



City of Hendersonville's Earth Week 2020



Learning About Pollinators and Planting Pollinator Gardens

Learning and gardening are not canceled! We can make the best of spending more time at home this spring by participating in online events to learn more about pollinators. We can then step outside and turn that knowledge into actions to help create healthy habitats for pollinators while also spreading some much-needed beauty and joy. Below are some tips and resources to help you get started.

Learn More!



You can keep up with the latest pollinator-related events and learning opportunities (many now being held online) at <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/pollinator-events>.

Here are a few highlights:

• **Virtual Talk: Native Plants and the Pollinators They Support, April 18 at 3PM**

Based in Waynesville, Spriggly's Beescaping is a local business offering workshops, products, and services to create environments that support beneficial pollinators. Run by husband and wife team, Brannen Basham and Jill Jacobs, Spriggly's puts a special focus on the 4,000 species of native bees located in the United States and Canada. They offer affordable low-maintenance techniques any gardener can implement to support native pollinators and increase production in their garden or at their farm. In addition to the wealth of resources found at their website (<https://sprigglys.com/>), you can tune in to a live presentation about native plants and pollinators, complete with a question and answer session. Virtual participants can leave questions throughout the program which will be collected and answered at the end of the presentation. Past presentations are also available in the videos section of the Spriggly's Beescaping Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sprigglys/>.

• **Earth Optimism Digital Summit, April 22-24**

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the Smithsonian's 2020 Earth Optimism Digital Summit will recognize the growing number of examples of

improvements in the health of species and ecosystems, along with benefits to human well-being, thanks to conservation actions. Earth Optimism celebrates a change in focus from problem to solution, from a sense of loss to one of hope, in the dialogue about conservation and sustainability. From April 22-24, the summit will showcase stories of both small and large-scale actions that demonstrate that success is possible. Speakers may be viewed live at <https://earthoptimism.si.edu> as well as on Facebook Live and Twitter. Artist and Founder of The Good of the Hive, Matt Willey (<https://earthoptimism.si.edu/calendar/2020-dc-summit/speakers/matt-willey>), is scheduled to speak as part of the "Cowboys, Oceans, Bees" session (<https://earthoptimism.si.edu/calendar/2020-dc-summit/events/cowboys-oceans-bees/>) on Thursday, April 23 from 4:40 - 5:10 PM. If all goes as planned, Matt is also scheduled to paint a bee mural in downtown Hendersonville in the fall of 2020.

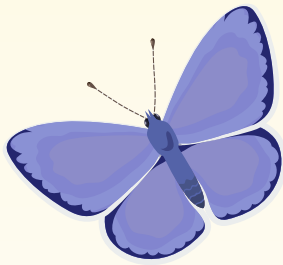
In recognition of the power of art to inspire positive actions for the planet, a special art activity is also taking place. The Earth Optimism Digital Summit wants to see your nature-themed artwork and share it with the world! Please see <https://earthoptimism.si.edu/2020-summit/art-activity/> for details about participating.

In addition, the archived "At Home with Conservation" session from the 2017 Earth Optimism Summit includes talks by Phyllis Stiles, Founder of Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA, and Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. It may be viewed online anytime at <https://earthoptimism.si.edu/calendar/2017/events/home-conservation/>.





• **Gardens that Matter On-Demand Online Classes** Gardens That Matter serves over 3000 gardening families around the world, but is based right here in Hendersonville! Amy and Colby, along with their three young sons, aim to teach families how to create beautiful, bountiful gardens by sharing step-by-step lessons and stories from the field and backyard. Through their blog and classes, they share both their successes and messes. To help get everyone out gardening this spring, you can take one of their intro class for free when you use the code GROWJOY at checkout. The "How to Grow a Pollinator Café" course will teach you how to make your yard a 5-star stop for pollinators and a colorful, life-filled place for people. Amy will cover all the essentials you need to create a garden bustling with hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. You may also choose from other on-demand introductory gardening classes including: Start Your First Garden, The Happy Garden Guide to Composting, and Gardening with Kids. Learn more at <https://www.gardensthatmatter.com>.



Look & Enjoy More!

What a perfect time to get outside and take advantage of the calming and healing power of nature! Fortunately, nature is not a faraway place we must travel to visit. Nature is just outside our doors. Here are some ideas for sharing your observations on the natural world with others this spring... and you can win some cool prizes, too!

• **Conserving Carolina's Habitat at Home 2020 Photo Contest (Enter by May 15)**

This time of staying home gives us the opportunity to turn our attention to a vital habitat restoration project:

our homes. That's why, from now - May 15, Conserving Carolina is holding a Habitat at Home contest! This is a contest for all ages—kids and adults. Just share photos or videos that show how you're enhancing habitat. Or share photos or videos that show wild animals (from pollinators on up) where you live. You don't have to be a professional photographer. You don't have to be an expert naturalist. You could have a lot of land or just a balcony. There are a few criteria and if you meet them, you'll also be entered in a drawing to win garden-themed prizes. Most importantly, you'll inspire people and help restore our natural world! Please see complete details at <https://conservingcarolina.org/contest-habitat-at-home-2020/>.

• **ecoEXPLORE for Grades K-8: Help Scientists Plus Earn Badges & Prizes**

ecoEXPLORE (Experiences Promoting Learning Outdoors for Research and Education) is an incentive-based community-based science program for children in grades K-8. Developed by The North Carolina Arboretum, this innovative program combines science exploration with kid-friendly technology to foster a fun learning environment while encouraging children to explore the outdoors and participate in real life science initiatives. After signing up online, participants go outside in their own backyard or designated ecoEXPLORE "HotSpots" to find and document wildlife species, including plants, reptiles, amphibians, insects and birds. Participants then take photographs, log into their ecoEXPLORE online profile, and share/submit their observations. Arboretum staff then review the data and submit all approved submissions to the iNaturalist Network. Participants earn points for observations and can redeem them for nature-themed prizes such as hand lenses, insect nets, field guides, binoculars, etc. Participants can also participate in special seasonal challenges to earn badges in Botany, Entomology, Ornithology, etc. Due to North Carolina's statewide Stay at Home Order, The North Carolina Arboretum has currently allowing the entire state to serve





as a HotSpot. This means you can earn HotSpot bonus point for submitting an observation anywhere across North Carolina. Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, staff is not currently mailing prizes out to participants. However, you can still earn all Bonus Badges and the current Field Season badge. Please visit <https://www.ecoexplore.net/> for complete details.



Local Matters More Than Ever!

When planting for pollinators, it's critically important to use native and/or locally suitable plant species. You can find a list of species to attract wildlife and pollinators on pages 13 – 16 of the City of Hendersonville Tree Board's Recommended Landscape Species List (https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/landscape_species_list_final_2016.pdf). Now is also the perfect time to support local businesses and nonprofit organizations who are working to help make our community a better place.

• Local Garden Centers

Asheville-based seed company, Sow True Seed (<https://sowtrueseed.com/>) ships seeds (many locally grown) right to your door. Many local nurseries and garden centers are still open and/or accepting online orders for pick-up. Raymond's Garden Center (<https://www.raymondsgc.com/>) in Hendersonville offers curbside service and delivery as well as an outdoor shopping and check-out area for cash/check transactions. B.B. Barns Garden Center (<https://bbbarns.com/>) in Arden is accepting phone and online orders to be picked up. All three of these garden-based businesses are also sponsors of the "Bring

the Hive Alive" initiative to paint a bee mural in downtown Hendersonville. They've supported our local community... let's now support them!

• Local Plant Sales

For years, Bullington Gardens has held their annual Spring Plant Sale and fundraiser. This year, they've quickly adjusted their plans and are now offering a new online ordering system designed to make your garden shopping easier and faster with zero contact. You can now access their new online store at <https://bullingtongardens.org/store/>. Once your order is received, Bullington staff or volunteers will contact you to schedule a pick-up day and time. Pick-up days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am-3 pm. Deliveries can also be arranged, if needed.

Starting on Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Pollinator Month in June, our Hendersonville affiliate of Bee City USA had planned a series of events to offer hard-to-find pollinator-friendly plants (milkweeds, moonflower, trumpet honeysuckle, pipevine, passionvine, pawpaw, button bush, evening primrose, mountain mints, mistflower, coneflower, coreopsis, etc.) in return for donations to the bee mural fund. If some or all of these events need to be cancelled due to public health concerns, the volunteers at Bee City USA are looking at options for still getting plants to the people, including online ordering and pick-up at a central location and/or the local farm where the plants are currently being grown. Please check <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/pollinator-events> for details as they become available.

• Local Famers (& Food/Beverage Businesses)

In addition to pollinating wild plants, pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat. As part of this partnership to produce our food, local farmers need us and we need them! New in 2020, the Hendersonville Farmers Market will be located at the Historic Train Depot (650 Maple Street) in downtown Hendersonville's Seventh Avenue District. It aims





contribute to the success of local producers and growers, expand access to farm fresh foods, and create a vibrant community gathering space. With fresh produce, meats, baked goods, crafts, live entertainment, and more, it will be a weekly outing with something for everybody! While the state and local emergency orders identify farmers markets as essential businesses, the market's opening day (TBA) will take place once Stay at Home orders have been lifted and local and state officials have deemed it safe for gatherings of at least 100 people to take place. Keep up to date at <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/events/hendersonville-farmers-market>. In the meantime, many local farms offer on-farm sales and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) options. Other local farmers markets are open with special precautions in place. The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) offers tips for how to connect with local farmers at <https://asapconnections.org/covid-19-response/how-to-connect-with-farmers/>. In addition, you can learn how to help support local food and beverage businesses by visiting <https://www.lovehendo.com/food-beverage>.

• Local Nonprofits

Many local nonprofit organizations such as the Hands On! Children's Museum in downtown Hendersonville rely on admission fees, program revenues, and fundraising events to cover their staffing and operating expenses. During this time, closures and event cancellations make meeting budgets particularly challenging. One way to help, if you can, is to renew your membership and/or make an online donation. The "Bring the Hive Alive" initiative to paint a bee mural on the exterior wall of the Museum in downtown Hendersonville is accepting online donations at <https://handsonwnc.org/hive>. Donor rewards (stickers, honey bee window clings, honey, garden center coupons, etc.) for crowd-funding donations ranging from \$25 - \$100 are currently on hold, but will be mailed out as soon as Stay at Home orders have been lifted. Some sweet new rewards are also currently in the works for those who make a crowd-funding contribution in 2020. Stay tuned at <https://handsonwnc.org/hive> and <https://www.facebook.com/BringtheHiveAlive/>!



Submitted by Kim Bailey

As a member of the City of Hendersonville [Environmental Sustainability Board](#), Kim Bailey serves in the volunteer role (in partnership with the [Tree Board](#)) of coordinating Hendersonville's Bee City USA program. This program aims to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and encourages creation of healthy habitats for pollinators. Kim is also a local farmer, educator, and beekeeper.

THANK YOU for celebrating the City of Hendersonville's
Earth Week 2020!

