

NATIVE BEES THAT VISIT OUR FLOWERS AT AVC

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WONDERING WHAT "NATIVE BEES" ARE?

Native bees DO NOT include the well-known honey bees (*Apis mellifera*; an introduced and naturalized species brought to the US from Europe in the 1600s)

Native bees constitute a group of hundreds of wild species that have quietly been CONTRIBUTING to the pollination of agricultural crops. They come from nearby natural areas and have proven to have a significant impact providing the pollination services (35% to 38%) required by California crops (Frankie et al., 2014). Most Native bees are SOLITARY and live in individual nests tunneled in the SOIL or pre-existing cavities. Their populations are (like with honey bees) declining!

INTRODUCING SOME OF THE NATIVE BEES FOUND IN OUR CAMPUS

They include those we commonly called Carpenter bees, Mason bees, Leaf-cutting bees, Hairy belly bees, Sweat bees, Long-horned bees. We found a non-native bee among them: Alfalfa leaf-cutting bee.



Sweat bee
Lasioglossum sp.



Long-horned bees
Melissodes sp.



Mason bees
Osmia sp.



Carpenter bee
Xylocopa sonora



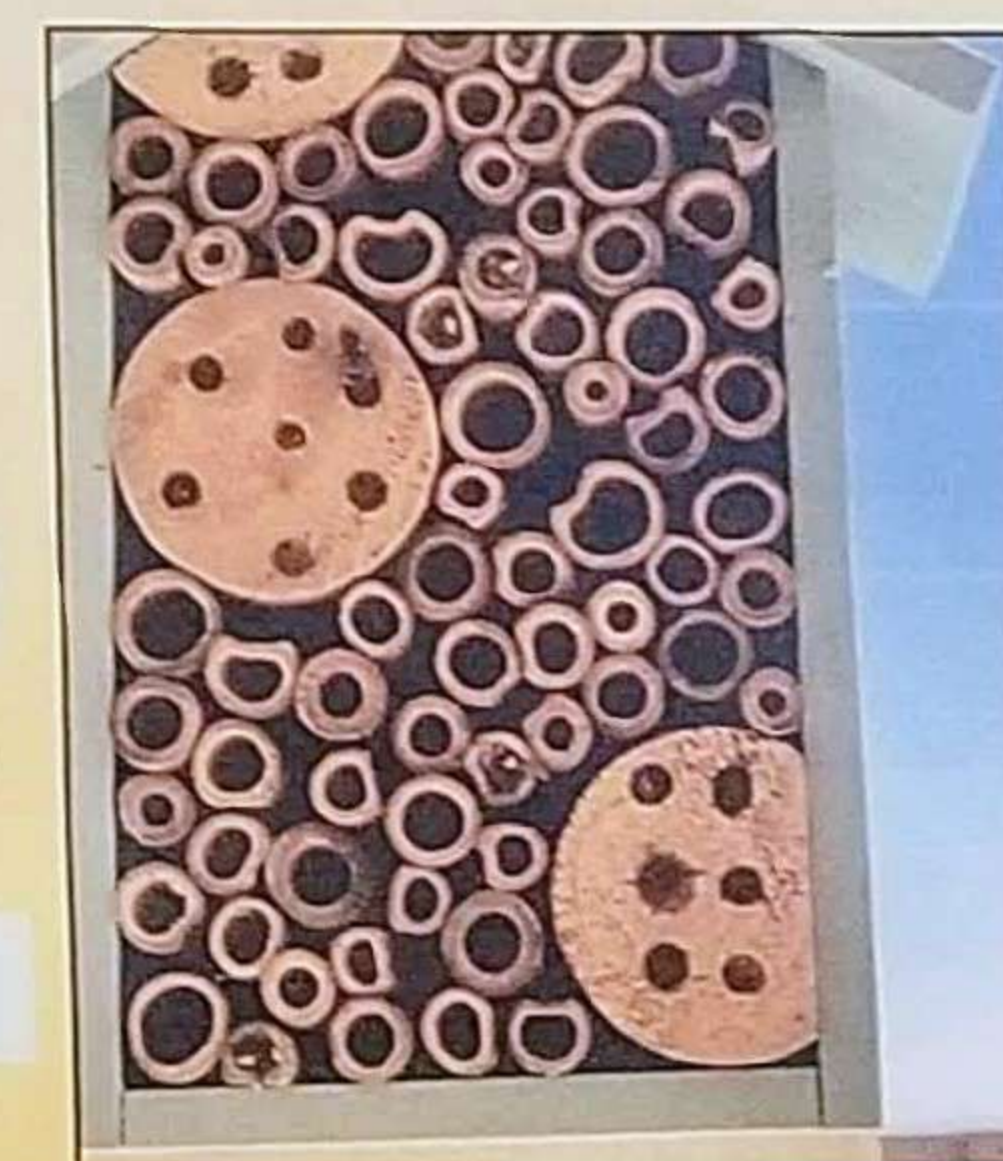
Mason bee
Ashmeadiella sp.



Leafcutter bee
Megachile sp.



Alfalfa Leafcutter Bee
Megachile rotundata
nonnative bee



WONDERING WHAT YOU CAN DO TO INCREASE THEIR NUMBER?

Plant **NATIVE PLANTS**! And provide lodging to these amazing bees! **Bee hotels** can help ☺

INTERESTED IN STUDYING NATIVE BEES? & JOSHUA TREES?

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