

Solitary Bee House (Mother's Day) Project

Goal: To provide outreach from the SRMT Environment Division - Pollination Protection to the community with the focus being on native pollinators such as the leaf cutter bees/Mason Bees. The project is designed to support childhood development in Environmental awareness, creativity and motor skills.

Aim: The Project will be aimed at family orientation by creating a Native Bee Home for the entire family to watch, learn and enjoy throughout the summer months.

Target: Students at the Boys and girls (Akwasasne) club between the ages of 12 to 13 and the family of the students creating the houses.

Time Frame: April 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and May 11th- (5 weeks) Fridays from 4PM to 5 PM.

Class Capacity: 15 – 20

List of Materials

Wood – width 6-8 inches by 8 inches in length (donation from local sawmills) (Phil Furnace to have completed by March 11th)

Paint – depending on how many students are involved. (Boys and Girls club will provide) and Brushes.

Screws – 1 box length (Home Depot) and hanging bracket

Straws (paper) – depending on how many students. Cut to proper length. 3" (Wal-Mart) Did not need.

Substituted Fragmites for all Paper straws which worked out perfectly

*This may also be accomplished by collecting hallowed out reed grass, Fragmites and any other beneficial hallow stem that will house bees.

Dixie cups small one package of # compared to students. (Dollar General)

Permanent Markers of varies colors. 3-5 sets. (Dollar General) *Did not need*

Washable Markers and some crayons were used.

Box of Thumb tacks (Dollar General)

Finishing Nails and Paper Board for the back of the house.

Polyurethane and brushes

Plan

Not at the school -

Pre-cut all pieces to fit for house.

Put together and pre-drill holes.

Paint all exterior sides.

At the school - focused age group 10-12 years of age.

Presentation or explanation of project and the benefits.

Put pieces together using screws and screw drivers. (Depending on child's age.)

Attach Duct tape to back side of house.

Decorate or customize house with permanent markers.

Put straws in box flush against duct tape.

Attach hanging eye hole screw.

Attach the Dixie cup to the bottom of the hive with cocoon in it using a thumb tack. We may do that when the delivery of solitary bees comes in.



Class Outline:

Class 1 - April 6th 2018 at 1600 hours Boys and Girls Club

- Introduction and short presentation on Solitary bees and how they can be beneficial.
- Putting together the house. Screws, glue and boards.
- Duct tape back side of house
- Names to be placed on each project house. Need a safe place to put the houses after construction.

Class 2 – April 13th 2018 at 1600 hours Boys and Girls Club

- Prepare area of work with tarps and covers.
- Painting of the house.
- Start gathering the straws for the inside of the house.

Class 3 – April 20th 2018 at 1600 hours Boys and Girls Club

- Prepare area of work with tarps and covers.
- Paint and decorate houses to individualize each one. (Happy Mother's Day)

Class 4 – April 27th 2018 at 1600 hours Boys and Girls Club

- Possibly protect outside with a polyurethane? Upon availability. Need to set up area as if to paint to perform this.
- Load the houses with the straws that were collected.
- Attach hanging screw or bracket.

Class 5 – May 11th 2018 at 1600 hours Boys and Girls Club (skipped the week before so the last class is right before Mother's Day).

- Any finishing touches
- Explanation on where to hanging them or put them and what direction to face them at.
- Attach Dixie Cup with bee cocoons to bottom of the house when available. We may have to go to each house to do this at another time.

May 13th 2018 – Mother's day

Pot Luck Dinner/Presentation of solitary bees and presentation of bee houses final project.

Fund raiser for May 13th event should be created from February – April. Commitment of attendance RSVP.

Progression:

January 25th mentioned to ACBG (Bee group) about the idea of a Solitary Bee Project. Phil Furnace offered to donate the wood.

February 9th 2018 got the wood measurements to Phil Furnace for the project.

February 21st 2018 Solitary Bee Project Plan Complete

February 28th meeting with Nicky Skidders to discuss project and material needs.

March 11th Received the cut pieces of wood from Phil Furnace for the project.

March 11 - 27th put together Bee houses from the wood that Phil Furnace Donated for the project and packaged into kits (unassembled) for the kids to construct themselves using a Phillips screwdriver.

March 27th I donated screws to put the houses together and time.

March 29th final meeting before class next Friday for the students. Making sure the material list is checked and double checked to be a successful project. Ideas brought to the table about the

presentation of the project. We will tell the kids what they will be doing and when Mother's day comes on the Friday before the actual Mother's Day we will ask all the parents of the kids involved to come to the school for a special presentation where we will talk about the bees and have the children hand out their projects to their mothers. Bees will be installed at a date in the Summer time by Tasha Guatney that graciously donated the solitary bees for the bee houses themselves. Plants are also donated by Tasha (3 different plants). All logistical parts of the plan are ironed out.

April 6th Projects and Plants explained to the Children and Staff Approximately 12 children participated. Construction of the houses established and Planting of the flowers for the bee project with Tasha.

April 13th Gained 4-5 more students and started to paint the base coat onto the houses while the new students put their houses together. No-more new students allowed in for the remainder of the classes do too far into the project.

April 20th Continued painting base coats on for new projects. There was very limited amount of students for they did not have school today and next week is Vacation, so no class next week also. Some students did not show up for the project even though they were at the boys and girls (lost interest).

April 27th No class, students are on vacation and renovation is happening at the Boys and girls Club today.

April 27th to May 8th Cut Fragmites site with permission from George Emery (his property). Tasha and myself collecting, cut into 3 inch sections and packaging the Fragmites straws for the bee project.

May 4th Contacted Communications to see what they can do and to notify them of the solitary bee house plan.

May 5th Decorations of the Bee houses continued and Polyurethane applied to protect the decoration from the elements.

May 7th Communications has added it to their calendar, notified Indian Times and Akwesasne TV.

May 8th Akwesasne TV – Kevin Lazore contacted myself (Wayne) on more information on the project and he expressed their interest on covering the story completely on this project of Pollination Protection. I told him that I could send him the work plan to better explain what the project is all about.

May 9th E-mailed Akwesasne TV the plan of the Solitary Bee Houses as requested by them – Kevin Lazore.

May 12th Staff gets together to finish the bee houses. Backs are to be nailed on and the houses will be filled with housing tubes (Fragmites 3 inch tubes). One house will need to have Polyurethane added to it. 2nd coat may be added for extra protection for the other houses (Dependent on drying time).

May 13th Presentation of the Solitary Bee Houses and plants from SRMT Environment Wayne Samphier and Tasha Guatney to the families of the students that participated in the project for the Mother's day event. Some of the Bee houses will be given to grandparents and to fathers also.

Recognition goes out to:

Nicky Skidders, Staff of the Boys and Girls Club for hosting this project and providing materials for the project.

George Emery for providing the Fragmites straws for the housing.

Phil Furnace that provided the wood for the houses

Tasha Guatney for providing the seeds, dirt and for taking care of the plants to grow for the students. She also helped out with every class on each phase of the project and with the Fragmites.

Les Benedict SRMT Environment for approving the project to happen. He also donated Polyurethane to help protect the houses against rain and the weather.

SRMT Communications for Public Relations in conjunction with Akwesasne Mohawk TV and possibly Indian Times?

If I missed anyone I apologize.

