

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2018 Recipients

- 1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Carters Lake
- 2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Mobile District
- 3. Handshake Project Name:** **Honey Bees and Pollinator Stewardship**
- 4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining:** \$0.14
- 5. What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

The Honey Bees and Pollinator Stewardship handshake project at Carters Lake is a huge success. This partnership has provided the ability to maintain two active honeybee hives, over two acres of pollinator plantings, interpretive displays, and educational programs for the visiting public. Visitors to Carters Lake have been thrilled with the new additions. Without the partnership with a local beekeeping group, Bee Keepers of Gilmer County, and funding provided by the Handshake Program, this project would have never been possible.

The support provided by volunteers from Bee Keepers of Gilmer County has been priceless. From hive placement to honey harvest, volunteers have provided Rangers with hours of hands on training at the Carters Lake Pollinator Garden. These volunteers brought with them years of knowledge and experience of bee keeping along with all the tools of the trade. Rangers were taught how to use these tools and with the partnership funding were able to purchase the vital tools for bee keeping. The two hives installed contain approximately 30,000 honeybees each to assist in the pollination of the project's plant communities, which is 60,000 new pollinators. Pollinators are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that many animals and humans rely on for food and shelter. Adding the bees to the project hopefully helped mitigate some of the loss of bees currently being experienced worldwide from Colony Collapse Disorder.

Rangers and Volunteers planted over two acres of wildflowers and native plants supportive to the pollinator populations. The two acres was divided into five locations around the project to maximize the impact of the planting. The planted areas are unique because many of the seeds planted in the pollinator garden and areas were cultivated and preserved from areas around Carters Lake and will be used to propagate and reseed the pollinator gardens. Along with providing a valuable food source for pollinators these areas provide an aesthetically pleasing view to visitors to the project. Planting was also done along walking trails with the species identified by signage providing visitors with knowledge of local plant communities.

The educational programs and interpretive displays have added a priceless value to our Project Visitor Center. The Bee Keepers of Gilmer County have conducted four programs to date. These programs included basic knowledge about pollinators along with hands on demonstrations at the beehives. On days when programs were given Visitor Center visitation almost doubled. The interpretive displays provide interesting facts and information about the ongoing project and pollinator stewardship. Kids and adults alike enjoy the colorful photographs and hands on display of looking into a bee hive.

In conclusion, this project has promoted, educated, and inspired Carters Lake visitors with knowledge of pollinators and the environment. It also aided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Stewardship mission by providing new pollinator habitat and creating biodiversity. This project has not only improved Carters Lake, but has improved the environment

throughout our regional community. This project has come full circle and will continue to be an amazing asset to Carters Lake.



Pollinator garden, pre-planting



Getting ready for the bees



Introducing bees to the hive



Our Queen Bee



Volunteers and Partners Planting Pollinator Garden



Volunteers and Partners Planting Pollinator Garden





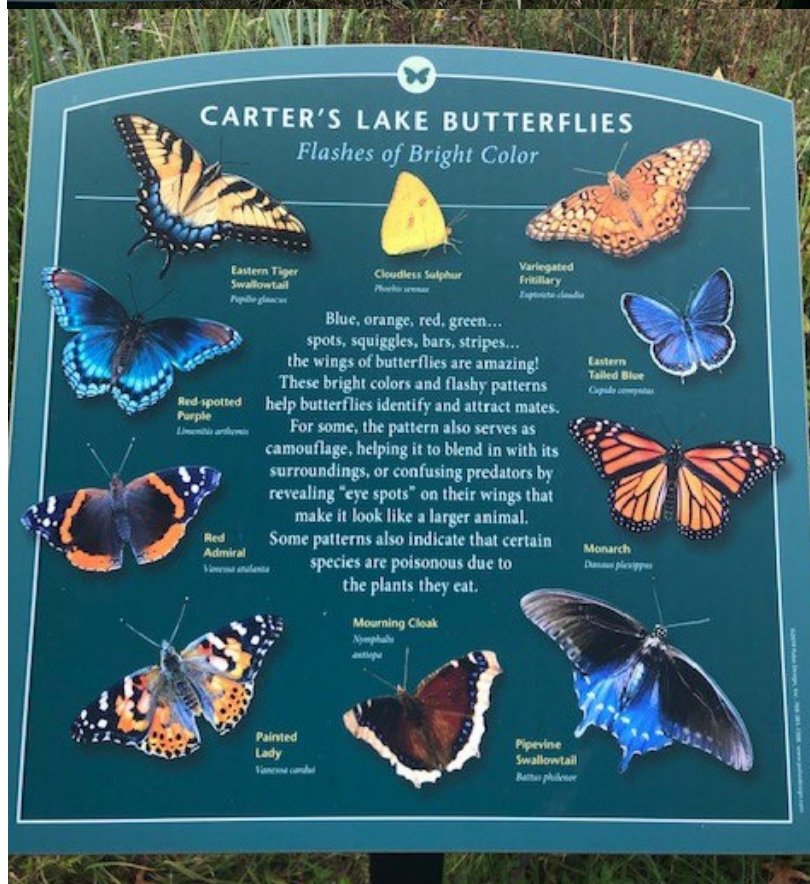


Monarch Butterfly caterpillars enjoying butterfly weed in Pollinator Garden









Pollinator Garden Signs



Visitor Center Display



Pure Carters Lake Honey



	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$10,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$3,200
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Bee Keepers of Gilmer County	\$3,225

6. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.

The Handshake Program is excellent opportunity work with local community organizations for out of the box ideas and projects that typically could not be accomplished with just Local Funding. This program allows you to find partners and make great things happen.

7. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under Handshake Success Stories.

What's the Buzz Around Carters Lake?

Lake: Carters Lake, Georgia

Partner: Bee Keepers of Gilmer County

Partnership Type: Challenge Partnership

USACE POC: Park Ranger, Allen Earhart

Honey Bees have been busy all summer working to pollinate plants around Carters Lake. The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Bee Keepers of Gilmer County entered into a partnership to setup two honey bee hives at the Carters Lake Visitor Center to promote pollinator stewardship. This partnership has allowed the Bee Keepers of Gilmer County to share their knowledge of bee keeping with the Park Rangers at Carters Lake. Along with the installation of the bee hives over two acres of wildflowers and pollinator gardens have been planted in seven different locations around the lake. These flowers add to the beauty of the project, but also provide food and cover to wildlife including the honey bees.



Globally there are more honey bees than other types of bee and pollinating insects making them the world's most important pollinator of food crops. It is estimated that one third of the food that we



consume each day relies on pollination mainly by bees. Pollinator stewardship centers on maintaining healthy pollinator communities and habitats. Pollinators are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that many animals and humans rely on for food and shelter. Each of the bee hives at the Visitor Center contains approximately 30,000 active honeybees to assist in the pollination of the project's plant communities. That's a lot of extra help for pollination. The additional two acres of pollinator gardens and wildflowers have strengthened the project's native pollinators and provided educational plant identification opportunities for the visiting public.

Next time you are around Carters Lake, stop by and enjoy the fascinating honey bees and beautiful pollinator gardens. The Visitor Center also gives you the opportunity to take a look inside a bee hive in our interactive pollinator display. Most of all take with

you a little knowledge about the importance of pollinators and the impacts of partnerships in your community.