

The sun peeked out from the clouds and the flowers swayed back and forth in the wind to a chorus of a low hum of the bees. The members of the Bee Club were harvesting honey last school year. They pulled out each hive one by one to get the sweet substance.

However, they began to realize something; a problem that is more common across the world than any of them wish it would be.

The bees were dying.

As members of Wando's Bee Club, **Rosemary Delamater**, 11, and **Savannah Douglas**, 11, now work harder to preserve the lives of bees each year.

"Bees are hated in a lot of environments, and, yet they're a really important part of the environment," Delamater said.

Most people often forget how important bees really are to the livelihood of the world. Douglas said that recent studies show how drastically different the future would be without the tiny creatures pollinating our world.

"There are studies saying that if they all died out, then in four years the whole world would. We would lose all of our vegetation and all of our trees," Douglas said.

It does not help the situation that due to technical circumstances, there would be no way to bring a beehive here to the school. While club members were devastated by this news, they continued on supporting the bees. One way they did this was by donating books to the library about bees.

"Over the course of a couple of Bee Club meetings, we were working on making some crafts, getting ideas," Delamater said. "Then we went to Charleston Bee Expo and sold a lot of that

stuff, and used that money to buy books for the library about bees."

Purchasing books that revolve around bees has helped the school population increase their knowledge on the species, and has allowed the club to advocate for their purpose at the school.

"[People] don't fully understand what the issue is, and how they are a dying population. I just think that people don't keep themselves educated because it's in the back of their mind and they have [other] things to deal with," Douglas said.

With this, they were able to spread their information about bees in a way that not many people had done before. They

have also done other activities such as building a Mason beehive. These hives are man-made hives that are made to attract Mason Bees to lay their eggs.

"It's a lot simpler than it sounds," Delamater said, "and Mason Bees don't sting."

Because of society's stereotypical fear of bees, it leads many people to be afraid of them for unrealistic reasons. A member of the Bee Club, **Charlotte Jammes**, 11, still has her fears of bees similar to the average perspective that people have of them.

"I mean, I know they aren't gonna hurt me, but still, they're flying around," Jammes said.

Although there is a fast declining rate of bees worldwide, the Bee Club still continues to try and educate people on the severity of the situation and need for such a species.

"It just affects the whole cycle, going round and round," Douglas said. "I don't think people realize how much we actually need them, and how much they affect our lives."

"I DON'T THINK PEOPLE REALIZE HOW MUCH WE ACTUALLY NEED [BEES], AND HOW MUCH THEY AFFECT OUR LIVES."

By **Emmalee Goode**

Bee Club voices the importance of bees through book donations

A BUZZ FOR BEES

SPOTLIGHT



"[I support saving bees] because it changes our environment... they are essential to our survival; we need them to live," **Maddie Gennarelli**, 10, said.



"[Bees] pollinate everything so we would have way less food... [To help them] I'd make a garden," **Sarah Missroon**, 12, said.



"[To help save the bees] I would build a large garden with various amounts of flowers," **Quinn Green**, 11, said.

What would you do to promote bee awareness?

BEE CLUB



TRIM LINE TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE TRIM LINE

Customer is allowed to have objects outside of the margin.

APPROACHING THE HIVE



Step 1
Put on bee suit, gloves, veil, and appropriate shoe wear like rainboots or close-toed shoes. Make sure everything is secure before proceeding to the hives.



Step 2
Carefully pry off the lid of the hive to reveal hundreds of bees. Remember to stay calm around the bees; they can sense fear.



Step 3
Use a smoker to push the bees out of the hive while extracting the honey. The smoker is used to symbolize a forest fire, so they leave the hive.



Step 4
Tending to the bees includes checking the slides where the honey is and where they care for the bee larvae.

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