



Champlain College Apiary

163 South Willard Drive | Burlington, VT 05401

MANY THANKS TO THE VBA...

On the one-year anniversary of its planting, I wanted to offer our gratitude to the VBA for its gift to the Champlain College Apiary (CCA) for the establishment of the Perry Pollinator Garden. With guidance and support from Jane Sorenson of River Berry Farm (Fairfax, VT) and Carol MacLeod of Evergreen Gardens (Waterbury, VT), the CCA prepped and planted 175+ native perennials for a pollinator observation garden. Now flourishing with milkweed, bergamot, lobelia, hyssop, butterfly weed, coneflower, beardtongue, and native grasses, our campus honey bees and their and fellow pollinators have a wide variety of seasonal forage available, with plenty of goldenrod, aster, and phlox blooms to come for that ever-important fall-time forage. With the vital floral resources and nesting materials that we established, the garden has become a National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat, adding to the apiary ground's local designation of prime habitat through Wild for Pollinators.

On the right, we are pleased to share a few photos of the happy and encouraging moments the CCA has experienced since the planting of the garden. From the top, a view from the center of the garden looking towards our LEED Platinum certified Perry Hall, which now has the garden as its backyard. Next, Absa Samba ('20) and Eleanor Donaldson ('20), who visited the apiary as part of an exploration of beekeeping as a sustainable development tool. Below them, one of our honey bees visiting milkweed. Finally, students from Heather McGrath's second-grade class visiting from the Integrated Arts Academy. They were our first class to use the garden for a pollinator observation activity and were *very* excited!

The CCA is entering its eighth year working with local organizations, schools, and camps to develop ecological awareness in the pre-k through adult learning community. As the coronavirus pandemic has made our outdoor spaces an even more essential educational resource, the Perry Pollinator garden has greatly expanded our potential to show the fascinating work and life of organisms on which humans so intimately depend. Watching a bumblebee land on a flower and wondering at the evolutionary magic that drew these two organisms into their dynamic relationship gives way to countless other questions and consciousness about the ecological landscape. The CCA is grateful for the exciting inquiry-based opportunities that this space has created and we are indebted to the VBA for supporting the work that we do. Thank you!

K. L. Wolf

Kristin Wolf, Ph.D. – Director of the Champlain College Apiary

