



The Village of Bald Head Island

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contacts: Carin Z. Faulkner, MPA, cfaulkner@villagebhi.org

Laura Rost, Bee City USA Coordinator, laura.rost@xerces.org

Village of Bald Head Island Becomes an Affiliate of Bee City USA

Village of Bald Head Island, North Carolina; November 17, 2023 --- The Village of Bald Head Island Council unanimously voted on October 20, 2023, to become a Bee City USA®, joining many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators.

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with offices across the country. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides. Pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost ninety percent of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

Mayor Quinn said, "Our Village Council let it be known that we understand the importance of sustaining pollinators and want to make the Village more pollinator friendly. We are grateful to everyone who took part in establishing the pollinator garden at the Marina Park for bringing the opportunity to our attention."

"Designation as a Bee City will elevate the Village and our pollinator garden. It will foster community awareness around bees, and as an affiliate, it will give us a variety of resources including training opportunities, event promo kits, outreach kits, workshops, and webinars on a variety of topics including Integrated Pest Management, planting to support pollinators, and outreach and education," said Elizabeth (Betsi) Hervey Stephen, who played a leading role in encouraging the Village to become a Bee City USA affiliate.

"The program aspires to make people more PC—pollinator conscious, that is," said Scott Hoffman Black, Xerces' executive director. "If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for many, many species of pollinators."

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***P.O. Box 3009 • BALD HEAD ISLAND, NC 28461
(910) 457-9700 • FAX (910) 457-6206 • WEBSITE: <http://www.villagebhi.org>***

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“How each city completes the steps to conserve pollinators is up to them,” said Bee City USA Coordinator Laura Rost. “To maintain their affiliation, each affiliate is expected to report on their achievements and celebrate being a Bee City USA affiliate every year.”

Each affiliate should hold public awareness activities; publicly acknowledge the commitment to the program through a standing committee, signage, and web links; and prepare an annual report on habitat enhancement activities.

Bee City USA especially encourages school gardens and educational programs for children.

The Village of Bald Head Island has designated Bald Head Association’s Resource Conservation and Beautification Committee (RCB) as the facilitating committee for Village’s efforts to engage the community in promoting pollinator conservation. The RCB committee invites all Islanders 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 Village of Bald Head Island’s Bee City USA program, contact Carin Faulkner, Village Public Information Officer at public.information@villagebhi.org or view the Village’s webpage at www.villagebhi.org/bee-city-usa.

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For more information about Bee City USA, visit <https://www.beecityusa.org/>

For more information about the Xerces Society, visit <https://xerces.org/>

For information about four simple ways to help pollinators, visit

<https://xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators/>