the Environment ARE 2260 Food Policy ARE 2261W Writing in Food Policy ARE 4305 Sustainable Economic Development AGNR 3350 Hispanic Culture and Communication in Agriculture AH 3175 Environmental Health BIOL 1110 Introduction to Botany EEB 2100 Global Change Ecology EEB 2208 Introduction to Conservation Biology EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World EEB 2244 General Ecology EEB 2245 Evolutionary Biology EEB 2250 Introduction to Plant Physiology EEB 3220 Evolution of Green Plants EEB 3256 Plants and Civilization EEB 3269 Social Insects EEB 4120 Paleobiology EEB 5369 Current Topics in Biodiversity EDLR 1161 Husky Reads: Introducing Food and Nutrition to Children through Reading ENVE 1000 Environmental Sustainability ENVS 2000 Integrating Humans and the Environment GEOG 2400 Introduction to Sustainable Cities GEOG 3410 Human Modifications of Natural Environments HIST 2570 American Indian History HRTS 4291 Service Learning Seminar/Internship LAND 3230W Environmental Planning and Landscape Design NRE 1000 Environmental Science NRE 2455 Forest Ecology NRE 2600 Global Sustainable Natural Resources NRE 4000W Natural Resources Planning and Management NRE 4475 Forest Management NUSC 1167 Food, Culture, and Society PHIL 1108 Environmental Philosophy PHIL 3216 Environmental Ethics POLS 3412 Global Environmental Politics SOCI 2705 Sociology of Food SPSS 1060 The Great American Lawn: History, Culture, and Sustainability SPSS 1110 Fundamentals of Horticulture SPSS 1125 Insects, Food and Culture SPSS 2100 Environmental Sustainability of Food Production in Developed Countries



SPSS 2110W Sustainable Plant Pest Management Communication SPSS 3150 Advanced Turfgrass Management SPSS 3610 Organic and Sustainable Vegetable Production Continuing Education courses offered through UConn Extension and their Master Gardener Program: Native Shrubs for Landscape Use Current Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in Natural Landscape Design & Land Care Gardening as if the World Depends on Us Propagating Pollinator Plants From Seed Foundation Gardens & Native Plants



Instructor Kathy Connolly in the field leading students for the Foundation Gardens & Native Plants class.



At the Litchfield County Extension Center, UConn Extension staff expanded their pollinator garden which was started in 2020. They added *Pycnanthemum muticum* (mountain mint) and *liatris*.

Service-Learning

Spring Valley Student Farm actively maintains one native perennial garden at the farm and additionally leaves some of their plots and other spots on the farm to fallow. This allows wildflowers and habitat to grow for bees, pollinators, and other beneficial insects. The farm also cultivated a forest garden of perennial trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants providing food for humans and habitat and nectar for pollinators. This diverse system replicates a forest structure and sustains itself through the many ecological roles played by each individual species. Significant attention is paid to removal of invasive species to allow for the healthiest environment for our native plants. They invited campus to a tour of the garden to educate about local pollinator-friendly species and made eronia jam. The Office of Sustainability hosted a number of HEEP trail cleanups which doubled as an opportunity to both clean up the land, but also educate students about the forested land.





Student farmer, Hunter Weitowitz, leading a tour of the Spring Valley Student Farm Edible Forest Garden.

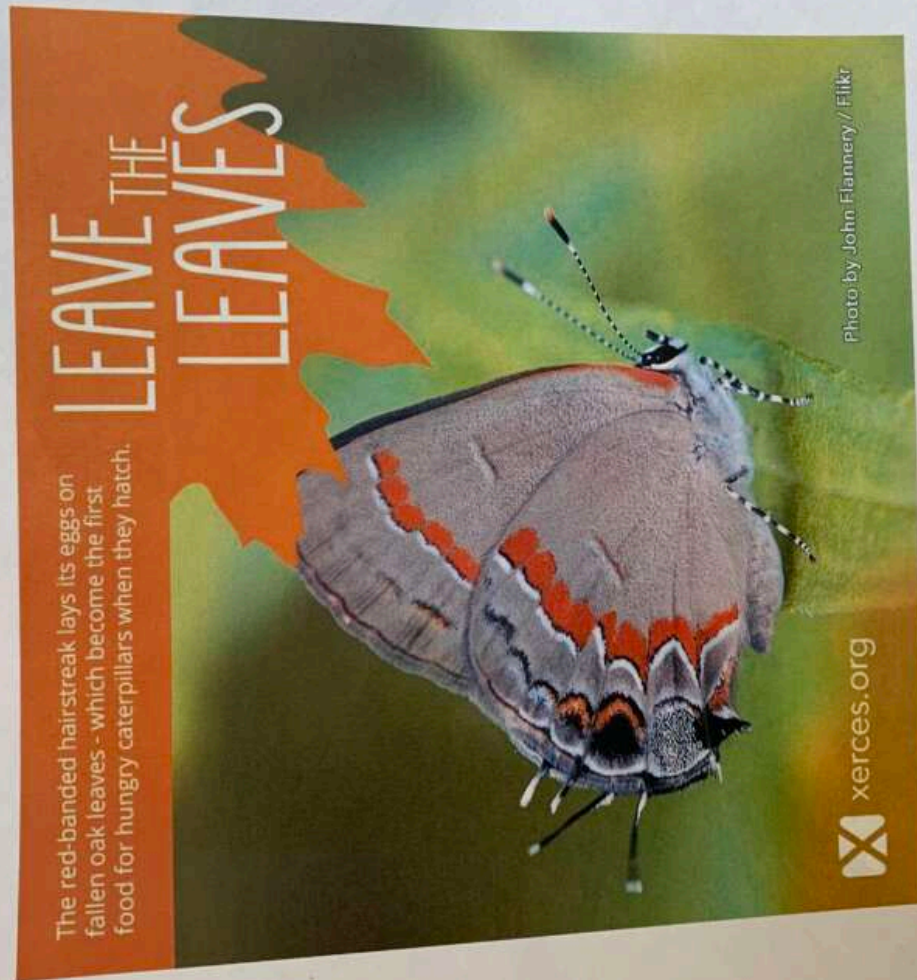


Office of Sustainability interns cleaning up the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) trails and removing invasive species.

Educational Signage

Flyers designed by the Xerces Society were posted in main campus buildings like Oak Hall with high visibility to encourage UConn students to use pollinator-friendly practices.





Flyers were hung in main campus buildings like Oak Hall to promote messages from the Xerces Society related to pollinator conservation.

Policies & Practices

The UConn Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF) is located about 2 miles from the Storrs campus and is a collaborative venture between Dining Services, Residential Life, EcoHouse Learning Community, and First-Year Programs, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, and the Office of Sustainability. The SVSF houses 11 resident student farmers each year who grow crops, raise bees, and host educational events and opportunities for UConn and the local community. They use only organic methods for growing and pest management and actively work to enhance pollinator



habitat through milkweed plantings, improving the Edible Forest Garden, and other efforts. Across the Storrs campus, UConn Landscape Services follows the UConn IPM plan, which was last updated in November 2019. The staff tries to use plant varieties that attract pollinators across different areas of campus. One such place they have focused on recently is the stone wall area by Rosebrooks barn near Lot W. They have also worked with student organizations in the past to develop pollinator gardens, which they ask the organizations to care for over time. For their signature plantings on campus (Mansfield island, NE island, and Gulley circle) they try to avoid pesticides/herbicides unless necessary. As indicated in the UConn IPM plan: "Preventive herbicide applications may only be performed when the previous year's monitoring has indicated a likelihood of weed infestation that cannot be deterred by biological pest control methods. Preventive applications should be made only to specific problem areas, such as roadside curbs. Priority is given to those herbicides having the lowest toxicity, taking into consideration the method and frequency of application and the risk of exposure to building occupants." UConn Landscape Services follows these guidelines for best practices and maintains campus landscaping with human and pollinator health in mind.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UConn IPM Plan Nov 2019.pdf](#)

https://ecohusky.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2041/2020/02/UConn-IPM-turf-and-ornamental-Final_112019.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Pollinator Plants List CT.pdf](#)

http://nenativeplants.uconn.edu/pollinators_4_1535294473.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Pollinator Plants Suppliers List.pdf](#)

<http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/view.php?id=1536>





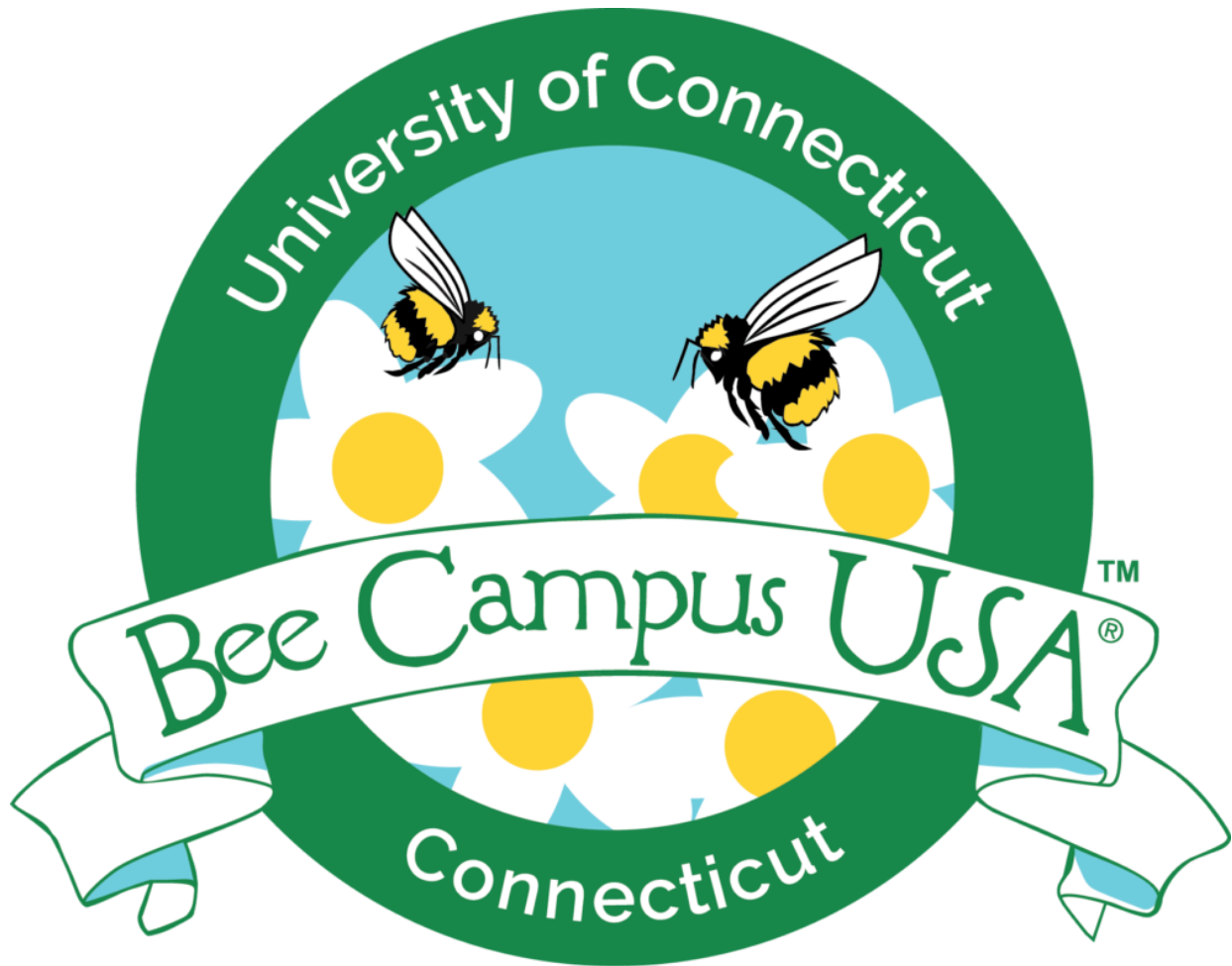
Coneflowers and other pollinator-friendly plantings at the UConn Spring Valley Student Farm, where resident students farmers use only organic practices.



Learn More

<https://sustainability.uconn.edu/bee-campus-usa/>
sustainability@uconn.edu

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