

# Pollinator Short Course Leads to a Buzz of Change

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## Background

The Villages is known as the largest retirement community in the world with approximately 160,000 residents according to the Villages Homeowner Advocates, in almost 80,000 homes, and it continues to grow. As new communities are developed, they are cleared of much of the vegetation that would be used for nectar and host plants, or pollen. Often new residential plantings can be basic green shrubs providing limited resources. The installed green shrubs that may not support all aspects of pollinator life cycles, and that is one of the possible reasons for native bee and butterfly declines. Educating new and existing residents on the importance of pollinators broadens the opportunity to the increase of pollinator plants to support butterflies and native bees.



## Short Course

The first Pollinator Short Course was offered in April 2023 which featured UF/IFAS Extension specialists and experts to discuss topics including managing pests on pollinator plants, shared details about butterflies, their conservation and those at risk, concepts of honey beekeeping in Florida, native bees of Florida, and landscaping to attract and support pollinators.

Specialists and experts included Dr. Jaret Daniels, Dr. Adam Dale, Matt Smith, and John Ternest, and Lisa Sanderson.

The Pollinator Short Course was advertised through Social Media with registration on Eventbrite. Fliers created promoted the short course with the use of a QR code.

Participants who attended received an agenda which included speaker biographies and QR code links to UF/IFAS pollinator publications.



## Data

79 Participants attended

28.5% knowledge gain- through completed pre-/post quizzes

84% said they would change something in their landscape after attending the short course (evaluation)

100% said would share something they learned with others (evaluation)



## Program

9:00 to 9:15 am

### Welcome & Announcements

**Lisa Sanderson**  
Residential Horticulture Agent  
Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator  
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County

9:15 to 10:15 am

### Managing Insect Pests on Pollinator-Friendly Plants

**Dr. Adam Dale**  
Associate Professor/Extension Specialist  
UF Turfgrass and Ornamental Entomology and Nematology Department

10:15 to 10:30 am Break

10:30 to 11:30 am

### Butterflies in Central Florida and Conservation, At Risk Butterflies

**Dr. Jaret Daniels**  
Curator  
McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
Professor  
UF Entomology and Nematology Department

11:30 am to 12:15 pm LUNCH-Oakwood Smokehouse

12:15 to 1:15 pm

### Honey Beekeeping in Florida

**Matt Smith**  
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Agent  
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter, Hernando and Pasco Counties

1:15 to 1:30 pm Break

1:30 to 2:20 pm

### Landscaping to Attract and Support Pollinators

**Lisa Sanderson**  
Residential Horticulture Agent & Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator  
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County

2:20 to 2:35 pm Break

2:35-3:35 pm

### Florida's Native Bees—Biology, Conservation & UF Research

**John Ternest**  
PhD Candidate  
Mullinger Pollinator Ecology Lab  
UF Entomology and Nematology

3:35 to 4:00 pm

### Wrap up, Evaluation & Post-Test

**Lisa Sanderson**



Don't forget to visit the Bookstore before they leave (around 2:00 pm)!



WEBSITE: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sumter/>



USERNAME: UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County

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