Pollinator News

Colorado Pollinator Summit:
Cross Pollinating Our Work to Protect Pollinators

The Butterfly Pavilion, Colorado State Beekeepers Association, and People and Pollinators Action Network are presenting the first annual Colorado Pollinator Summit, June 16, 2016. This gathering will bring together organizations working on the conservation and protection of Colorado’s pollinators. Representatives of government, nonprofit, education, and business organizations working on the conservation and protection of Colorado’s pollinators are encouraged to participate. Register soon to reserve your spot at http://www.peopleandpollinators.org/colorado-pollinator-summit.html. The Colorado Pollinator Summit is free, but seating is limited. This timely meeting will include featured speaker Michele Colopy, Program Director for the Pollinator Stewardship Council. This day-long Summit will include breakout sessions focused on collaboration, and networking opportunities. The Summit will be held at the CU Environmental Center, in Boulder, Colorado, June 16, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact Joan Gregerson at Network@PeopleandPollinators.org for more information.

To register go to http://www.peopleandpollinators.org/colorado-pollinator-summit.html
Share Your Pollinator Week Plans

On the Home Page of our website select 2016 Pollinator Week Calendar and send us an email about your National Pollinator Week activities. Tell us your planned Pollinator Week activities, and we will help promote them on our website and Facebook page. See the current list of member activities here http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=4439

Soil Conservation and Honey Bees Circa 1948

The things we can learn from the past, and wonder why it never impacted the present and the future, are evident in a 1948 speech, “The Influence of Honeybees on the Soil Conservation Program.” In 1948 Mr. Bennett, Chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, met with the National Federation of Beekeepers’ Associations and exclaimed “the beekeeper is a soil conservationist by the very circumstance of his growing the same crops for bee pasturage that the soil conservationist so often recommends for erosion control on various kinds of land.”

“The soil conservationists appreciate the important influence your tiny charges can have on this land conservation program, and stand ready to cooperate with you in every practicable way. . . the point
that one of the basic requirements for productive colony management in beekeeping is large food reserves of pollen and honey at all times. The ability to provide them naturally depends on sustained adequate production of legumes, flowering shrubs, and other bee-food plants—the same plants which are used in soil conservation. So the beekeeper’s and his neighbor’s interest in growing such useful plants are reciprocal."

Reading this document from 1948 one wonders, “what happened?” Why were these words not heeded, why does the following paragraph from 1948 read as if it is today?

“The continued scarcity of grass and legume seed is seriously delaying the conversion of many acres of continuously and heavily used cropland to needed conservation rotations and permanent cover. Those are the crops in which you bee members are especially interested. During the war, it was necessary for us to draw heavily on the land to meet the need for food, fiber, and oil. That demand has not lessened yet. Our loss of soil and soil fertility has been large. We must as quickly as possible make up for the losses, especially loss by erosion. Proper soil conservation measures, grass-legume rotations, cover crops, and the return of much of the land to permanent grass cover is the solution. This is difficult or impossible of accomplishment without ample seed supplies. As you can see, we need the assistance of your honeybees in this important undertaking; for it is an established fact that without insects to carry out pollination—the most important of which undoubtedly is the honeybee—many plants will not set seed or yield satisfactorily, regardless of cultivation and other care.”

This article from 1948 professes to crop yield increases due to honey bees and wild bees; and a loss of pollinators reduces crop yield. Comparisons from 1927 and 1945 showed acres of alfalfa increased, but yield per acre decreased from 3.5 bushels per acre to 1.33 bushels per acre. For red clover seed acreage in 1927 of 814,000 acres compared to 2,156,500 acres in 1945, yield per acre decreased from 1.33 bushels to 0.75 bushels per acre. “This situation reflects the bee decline and erosion damage . . .”

Mr. Bennett quotes an editorial in the 1947 Texas edition of the Progressive Farmer, “that where the honeybee population is increased in connection with sweetclover or vetch, the seed yields often are doubled,” and remarked that doubling such yields in “Texas for 1946 alone would have increased the farm income by $2,500,000.”

In 1945 dollars Mr. Bennett and farmers determined “soil conservation pays.” Over 1800 farms were surveyed and those conservation-treated farms “had an average income of $4.90 more per acre.” Another survey of 9,000 farms across two years showed the farm “increased their per acre yields of major crops by nearly 36 percent.”

This 1948 report warns of the loss of “500,000 acres of land every year through erosion. The Chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service advised that 34 million acres of cover crops needed to be planted, 200 million acres of conservation crop rotations, 55 million acres in green manure crops, 11 million acres of perennial hay crops, 100 million acres of range and pasture seeding, 11.5 million acres of field and gully planting, 670,000 acres of hedge plantings, 5.5 million acres of conservation management of odd areas, 2.25 million acres of tree windbreak planting, and 3 million acres of field borders.”

Mr. Bennett concludes his speech with a call to action.

“I believe you will agree that this is a job which is big enough to challenge the best efforts of everybody—and that you will also see the great potential benefits to your own particular industry of beekeeping when all this necessary work has been done. This soil conservation job is so big and urgent that no single agency or group can handle it alone. Safeguarding our productive lands is in the interest
of everybody. Especially important is to get the concept of soil conservation into our national consciousness, through the schools from kindergarten to college, and through church, business, and other groups. It is a matter of direct concern to our entire society, or vital importance to national welfare and to world peace and security. . . that never before has the preservation of every acre of productive land been so vital to the welfare of mankind. It is just as vital to every one of you beekeepers, who must depend on the continued bounty of the soil for every ounce of nectar and pollen which are the raw materials for your salable products.”

May 5, 2016 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack “announced the enrollment of more than 800,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through the program's 49th sign up period. Through CRP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps farmers offset the costs of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and strengthen wildlife habitat.” The USDA news release continues stating, “A nationwide acreage limit was established for this program in the 2014 Farm Bill, capping the total number of acres that may be enrolled at 24 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. At the same time, USDA has experienced a record demand from farmers and ranchers interested in participating in the voluntary program. As of March 2016, 23.8 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with 1.7 million acres set to expire this fall. . . .” “Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. CRP is currently protecting more than 100,000 acres of bottomland hardwood trees, nearly 300,000 acres of flood-plain wetlands, and 300,000 acres each for duck nesting habitat and nearly 250,000 acres of upland bird habitat. In addition, CRP is creating economic benefits that include at least $545 million per year in recreation benefits and water quality benefits from reduced sedimentation of $587 million per year.”

> You can read a PDF of the entire 1948 speech at this link. Thank you to Colorado State Beekeepers Association for sharing this bit of beekeeping history.<

Read the USDA news release at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2016/05/0105.xml&contentidonly=true

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1948 recommendations by U.S. Soil Conservation Service</th>
<th>2016 USDA Conservation Reserve Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34 million acres of cover crops needed to be planted</td>
<td>Capped at 24 million acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 million acres of conservation crop rotations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 million acres in green manure crops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 million acres of perennial hay crops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 million acres of range and pasture seeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.5 million acres of field and gully planting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>670,000 acres of hedge plantings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 million acres of conservation management of odd areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25 million acres of tree windbreak planting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 million acres of field borders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research

Evidence for pollinator cost and farming benefits of neonicotinoid seed coatings on oilseed rape
READ THE ABSTRACT

Buglife briefing - Oilseed rape losses and the use of other pesticides
READ THE ABSTRACT

READ THE ABSTRACT

---

Seeds for honey bees EAST of the Mississippi!

Plant pollinator forage for your bees. Pollinator Stewardship Council has partnered with Ohio Prairie Nursery in support of pollinator habitat. *You can get native seeds for the eastern U.S. planting zones here.* Select “Support our Cause” (http://www.ohioprairienursery.com/?ref=pollsteco) to view featured seed selections to benefit pollinators. *A portion of sales generated from our website will help support our work.*

---

Seeds for honey bees WEST of the Mississippi

To increase plant biodiversity, improve gardens yields, and make a positive difference for the future, plant for pollinators WEST of the Mississippi with bbseed. The Plant for Pollinators Project, developed by bbseed, offers a discount on their pollinator mixes. Go to their website, find and enter the discount code, and Plant For Pollinators! https://www.bbbeed.com/articles/plant-for-pollinators-project/
Join Us!
Together we can support beekeeper led, beekeeper supported research, collaboration, education, and advocacy!

Learn about the benefits of membership at http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=3603
West Virginia MP3 Open for Comment

The Department of Agriculture for West Virginia has released their eight page Managed Pollinator Protection Plan. It is composed of best management practices for growers, applicators, and beekeepers. Page 2, Goal 2, states “Meetings will be held with stakeholders and involve the major affected parties to address concerns.” This plan also reiterates one of the misconceptions of the EPA neonicotinoid label, “Pollinators are most active when temperatures are above 55 degrees Fahrenheit.” This incorrect information about bees, will cause honey bees to be killed, as well as native bees, as bees will fly at temperatures as low as 42 degrees Fahrenheit. This plan encourages applicators to notify beekeepers within a one mile radius in order to move their bees. Moving bees is not a solution to protecting pollinators. No other agricultural stakeholder is told to move their livestock in order to protect it from an agricultural practice by another stakeholder. Beekeepers have been and continue to be expected to move their livestock, interrupting their honey crop, and pollination of crops and wild lands. Public comment will be accepted until May 31, 2016.

Celebrate Ohio Pollinators

Partners: Scotts Miracle GRO, sponsor; with collaborators Pollinator Stewardship Council (PSC), Ohio State Beekeepers Assn., Cleveland Botanical Garden (June 19), Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden (June 25), Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm (June 26)

For full transparency in this partnership for education, awareness, and collaboration, below are the income and expenses for this collaborative project. Pollinator Stewardship Council is coordinating this three-day, state-wide event for National Pollinator Week.

Income

- Grant from Scotts Miracle GRO $10,500
- PSC—in-kind coordinating work $2,500
- Three venues—in-kind (estimated) $7,500

Expenses (not final, some expenses have been remitted, others will be remitted June 19, 25, and 26)

- Honey Queen and Princess—airfare, hotel, meals $1,456.74
- Pollinator Stewardship Council—Travel and hotel, meals $1,055.10
- Ohio State Beekeepers-2 “staff”-hotel, travel, meals $1,400.58
- Marketing: art project $4,013.58
- Pollinator Stewardship Council staff coordinating work $2,574.00
We are member supported! The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible.

Butterfly Pavilion
https://www.butterflies.org/

A.H. Meyer & Sons, Inc.
http://www.ahmeyerandsons.com/

People and Pollinators Action Network
http://www.peopleandpollinators.org/

Seib’s Hoosier Honey
http://www.seibs hoosierhoney.com/

Strachan Apiaries
https://www.strachanbees.com/

Sunshine Apiary, Inc.
https://www.facebook.com/sunshineapiary

Tennessee Beekeepers Assn.
http://www.tnbeekeepers.org/

Empire State Honey Producers Assn.
http://www.manpa.org/

Smith Farm Pure Honey
www.smithfarmpurehoney.com/

Randy Oliver
http://scientific-beekeeping.com/

Browning’s Honey Co., Inc.
http://www.browningshoney.com/

Wilson County Beekeepers Assn.
http://wilsoncountybeekeepers.org/

Hackenberg Apiaries
http://hackenbergapiaries.org/

Nashville Area Beekeepers Assn.
http://nashbee.org/

Delta Bee Club
http://www.deltabeeclub.org/

Colorado State Beekeepers Assn.
http://coloradobeekeepers.org/

Heartland Agricultural Society
http://www.heartlandbees.org/

Portage County Beekeepers
http://www.portagecountybeekeepers.com/

Bee Culture
http://www.beeculture.com/

Beekeepers of Middle Tennessee
http://bymtn.org/
We are a member of the Honey Bee Health Coalition

Tools for Honey Bee Health

- Quick Guide to Reporting A Bee Kill: [http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=3292](http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=3292)
- The Bee Understanding Project: View the first film at this link [https://vimeo.com/149238870](https://vimeo.com/149238870)


2016 Pollinator Week Activities

Our members are actively involved in celebrating pollinators during the month of June and as part of National Pollinator Week 2016. If you want to submit your activity for this calendar please go to this link http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=4434

May 28
Pollinator-Safe Plant Exchange
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church
5001 Pennsylvania Ave.
Boulder, CO
Sponsored by People and Pollinators Action Network and Sierra Club
Contact: Rebecca Dickson rebecca.dickson@comcast.net

June 11
Tennessee Pollinator Rally
9:00am – 12:30pm
Location: Grace Episcopal Church
20 Belvoir Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37411
http://tennesseevalley.wildones.org/pollinator-rally/

Featuring:
10:30am Plants for Nectar and Pollen in Tennessee
Jim Garrison, President of the Tennessee Beekeepers Association

June 11
“Vanishing of the Bees” film screening and solutions discussion
2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Gonzales Library, 1498 N. Irving St., Denver, CO
Sponsored by People and Pollinators Action Network
Before, during intermission, and after the film, you’ll have time to talk with groups working on solutions and find out what you can do to help people and pollinators.
Contact: info@peopleandpollinators.org

==============================================
June 13
Blue Dasher Farm
Brookings, SD
for more information contact keephivesalive@gmail.com

June 14
Minneapolis, MN
for more information contact keephivesalive@gmail.com

June 16
Ann Arbor, MI
Detroit, MI
for more information contact keephivesalive@gmail.com

June 16
Colorado Pollinator Summit
4001 Discovery Dr.
Boulder, CO 80303
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
People and Pollinators Action Network, Butterfly Pavilion, and Colorado State Beekeepers Association are convening a meeting of organizations working in Colorado to protect pollinators. Our goal is to bring people together to begin building relationships, share opportunities and hopefully to form the basis of a future statewide pollinator network. All local and national organizations that are working in Colorado to protect and conserve pollinators are invited: nonprofits, governments, business and education. Please join us!

The event is free but seating is limited. Register at this link
http://www.peopleandpollinators.org/colorado-pollinator-summit.html

June 18
Lewisburg, PA
for more information contact keephivesalive@gmail.com
June 19-Noon to 5 p.m.  
**Ohio Pollinator Celebration- Cleveland, OH**  
Cleveland Botanical Garden  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, Ohio  
for more information contact info@pollinatorstewardship.org

---

**June 20**  
6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.  
**Medina Pollinator Gardens**  
623 W. Liberty St., Medina, OH  
www.medinabeekeepers.org

---

**June 20**  
Triangle Park, NC  
for more information contact keephivesalive@gmail.com

---

**June 22-23**  
Washington, D.C.  
for more information contact keephivesalive@gmail.com

---

**June 22-24**  
8 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
The River Center  
136 E 3rd St, Davenport, IA 52801  
http://nahantmarsh.org/qcpollinatorconference/

---

**June 25**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Ohio Pollinator Celebration- Columbus, OH**  
Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden  
Pollinator Palooza  
10 am to 3 pm  
1777 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio  
for more information contact info@pollinatorstewardship.org

---

**June 26**  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
**Ohio Pollinator Celebration- Dayton, OH**  
Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
1000 Aullwood Rd., Dayton, Ohio  
for more information contact info@pollinatorstewardship.org

---
Beekeepers Working for Beekeepers

The Board and Program Director are all beekeepers. We work to:

- Raise awareness about the adverse impact of pesticides on pollinators critical to the supply of food and the ecosystem.
- Provide advocacy, guidance, and tools to document the detrimental effect of pesticides on pollinators.
- Affect regulatory processes of pesticide risk assessment, label, and enforcement.

PLEASE PROVIDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN USE YOUR DONATIONS WISELY, AND EMAIL THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOU. SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO US AT INFO@POLLINATORSTEWARDSHIP.ORG