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NEWS

BEE TROUBLES LINKED TO GARDEN PRODUCTS

Watch out for that bottom part of the food chain: Honeybee colonies have been on the decline since the mid-2000s due to a problem known as “colony collapse disorder” or CCD. Local beekeepers say that this winter — a time when both traditional and CCD die-offs tend to occur — was particularly bad within the city of Eugene, and that’s likely due to the rise in garden pesticides containing neonicotinoids that threaten important agricultural pollinators like honeybees. Beekeepers and bird-lovers are petitioning local garden centers to stop carrying the culprits that have likely exacerbated CCD.

“It looks like we have a pretty fairly severe loss in the Eugene area this year, and that’s mostly in town,” says Gary Rondeau, a Eugene beekeeper who lives in the River Road area. He says CCD is more complicated than a one-cause issue — it’s not as simple as neonicotinoids killing bees, but neonicotinoids weaken bees so that a pathogen that probably wouldn’t have killed off a colony becomes a fatal problem. Plus, neonicotinoids don’t leave bees’ bodies, so bees that have been exposed a lot previously can be killed by very small doses alone.

“Starting in 2010, Ortho — which is one of the bigger brands in the lawn and garden business — they started marketing all-in-one products for roses and flowers and pushing a consumer product that has imidacloprid in it, which is one of the neonicotinoids I’m really concerned about,” Rondeau says. Neonicotinoids attach permanently to receptors in the nervous system, so small quantities build up and leave entire populations weakened. Rondeau says that when neonicotinoid products are applied directly to seeds, just one seed can be enough to kill a bird. When they are applied to soil in an all-in-one flower fertilizer and pesticide, the soil remains toxic to bees for about 5 years.

“At any rate, from what I’ve heard from garden center places, they say this stuff is really taking off in Eugene,” Rondeau says, because gardeners don’t realize the product is bad for bees. In the United Kingdom, many garden centers have voluntarily discontinued neo-

nicotinoid products.

He says that concerned Eugeneans have recently begun an anti-neonicotinoid campaign by talking with Northwest-based chains Jerry’s Home Improvement Center and Bi-Mart, and Bi-Mart might be receptive to discontinuing neonicotinoids after selling this year’s stock. — *Shannon Finnell*

PROTESTS FOCUS ON TAXES, POSTAL SERVICE

A broad coalition of peace, justice and labor activists are organizing a series of actions on tax day, April 15, calling on Congress to redirect war dollars to fund education, job creation, universal health care and other vital services. Activists are also demanding the U.S. Postal Service keep open the Gateway Processing Facility in Springfield and rural post offices open.

The day’s events will begin at 11 am Monday at the downtown Post Office, 520 Willamette St., with the annual Penny Poll. Passersby will be invited to take 10 pennies and put them in jars representing six categories of the federal budget, indicating priorities in federal spending.

At noon will be a rally with speakers and music. In addition, war-tax resisters who object to over half of their federal taxes going to the military will be redirecting these “war” taxes to local organizations. Some of these organizations will be on hand to receive their donations.

At 1 pm will be a march from the Post Office to the new U.S. Courthouse for a 1:30 pm rally. Marchers will turn in cards to the congressional offices of Sen. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Rep. Peter DeFazio that call on action to bring the war dollars home.

Also on tax day, Whirled Pies Pizzeria, 1123 Monroe in Eugene, will donate a percentage of sales from 11 am to 8 pm to support Community Alliance of Lane County’s peace and justice work. Contact CALC at 485-1755 or calcoffice@gmail.com for more information. — *Ted Taylor*



The Two Populisms of the Great Recession: **THE TEA PARTY and OCCUPY WALL STREET**

Featuring **Joseph Lowndes**, 2013 Wayne Morse Resident Scholar
commentary by **Cas Mudde**, University of Georgia

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
110 Knight Law Center

JOSEPH LOWNDES is an associate professor in the UO Department of Political Science and the 2013 Wayne Morse Resident Scholar. His research interests include American political development, racial politics, conservatism and political culture.

CAS MUDDE is an assistant professor in the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia. His work focuses primarily on extremism and democracy.

Part of the “Governing a Polarized Republic: Is This Any Way to Run a Democracy” speaker series. Cosponsored by the UO Department of Political Science.



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Saraha Nyingma Buddhist Temple

In addition to our ongoing and regularly-scheduled classes and meditation practice events, there will be a number of special events at Saraha in the coming weeks. You are invited to attend.



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Saraha Spring 2013 Fundraising Benefit
featuring live dance and musical performances
Tibetan & Nepali food. \$35 adults, \$10 children
This Saturday, April 13, 3-6 pm

Vajrayana Empowerment Event
The venerable Buddhist master Yangthang Rinpoche will confer an empowerment of Guru Rinpoche at Saraha Buddhist Temple.
Tuesday April 16, 7-9 pm



Anam Thubten Rinpoche at Saraha
Teachings & meditation led by Tibetan Buddhist Lama & author Anam Thubten Rinpoche.
Morning and afternoon sessions.
Saturday, April 27, 10 am- 4:30 pm



Saraha Buddhist Temple 477 E. 40th Ave., Eugene
See our online calendar at saraha.org for more event details.

Open to the public, beginners welcome.
saraha.org info@saraha.org Saraha Nyingma