



Bee Campus USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education



Portland Community College Portland, Oregon

Rock Creek, Sylvania, Cascade, Southeast Campuses

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Pictured (left) are Anne LeSenne, Landscape Technology instructor at Rock Creek, beekeeping student Michael Patterson, and Flow Hive donor Harlene Beuhler.

Earth Week— New Flow Hives Double Honey Output - There's only one thing sweeter than 3.5 gallons of honey...that would be more than eight gallons of honey drawn effortlessly from the tap. The recent increase in productivity is credited to a gift from student Harlene Beuhler, who donated a seven-frame Flow Hives and three extra flow frames which doubled the honey production at Rock Creek.

Beuhler, a campus neighbor and student at the Rachel Carson Environmental Middle School, is familiar with the campus and recently learned of the beehive project initiated in the campus Learning Garden.

"When I learned about the Rock Creek bees, I was excited to see what I could do to help as a part of my eighth grade project for Rachel Carson," said Beuhler. "I wanted to support our local bee population and figured that donating a Flow Hive would be a great start."

Beekeeping and honey production has become popular at the campus. According to Anne LeSenne, Landscape Technology Program instructor and beekeeper in charge, the enterprise started as an experiment last year and has morphed into something rather ambitious. At the center of the elevated excitement is new technology in honey rendering.

"Even though we will be able to harvest the traditional way, the Flow Hives make harvesting much easier, cleaner and faster, with less disruption to the bee colony," LeSenne said. "It's really ideal for those who don't want to or can't lift a 60 to 90 pound box full of honey, as well as those who don't have a honey harvesting room to contain all the sticky, waxy, mess. Where harvesting could take all day the traditional way, the Flow Hive allows me to harvest a little in a few minutes or all of the honey in just an hour."

"The honey comes out without particles of wax debris, so no filtering or screening is necessary," she continued. "We also love the Flow Hive because of the clear windows so we can see what the bees are doing inside, while they turn nectar into honey."

Because of the educational component of the beekeeping program, the new technology allows even small children to watch the bees do their work in a completely safe setting, which improves Rock Creek's ability to educate the community about the role of pollinators. Currently there are 13 Rock Creek students in the beekeeping program.

To celebrate Arbor Day this year, we sponsored a free geocaching event in conjunction with our 40th anniversary of Rock Creek campus. We hid geocaches in 40 different species of trees, and shared interesting facts about each species. This event was open from April through September to the public.

Pollinator Week - Have you ever wanted to get a peek into a beehive? Or wondered where our campus apiary is and how our bees are doing? Celebrate Pollinator Week with us! At Rock Creek we will have activities on Tuesday, June 13th including:

- 11 am -1 pm, Apiary tours with our campus beekeeper, Anne LeSenne. Meet at Landscape Technology, Building 4
- 11 am -1 pm, Make seed bombs (flower seed and clay balls) to throw and plant in your yard or a roadside ditch!
- 11:30 am - 3:00 pm, Pollinator education and giveaways during Portlandia FarmStandia, outside building 5. We will have all sorts of freebies including Give Bees a Chance buttons, handouts on pollinator plants and bees, two gorgeous pollinator posters on orchids and trees and packets of flower seeds.



Association for the Advancement in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference Presentation - Elaine Cole gave a presentation at the national AASHE conference in San Antonio, Texas in October 2017. It was titled, Bee Hives on Campus: Strategies to Make This Happen, and there was a good turnout faculty, staff and students from across the country.

http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/rock-creek/bees_html_MMtmp259b1776/bees.html

http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/rock-creek/ResourcesRese_MMtmp7d090cf2/ResourcesResearchReports.html

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

Washington County Master Gardeners on campus - We have entered into an agreement with the Washington County Master Gardeners to build a demonstration garden on the Rock Creek campus, adjacent to the Learning Garden. The Master Gardeners will have a number of specialized gardens that they will use to teach a series of classes to our students and the community. All of their practices are pollinator friendly, and will further expand our pollinator habitat footprint.

Application for TGIF grant - We applied for a Green Initiative Fund grant to add an apiary at Sylvania campus. The apiary will be installed early 2018, and honey bees will be added to that campus during the Spring through Fall, then housed at Rock Creek campus over winter. This will add to our ability to educate more students regarding pollinators.



Oregon Bee Project participation - Dr. Jaimie Powell, Anne LeSenne, and Elizabeth Brewster have been accepted into the Oregon Bee Project. This is research that will be conducted on our campus to identify the native pollinators here. They will be trained and given the materials to capture and preserve pollinators on our campus, and send them to OSU to be identified. This information will help the OSU Bee Lab understand and document which species of bees are throughout the state. It will also help us identify what type of habitat we need to expand.

Friends of Trees planting event - Lots of volunteers came out on Nov. 17 to plant native plants and trees in the Environmental Studies Center on the Rock Creek Campus. The most difficult part was navigating the mud, but at least the sun was shining. It was a great event - we had 16 volunteers working with Max and Anne-Marie of Friends of Trees. I can ask Friends of Trees how many plants of which species went in the ground - they were primarily shrubs planted in the shrub-scrub wetland north of the oak woodland. We set out to plant 440 trees and shrubs- you can see specifics in the table below, and managed to get roughly 320 planted. We're working to schedule a day to come through and finish the remaining plants up.

Species

Common

Plants

<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Red Alder	15
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-Osier Dogwood	50
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black Hawthorn	10
<i>Populus balsamifera</i> ssp. <i>trichocarpa</i>	Black Cottonwood	15
<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Pacific Willow	50
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler Willow	200
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Douglas's Spiraea	100
	Total	440



POLICIES & PRACTICES

We include staff, students, and community members in our committee, and invite anyone interested in pollinators to be part of our efforts. We have four campuses with representation from each campus, as well as a center with a learning garden who also has representation on our committee. Portland Community College Grounds crew is going completely herbicide-free on the Rock Creek campus as of 2019. They've already done this at the Sylvania and Southeast campuses, and will be implementing this at additional campus locations in the years to follow.



Recommended Locally Native Plant Species—<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/40734>

Recommended Locally Native Plant Suppliers—<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/yard-and-garden/plants/native-plants>

Pollinator-Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan—https://www.pcc.edu/facilities-management/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2019/01/integrated-pest-management_Oct_2015.pdf

SERVICE-LEARNING



3D Design Art Class - William Moss' 3-D Design art class at Rock Creek had 14 students in the spring quarter and made mason bee hotels. He brought the class to the Learning Garden and apiary on May 22. The students asked questions regarding the parameters for the needs of mason bees and their habitat needs and then they designed creative and artistic mason bee hotels that will be hung around the campus in early spring 2018.

Media

Elaine was interviewed for an article in the Sustainable City Network, a website and print publication for leaders in government, education and healthcare. Will go to press on Dec 19-20 so can include a url or insert from it.

<http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/>

CURRICULUM

Beekeeping class - The Beekeeping class ran two terms, Spring and Summer. The classes were very successful in both teaching and giving hands on experience in managing honey bees. Two swarms were captured. Over 8 gallons of honey was extracted and sold. One student has now become a beekeeper as part of his employment.

Bee Tree Discovery - As part of the Biology Department's' work to rid the woods of invasive species, as well as identifying some of our largest trees on campus for the Arbor Day Geocaching event, we discovered a large Western Red Cedar with a healthy honey bee colony. We were able to show this tree to several interested classes throughout the summer, and will be doing continuing monitoring of the health of this hive next year.

Food Forest expansion and mapping - As part of our commitment to fighting Food Insecurity in our students, we are making maps of the fruiting trees and shrubs available at each campus. We also expanded the Food Forest at Sylvania and SouthEast campuses.



During Earth Week, a dozen Landscape Technology students in the Plant Establishment class planted a new pollinator garden at the entry road to Building 4. PCC bee campus committee members were trained in EpiPen use and have up to date first aid training. At least four Public Safety officers were trained here at Rock Creek. Public Safety has two kits in their office. Another EpiPen is located in a building near the apiary on top of a big first aid kit mounted on the wall in the lab of Building 4. We only have adult size on campus, but the doctor told us to use that on children if necessary. Stickers were placed on our bee signs in case of an emergency contact for Public Safety.

Beekeeping Classes—We offer two Beekeeping classes, LAT 103 for 2 credit hours each. One in Spring term, and one in Summer term. Both are limited to a full capacity of 20 students per term. There are several other classes that come to the apiary to learn about bees and native pollinators, including Organic Gardening, Propagation, Permaculture, and Biology.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

Warning signs at the location of our apiaries are permanent, as well as Pollinator Habitat signs at some of our pollinator gardens.



CONTACT US!

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