

Native Bee Nesting Habitat

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PhD Dissertation Project

- Pollination is an important natural ecosystem service supporting a large portion of managed agriculture and natural plant communities. Our fruit, vegetable and seed crops are directly dependent on animal mediated pollination as are many crops providing our medicines, fibers, fuels and livestock forage crops. Pollination benefits flowering plants by carrying pollen between the male and female parts of flowers.
- Bees (and some wasps) are specialized pollinators in that they require pollen as a source of food particularly during the larval growth phase. Bees are attracted to flowers for nectar, pollen and essential oils and as they forage for these necessities they inadvertently transfer pollen from plant to plant increasing the fruit and seed set as well as the genetic diversity of the plants they visit.

Bee Blocks

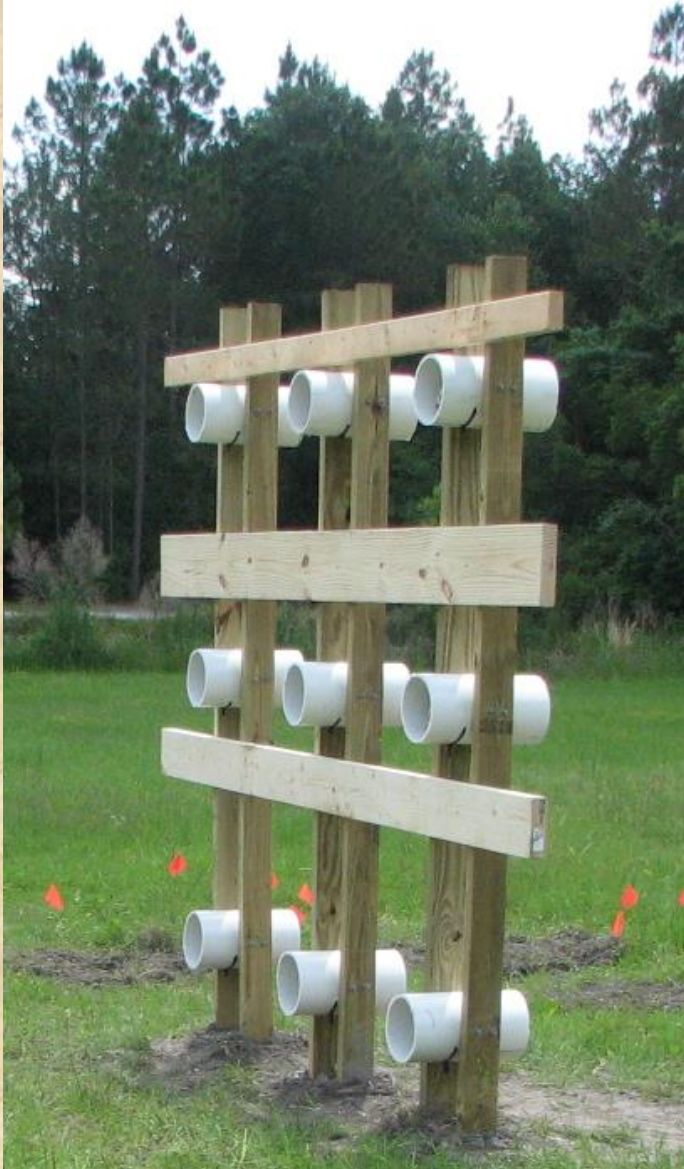


- Testing preference of hole diameter and height of bee block.



We capture a sample as the adult bees emerge to learn more about the local bees that are using the nesting sites.

Straws



- Testing preference of material, diameter and height of straw holder.

Fire Ecology



- Testing preference of charred vs. not charred natural cedar wood and inside diameter of holes.



Sites

- **UF Bee Biology Unit, Gainesville**
- **Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville**
- **Ellis Estates, High Springs**
- **Plant Science Research and Education Unit, Citra**
- **Straughn Blueberry Farm, Windsor**
- **Morningside Nature Center, Gainesville**
- **Santa Fe Teaching Zoo, Gainesville**
- **UF Natural Teaching Laboratory, Gainesville**
- **Wood-Sparling Estates, Gainesville**
- **Gum Root Park, Gainesville**

