

Bee City USA – Garden City



Annual Report 2019

With the Garden City Pollinator Habitat in place and continuing to influence community leaders and citizens about plants in our area that are loved by pollinators, we turned our focus to education. Highlights of 2019 include:

“100 Treasure Valley Pollinator Plants”, a pocket-size, spiral-bound book was published in December. The 118 pages include tips to help pollinators, photos and information for each plant, icons indicating if it is native, and which pollinators the plant attracts. The book is organized by type of plant, then the season of bloom, in order to help people plant for all seasons. The book will be in libraries and is now available for sale at local retailers. All plants listed are available locally.

2019 Speaker Series: This year we held 5 presentations by local experts on various aspects concerning pollinator conservation, reaching over 100 people. A tour of the Pollinator Habitat was included in August. A pollinator-friendly plant list and several other free educational handouts are always available at these presentations.

Annual Pollinator Celebration: What a great day we had, with 14 vendors, 2 pollinator walks with experts identifying different pollinators in the garden, and a continuous-running film spotlighting home, farm, and public gardens. The 150+ attendees enjoyed a great morning of information, education, activities, and snacks on Saturday, June 22nd.

Garden City Pollinator Habitat: Our influence was expanded this year by a couple of notable events. We were interviewed for a newspaper article, which noted that the Meridian Co-op Gardeners had used our Habitat to help plan the addition of a pollinator garden to their food garden. We were also featured in an article in the fall issue of “Edible Idaho”. The entire publication was dedicated to pollinators and we were pleased to be included in this exceptional magazine.

We were also able to provide educational materials at 3 local events: a Discovery Faire at the Garden City Library, “Experience Garden City”, and the 50th Boise Greenbelt Celebration.

For kids, “The Secret Life of Bees” was presented to 62 kids at Frontier Elementary and 28 at Rolling Hills Charter School.

We donated \$300 to the Garden City Library for books about pollinator conservation. They provided a display of these books and more during the month of May.

We continue to request that the City of Garden City adopt an Integrated Pest Management Plan, as required by Bee City USA. It is an important part of protecting pollinators from the many chemicals used in today’s world. We submitted material and a request when the new Comprehensive Plan was being written in March, and again at a City Council Meeting in May. To date, there is no indication that such a plan will be adopted. The Comprehensive Plan was written without it, however, no chemicals harmful to pollinators are utilized in the pollinator garden.