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News Release

Protecting Pollinators Forum: Benefits for Ecosystems & Food Security in Oregon.

This forum combines science & policy for protecting pollinators to ensure their survival – and ours.

Saturday, 8:30am-4:30pm, Jackson County OSU Extension.

CENTRAL POINT, ORE. – Native pollinators, such as bumble bees, mason bees, and butterflies, pollinate eighty percent of flowering trees, plants and wildflowers and are a key indicator species for the health of all ecosystems. Many west coast native bees are on the brink of extinction and have experienced rapid population declines since 2009. Oregonians are being encouraged to plant pollinator habitats, leave un-mowed sections of lawn for foraging areas and refrain from using pesticides. Native bumble bees are extremely sensitive to pesticide exposure. Twelve recent bee die-offs in Oregon were linked to use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Beyond Toxics, Pollinator Partnership Rogue Valley & OSU Extension are working together to provide education of how bee-killing neonicotinoids are impacting ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. Keynote speakers will share their most recent scientific research and focus on evidence-based solutions to the decline of native pollinators and the effects neonicotinoids are having on Pacific Northwest landscapes and ecosystems.

Take action to protect our insect pollinators by joining Beyond Toxics and Pollinator Project Rogue Valley at Jackson County OSU Extension in Central Point. Protecting Pollinators Forum is on Saturday from 8:30am-4:30pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$5 off for Master Gardeners.

On Saturday, February 11th, scientists, educators, local businesses and community members will gather to learn about and discuss the importance of native pollinators and ways people can manage healthy, productive landscapes that support and enhance the health of native pollinator species.

All proceeds will benefit pollinator research and education in the Pacific Northwest. Pre-register at www.beyondtoxics.org/events. Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door. Master Gardeners may receive \$5 off admission price. For more information call Krystal Abrams at 541-465-8860.

Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents. We expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find effective, lasting solutions.

www.BeyondToxics.org