



Happy Thanksgiving from Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA!

The creator of our favorite pollinator documentary, [Wings of Life](#), Louie Schwartzberg, also made a film about gratitude: [Nature. Beauty. Gratitude](#).

This e-newsletter's theme is all about the many reasons we are thankful.

Update on Bee City USA

We are grateful to the 15 towns and cities in 8 states that have made a commitment to help pollinators as Bee City USA [communities](#):

- Idaho-Garden City
- Kentucky-Clarkson
- North Carolina-Asheville, Carrboro, Hendersonville, Matthews, Wilmington
- Oregon-Talent, Ashland, Phoenix
- Michigan-Charter Township of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti
- South Carolina-Lake City
- Washington--Seattle
- Wisconsin-Hales Corners

In each of these municipalities, pollinator champions not only recognized the vital role that pollinators play in making our



Bee City USA Float in Harvest Festival parade in Talent, Oregon. We love having news and photos from Bee Cities to share through social media. Please let us know about your accomplishments and events. If you have a Facebook page, we can easily share news with the [Bee City USA Facebook page](#).

planet bloom and fruit, they convinced their neighbors and city leaders to take actions like planting gardens of native flowers on public and private land, developing integrated pest management plans, holding pollinator awareness events, integrating pollinator-friendly plants into the city's recommended plant species lists...

When cities across America manage their landscapes as pollinator habitat-rich in a diversity of native plants and free of pesticides, these communities will reconnect fragmented habitats and nearly all living things will benefit, including human food supplies.

Now that we have a critical mass of cities, we look forward to sharing annual reports with one another, having conference calls to cross-pollinate, having a list-serve for sharing information, and one day, organizing a national conference. Each community has ideas to share and lessons to teach the others. Carrboro, NC, got their first year [report](#) to us early.

Breaking News! Counties are also eligible to apply for certification as a Bee City USA community. The intent is that a local body of government makes a long-term

commitment to consider pollinators in their landscaping activities.



Visit Bee City USA Website & You Tube Channel

The Bee City USA website is fairly active so we hope you will check it often, particularly the [News & Events](#) page, the [Resources](#) page, and the [Press Releases and Media Coverage](#) page.

Bee City USA has received a wide variety of press coverage, both [local](#) and national. Watch for stories in *National Geographic Traveler* in December and *Birds & Blooms* in January.

We also have a [You Tube channel](#), which we are beginning to populate and welcome your video contributions about the work you are doing for pollinators.



Bee Campus USA Launched at Southern Oregon University

We are grateful to Southern Oregon University not only for pioneering the [Bee Campus USA](#) program with us to launch in April, but also for submitting an award-winning [case study](#) to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) that has captured the imaginations of campuses across the country.

Southern Oregon University's visionary Bee Campus USA team is comprised of landscaping services staff, faculty and students.

Like Bee City USA, the program requires the campus to establish a permanent pollinator advocacy committee, host annual

awareness event(s), maintain a webpage about their program, and annually apply for renewal and report on the last year's activities. But additionally, each Bee Campus USA agrees to sponsor service-learning projects to enhance pollinator habitat; offer courses or continuing education programs about pollinators, pest management, or landscaping for pollinators; and, post educational signage about pollinators.



Sarah with son, Oli, the monarch caterpillar.

Bee City Asheville Gets an AmeriCorps Member!

Meet Sarah Coury who moved her family from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Asheville, North Carolina, this summer to serve as Pollinator Projects Coordinator. Bee City Asheville partnered with [Asheville GreenWorks](#) to host Sarah and to infuse their extensive landscaping efforts with pollinator-friendliness. AmeriCorps [Project Conserve](#) is managed by the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and supported through a state AmeriCorps grant in partnership with the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, based in the Office of Governor Pat McCrory.

Sarah earned her BS at Western Michigan University in natural resource management with a minor in writing. In addition to being a Master Gardener, she has: monitored the

nests of neotropical migrating birds, worked in an aquatic ecology lab, been the ranger/caretaker for Kalamazoo County Parks, and started an educational garden at her son's school. Her experience tracking rattlesnakes convinced us she could do just about anything and her experience with recruiting and managing volunteers already is paying dividends with her work for Bee City Asheville and Asheville GreenWorks, where she is leading numerous pollinator habitat planting efforts and educational events.



Take the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge!

The [National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#), released by the White House Pollinator Health Task Force on May 19, 2015 was a tour de force for federal agencies and the many non-profit organizations that helped to craft the strategy. Some have called it one of the largest conservation initiatives ever to be mounted. As one of the many public-private calls to action, task force members suggested the [Million Pollinator Garden Challenge](#).

There are probably way more than a million pollinator gardens that have been planted in the last ten years as we have become aware of the plight of pollinators, but very few of them have been registered anywhere.

Please ask your communities to register their pollinator gardens at [SHARE](#) so we can meet and exceed the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge in 2016. You may even start a drive to get X number of gardens planted and registered in your community by National Pollinator Week, the third week of June. If you launch that campaign, please let us know so we can promote it through social media.



Sporting her Bee City tee, Bee City Asheville volunteer, Rachel Tondi, started fundraising campaign where she works at Mediterranean Restaurant.

Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA Merchandise

We have your holiday gift giving covered thanks to partnerships with [Spiritex and Signarama Asheville](#). These two businesses have agreed to help meet requests for logo items AND to help sustain our programs! Both businesses are sharing profits from selling our merchandise to help us cover the many costs of the programs like maintaining the website, designing and printing materials, attending conferences, developing resource materials, responding to daily communications and fundraising.

A national pioneer in using 100% organic cotton, Spiritex happily offers wholesale discounts on all items including men's, women's and youth tees and onesies. They are also willing to customize products with Bee City and Bee Campus names.

Signarama Asheville will supply 24x24 Bee City USA street signs, 72x30 fabric table

runners (with logo on each end), volunteer vests (the bright yellow ones lots of non-profits use) with logo printed on either front or back, static-cling Bee City USA window decals, generic Bee City USA bi-fold brochures or rack cards, Bee City USA license plates, pollinators welcome garden signs, and Bee City USA bumper stickers.



Press Releases for Certified Cities to Share

From time to time, we offer press releases that may be republished in your local media outlets, with attribution to the original publisher. In 2012 and 2013, the Asheville Citizen-Times published Bee City USA's guest editorial for Thanksgiving, which they will also do again this year.

Each year we put a little different twist on the message. The first two years we encouraged Thanksgiving feasters to thank pollinators for the many delicious foods and beverages they were enjoying. This year,

the bees are sending a message to those feasters, thanking everyone who has enhanced pollinator habitat.

Unfortunately it's too late to get your local media to [reprint the article](#) this Thanksgiving, but you may want to put it on your calendar to request for next year.

Another article to share is in preparation for swarming season in the spring.



Phyllis Stiles receiving award from Victoria Wojcik, PhD, Research Director, Pollinator Partnership.

Pollinator Partnership Names Bee City USA Director 2015 Pollinator Advocate for United States

Bee City USA is immensely honored that the Pollinator Partnership (P2) named Bee City USA director, Phyllis Stiles, the [2015 Pollinator Advocate for the United States](#).

On October 19, Stiles joined the four other honorees for a ceremony at the Department of the Interior in Washington, which was followed by the North America Pollinator Protection Campaign's (NAPPC)

annual conference.

P2 and NAPPC have played an enormous leadership role in garnering national attention for the pollinator crisis and for bringing North American nations together to take action. P2 initiated the seminal National Academies of Science National Research Council study, "Status of Pollinators of North America (2007)" which generated over 300 articles. Their research, planting guides, educational curriculum, and advocacy programs are research-based and presented in a consumer-friendly manner.



Your Contributions Sustain Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA

This initiative is completely volunteer-run. Many thanks to the individuals, corporations and foundations that have made a contribution of their time, talents and financial resources since Bee City USA began in 2012. We welcome your gifts on our [Supporters](#) page.

We especially appreciate the folks at The Burt's Bees Greater Good Foundation for awarding Bee City USA a \$5,500 grant to support our AmeriCorps Pollinator Project Coordinator's education work with children and demonstration garden projects across Asheville and Buncombe County.

Bee City USA | 828-545-4282 | beecityusa@gmail.com | <http://www.beecityusa.org/>

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