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Press Kit: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



Press Release

National Honey Bee Week Puts Focus on Pesticide Uses

Beyond Toxics Organizes Events to Raise Awareness About the Friends of Bees Campaign

8/9/12 (Eugene, OR) National Honey Bee Day is August 18th, but some may ask why we need to designate a recognition day for bees? As part of their 1000 Friends of Healthy Bees Campaign, Beyond Toxics has scheduled a series of local events for the week of August 11th-18th to answer this question. Local businesses Hummingbird Wholesale, Hideaway Bakery and Winter Green Farm have teamed up to support the Friends of Honey Bees during for **National Honey Bee Day**.

Events include a benefit dinner at Hideaway Bakery, featuring their wood-oven-baked pizza on August 15th and an all-day Flyer Fundraiser at Cozmic Pizza, including a Salsa Dance Celebration for Honey Bees on August 18th.

Beyond Toxics is recognizing Honey Bee Week to help the community learn about why our honey bees are in trouble and what that fact means for locally-grown food, as well as having fun and good food at local eateries.

Bee colonies have been collapsing across the nation and the latest research points to pesticide use – alone and in combination with other pathogens – as a likely driving factor in recent declines. Commercial bee keepers estimate that thirty-six percent of commercial hives were abandoned by bees in the past year.

“Many vegetables and other crops are all dependent upon bees for pollination. Without bees, the variety and nutritional value of our food system is threatened,” states Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics

Research conducted by French scientists have indicated that pesticides have a fogging effect on honeybee brains, making it harder for them to find their way home and to supply their hives with enough food to produce new queens. Tens of thousands of signatures have been submitted to the US environmental Protection Agency urging them to take seriously the situation by declaring that these bee losses constitute an “imminent hazard.”

Beyond Toxics, local bee keepers and concerned organic foods businesses are working together to raise awareness and encourage Eugene residents to pledge to make their homes and gardens pesticide-free. The **1000 Friends of Healthy Bees Campaign** is a grassroots, no-pesticide-spray, neighborhoods project with the goal of asking people to support protecting local honey bees from pesticide poisoning!

Beyond Toxics Events to Celebrate National Honey Bee Week:

AUGUST 15th:

WHAT: *Wood-Oven-Baked Pizza Benefit Dinner for Beyond Toxics*

WHEN: Wednesday, August 15th - 5pm to 8pm

WHERE: Hideaway Bakery | 3377 East Amazon Drive | Eugene, OR 97405

AUGUST 18th:

WHAT: *All Day Flyer Fundraiser for Beyond Toxics* - PRINT OUT & bring our flyer

(www.friendsofhealthybees.org) with you when you buy food and Beyond Toxics will get 30% of food sales

WHEN: Saturday, August 18th - all day (hours on Saturday = 11 am to midnight)

WHERE: Cozmic Pizza | 199 West 8th / Eugene, OR 97401 (corner of 8th and Charnelton)

MUSIC! Stay for salsa dance music by Son Mela'o, Eugene's hottest new Latin dance band!

Show starts at 8:30pm (\$10 cover)

For both events:

Contact: **John Jordan Cascade, Communications Manager**

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Details: www.FriendsOfHealthyBees.org

Beyond Toxics is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment from toxic pesticides. That's why we're working hard to develop pesticide-free, honey-bee-safe neighborhoods throughout Eugene. Our goal is to develop large areas of Eugene that are chemical-free and to have city policy established to make our homes and parks safe for all living things.