

FLATWOODS ELEMENTARY'S "CABIN GARDENS"

GRANTS for ATTRACTING POLLINATORS TO CAMPUS

May 2016-August 2016

FUNDING SOURCES:

Tuscaloosa County Commissioner Stan Acker

Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council

Local School Funds

Flatwoods Elementary was built in 1975 to house 300 children. In 2013 an addition was built for 6 classrooms, which eliminated the need to use portables for classes. In 2015, two first grade classes were assigned to portables, and in 2016 two third grade classes were also assigned to portables. Our current enrollment is 460.

We love that our enrollment is growing, but we had to add two portables to our collection this summer.



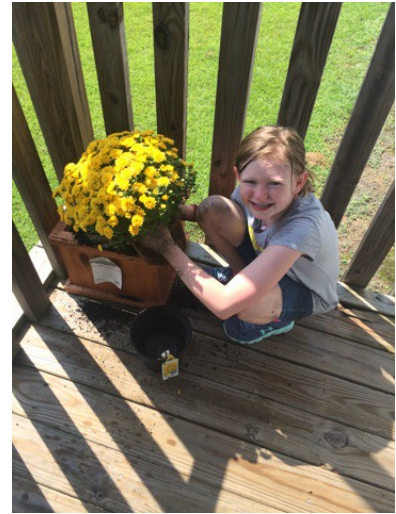
Our additions as of May 2016.

Now, with 8 portables and 2 portable restrooms, we have an area needing some positive attention. SO... we decided to name the portables “cabins” and we used funds from County Commissioner Stan Acker to purchase planters, plants and soil and have someone build some large planters to beautify the area seen from the community. ALL of the plants added are attractive to pollinators, the butterflies and the bees.

The students loved planting the bushes and the flowers. It was hot and they were sweating, but they enjoyed learning about the plants and were amazed at how quickly the butterflies and bees appeared, searching for pollen and nectar.



Every class in a “cabin” now has their own flower garden beside their door to care for and monitor. The “hitches” that brought the cabins to our school will soon be hidden by Althea bushes with blooms of purple and pink. The neighbors will have a prettier sight from the street, and the pollinators will help in their gardens as well.



From the street, the view will grow to become more attractive.

Our “Cabin Gardens” are a great addition to the campus and help us understand the value of plants and pollinators as food sources as well as beauty.

Thank you to Commissioner Acker and to the Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council for your support and encouragement! With

the reimbursement funds from Tombigbee RC&D, we will work with the Coker Garden Club to create a butterfly-shaped butterfly garden and plant 12 apple and pear trees around the campus.

Cost of the project to attract pollinators and beautify the “Cabins” of Flatwoods:

\$1088.97 for materials (copies of receipts attached)

\$350 for labor building the large planters for bushes