

RESOLUTION NO. 678

A RESOLUTION APPROVING ESTABLISHING EUREKA SPRINGS ARKANSAS AS *BEE CITY USA*

WHEREAS, thanks to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with honey bees, that were brought here from Europe in the 1700s, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, communities have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden suppliers and clubs; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness are:

- Healthy ecosystems--insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that: 1) are vital for clean air and water; 2) provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.
- Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination.
- Increased habitat for natural enemies of crop pests and therefore reduced need for and costs associated with pesticides.
- Increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.
- Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products, beekeeping equipment and supplies, and hive rentals for pollination; and, heightened prestige and premium asking prices for place-based honey, which enhances the visibility and reputation of its community of origin; and

WHEREAS, Eureka Springs, Arkansas should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- Eureka Springs is a community that celebrates our connection to the beauty and wonder of our natural surroundings; and
- Eureka Springs is made up of people who have an awareness of healthy living and lifestyles; and
- Eureka Springs is a community of people concerned with and committed to promoting the wellbeing of all living animals; and
- Eureka Springs is committed to sustainability that shall promote and protect a healthy, safe and abundant environment for all species of bees, which, in turn shall be to the benefit and prosperity of other desirable pollinators such as butterflies and birds; and
- Eureka Springs is committed to the enhancement of our surroundings by the creation and maintenance of numerous native flower plantings as well as vegetable gardens that benefit directly from a healthy bee community; and
- Eureka Springs, as well as the greater community, will benefit by developing protocols, education and practices that reduce the levels of pesticides and herbicides contaminating our springs, streams, lakes and aquifers to the benefit of present and future residents.

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with the least ill effects on pollinators.
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides for safe and humane removal of bees when required.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the City of Eureka Springs, Carroll County, of the State of Arkansas agrees to meet the following commitments required of all *BEE CITY USA* communities:

- 1) Pass this *BEE CITY USA* resolution
- 2) Designate a local government department as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor and an employee from that department as the *BEE CITY USA* "liaison." Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the municipality's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat. Apply for renewal of the community's designation and submit a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities following the format provided.
- 3) Publicly acknowledge the community's commitment by agreeing to a) install/maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the local government's website which includes, at minimum, links to a PDF of this signed Resolution.

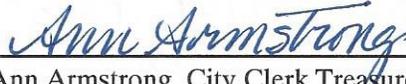
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS:

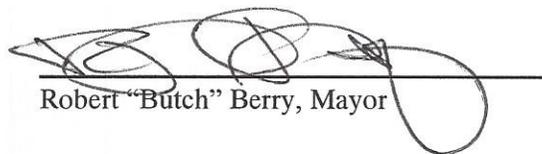
The City of Eureka Springs, Arkansas accepts the designation and commits to the standards of *BEE CITY USA*.

PASSED AND RESOLVED ON THIS THE 11th DAY OF APRIL, 2016.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Ann Armstrong, City Clerk Treasurer


Robert "Butch" Berry, Mayor

All present voted "Aye" – Terry McClung, Joyce Zeller, James DeVito, Bob Thomas, Mickey Schneider, and David Mitchell