

Scottsville Becomes the First Bee City in Virginia

Scottsville's Town council has voted unanimously on August 17th, 2016, to become a Bee City USA®. This completes the efforts of the Scottsville Supply Company and the Scottsville Center for Arts and Nature to accomplish this certification, which is the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The town designated the Scottsville Center for Arts and Nature as the facilitating committee for efforts to engage the community in promoting pollinator-friendliness.

Bee City USA is a nonprofit national organization that fosters ongoing dialogue in urban areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in sustaining three-quarters of the world's plant species and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat.

Mayor Nancy Gill said, "We understand the importance of sustaining pollinators, and want to make Scottsville as pollinator-friendly as possible. We are grateful to Heather Stertzler of the Scottsville Supply Company for bringing this opportunity to our attention."

According to Mrs. Stertzler, during the process of applying for the certification, Councilor Shannon Bostic and Kristin Freshwater, a board member of the Scottsville Center for Arts and Nature worked with their committees to bring this to fruition.

Bee City USA founder and director, Phyllis Stiles, said, "The program aspires to make people more PC ("pollinator conscious," that is). If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for thousands of species of pollinators at risk. How each city or county celebrates pollinators is up to them, but we especially encourage educational programs for children, like school gardens. When a child falls in love with pollinators, they are friends for life."

Mayor Gill, said, "Scottsville is an ideal candidate for certification because we are now defining green spaces and trails for future generations and Mrs. Stertzler will continue to invest her time and energy into creating healthy hives throughout town and beyond. Since the initial announcement of this achievement, the Greater Scottsville Chamber of Commerce has stepped forward to assist in the planning of the 2017 proclamation and public awareness activities with area businesses scheduled for the third week of June 2017 in celebration of Bee City in the Town of Scottsville.

The Scottsville "Bee" committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Victory Hall Theater and invites all residents of Scottsville to offer their ideas for pollinator-friendly initiatives. The more people and organizations involved, the sooner pollinator declines will be reversed.

For more information about the Bee City USA organization visit www.beecityusa.org or email Director Phyllis Stiles at beecityusa@gmail.com. For more information about Scottsville's Bee City USA program, contact Heather Stertzler at 434-286-2145 or beekeeper@scottsvillesupplyco.com.