Bee Campus USA - University of Tennessee Knoxville

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Members of the committee hosted habitat creation and enhancement events at the UT Gardens in Knoxville through plantings and new signage at the monarch waystation, as well as increased signage for pollinator-friendly plantings. Additionally, members established new habitat at

Monarch waystation established in the UT Gardens in Knoxville (Univ of TN-Knoxville, Jennifer Tsuruda)

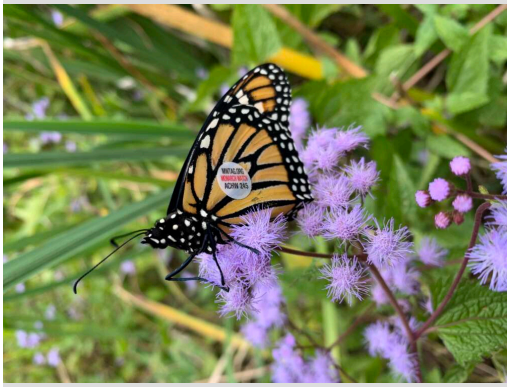
New signage for pollinator-friendly plants at the UT Gardens in Knoxville (Univ of TN-Knoxville, Jennifer Tsuruda)

Perennial and annual plantings in natural and agricultural areas of UT property (Univ of TN-Knoxville, Jennifer Tsuruda)

Education & Outreach

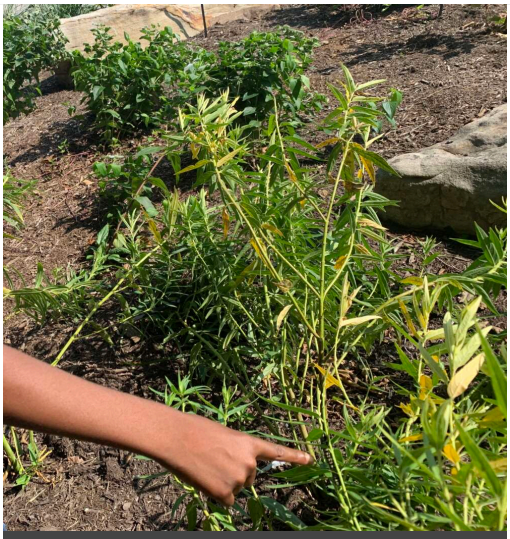
– *Butterfly Week: children learned about the life cycle of a butterfly, what they need to survive, their role in the ecosystem, and more. – *Lil Gardeners' Butterfly Week: the material covered included the life cycle of a butterfly, plants that attract pollinators, and age-appropriate focus on color-recognition, counting, etc. o (In both of the above camps,

butterflies were used as a doorway into understanding the importance of pollinators and what people can do to support the success of various pollinators.) – *Camp with a Master Gardener: pollinators were discussed in relation to their importance for gardening and agriculture in general. – *Numerous talks to beekeeping groups and Master Beekeeping Program courses that discussed honey bees as well as non-honey bees in the landscape – *Trainings for educators and youth about the value of pollinators and how they can help support pollinators through establishing and managing pollinator habitats – *Presentation and co-hosting responsibilities for At Home Beekeeping webinar series developed with colleagues in the Southeast (has attracted attendees from around the globe) – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education sponsored training on the value of pollinators for specialty crops – USDA NRCS wildlife training on the value of pollinators and establishing a conserving pollinator habitat in natural areas – Additional presentations to a conservation council, a regenerative agriculture group, a pest control association, a new farmer academy, veterinary students, and mead makers/consumers – *several social media posts about the UT Bee Campus, pollinators, and activities at the UT Gardens *hosted by members of our committee



A tagged monarch from one of the outreach events at the UT Gardens (Univ of TN-Knoxville, Holly Jones)

Youth assessing the pollinator visitation at the UT Gardens (Univ of TN-Knoxville, Holly Jones)



Identification and documentation of monarch larvae on Asclepias (Univ of TN-Knoxville, Holly Jones)

Courses & Continuing Education

Presentations were given to undergraduate and graduate students in general education and entomology for-credit courses, as well as Extension credential classes. The curriculum was focused on beekeeping and bees (including non-honey bees), as well as how the public can support pollinators through the establishment and maintenance of pollinator-friendly habitats. Curriculum for continuing education involved beekeeping and bees, as well, but had more focus on habitat needs and planting to support pollinators in natural and agricultural environments.

Making the World Safer for Pollinators
Bee Campus USA™
One Campus at a Time
An initiative of the Xerces Society

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

Service-Learning

Covid restrictions limited service-learning projects.

Educational Signage

25 permanent plant-ID signs were established in the UT Gardens to identify pollinator-friendly plants 25 temporary plant-ID signs accompany the permanent signs and have QR codes to direct visitors to our apiculture website. The signs will be updated with new QR codes as the project progresses and new websites are developed.

Example of new permanent plant ID sign with Bee Campus logo, and temporary QR code sign below (Univ of TN - Jennifer Tsuruda)

Policies & Practices

We follow IPPM strategies in that we start with low risk pest management methods that can help support pollinators. For instance, with our pollinator plants, we strive to do as much site preparation on the front-end to decrease the likelihood of utilizing less pollinator-friendly management tactics such as using herbicides. We also practice no/low till so not to disrupt ground-nesting bees. We also use cover crops to improve soil health (clovers) and reduce reliance on herbicides (buckwheat), while also serving as pollen and nectar resources for pollinators.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: UTK Bee Campus 2022 IPM Plan.docx

Recommended Native Plant List: UTK Bee Campus 2022 Native Plant List.docx

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: UTK Bee Campus 2022 Native Plant Supplier List.docx

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