



Pollinator Stewardship Council

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Beekeepers Collaborate to Expand Pollinator Opportunities

The Pollinator Stewardship Council and Ohio State Beekeepers worked together to encourage local groups to apply for the GRO1000 grant funds. Four groups developed projects and sought funding for pollinator habitat: three groups in Ohio and one in Iowa. All four groups received funding toward their pollinator habitat projects. The Pollinator Stewardship Council worked directly on two of the project grants, with Bikes, Bees, and Butterflies, and Squire Valleevue Farm. Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice President of the Ohio State Beekeepers Association encouraged a project with Bruckner Nature Center; and Pollinator Stewardship Council directed the Madison County Foundation for Environmental Education toward this funding resource.

The GRO1000 grassroots program received an overwhelming response for funding. More than 100 organizations received full or partial project funding. The Scott's Miracle-Gro GRO1000 grassroots funding is a program to help local communities with garden and green space development. The pollinator habitat projects are part of the Scott's Miracle-Gro Company's GRO1000 Initiative, designed to create 1000 gardens and green spaces throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe by 2018, the Company's 150th anniversary.

The Pollinator Stewardship Council received a GRO1000 grassroots grant award toward creating pollinator plantings near crops on the working, educational farm in northeast Ohio, Squire Valleevue Farm. Once additional funding is secured, the project will provide for

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*The Pollinator Stewardship Council's mission is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.
The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Beekeepers Collaborate to Expand Pollinator Opportunities-2

pollinator plantings in the food growing areas: the May Squire garden, Research garden, and the Berry garden. These pollinator habitat strips at the Valleevue Farm will demonstrate that agriculture and pollinators can co-exist, increasing crop yields, and supplying pollinators with diverse food sources. According to Michele Colopy, Program Director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, “We were grateful to receive the grant support for our collaborative pollinator habitat project. These pollinator strips will educate farmers/gardeners as to the value of pollinators to agriculture, and the ease of creating a positive co-existence. Most importantly, this habitat will provide diverse forage for native pollinators at this educational, working farm.” The grant partners will create a “guide” to the plants and the pollinators in the pollinator habitat, posting it on the Farm website complimenting their other guides of plants, mammals, invertebrates, etc. that reside on the Farm (for an example go to <http://students.case.edu/farm/education/flora.html>).

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reports Americans throw away more than 11 billion pounds of produce each year. Despite that surplus, 4.1% of U.S. households experience hunger, 2.9 million of whom are children. The Pollinator Stewardship Council project with Squire Vallee Vue Farm brings together local food production, with the education of K-12 students who visit the farm, and will be an example of the co-existence of pollinators and crops.

To learn more about this project or for information about the other projects facilitated by Pollinator Stewardship Council and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, email progdirector@pollinatorstewardship.org or osbanewseditor@woh.rr.com.