

NEWS



CITY SPRAYS PESTICIDES IN PARK NEXT DOOR TO BEEKEEPER'S HIVES

Although last year the city of Eugene banned neonicotinoids, a category of pesticide harmful to bees, Eugene is far from pesticide free. Local beekeeper Jen Hornaday says she'd like to see a change in city policy after the city of Eugene sprayed an herbicide on May 28 in the park adjacent to nine of her honeybee hives without alerting her first.

"It just shows a lack of respect for pollinators," says Hornaday, a founder of the Healthy Bees = Healthy Gardens education project and a longtime volunteer at the park off River Road. The park is known as both Cadojen Park and Maynard Park. Occupying 4.5 acres, the park and its flowers help provide food for Hornaday's bees, which live on Hornaday's property right next door to the park. "I work extremely hard creating pesticide-free spaces for all people, pets, plants and pollinators," she says.

According to Ryan Turner, a natural resources specialist with the city of Eugene, a city employee sprayed Garlon 3A, which contains the chemical triclopyr, in Cadojen Park to remove meadow knapweed, an invasive, nonnative plant. A report from Cornell University says that triclopyr is not known to be toxic to bees, but is toxic to fish, other wildlife and dogs and takes 30 to 90 days to break down halfway in the soil.

"The population of knapweed in that park is pretty small, probably about 20 plants, and we try to deal with a population of weeds while it's still small instead of letting it become rampant," Turner says, adding that "not all control is herbicide — it's one of many different things we do."

Turner says herbicide was used because other control methods within the city's abilities would not be effective in this case.

The herbicide application followed city policy, Turner says, which requires posting 24-hour notice before and after spraying. "It's terribly unfortunate that Jen didn't see the signs until after the application had occurred," Turner says. "She feels very strongly about pesticides not being used in that park, and I completely understand that."

Hornaday says that she noticed a sign in the park on the night of May 27, and she was unable to reach anyone from the city until after the park was sprayed. "When the poison was sprayed at 9:40 am, the bees and other pollinators were foraging in the clover and other wildflowers within the park," she says.

Hornaday hired a friend to dig up the knapweed plants in the park and cover the sprayed areas with cardboard and bark mulch to keep anyone from coming in contact with the herbicide. Going forward, Hornaday says she'd like to see more advanced warning and better communication with park volunteers, since she would have volunteered to dig up the plants herself if she had known.

Hornaday says she's meeting with Eugene Mayor Kitty

Piercy to discuss policy change, and she's considering the possibility of signing a formal volunteer adoption agreement with the city, as long as the contract clearly states that the city won't spray as part of the agreement. That could increase the likelihood of Hornaday being contacted, Turner says, adding that although he followed city policy, if he had to do it over again, he would have reached out to Hornaday ahead of time.

"Jen's concerns are understandable," Turner says. "She's a beekeeper, and bees don't adhere to property lines or read signs."

Hornaday's Healthy Bees = Healthy Gardens education project will be in full swing this summer with an Aug. 2 Save the Bees event in Washington City Park, and Hornaday will host a honey tasting from 3 to 6 pm Friday, June 12, at The Kiva, 125 W. 11th Ave. Learn more at healthybeeshealthygardens.com. — Amy Schneider

STATE CONSIDERS AMENDMENT TO EXPUNGE MARIJUANA OFFENSES

Oregonians convicted or arrested for marijuana offenses could have their records expunged this year if a recent amendment in the Oregon Legislature passes. Dense and lengthy House Bill 3400 is the Legislature's catch-all bill for regulating Oregon's burgeoning recreational pot industry and aligning it with the state's already legal medical marijuana commerce and production.

An amendment to the bill, proposed in late May by Democratic Rep. Ann Lininger, offers people who were on the wrong side of soon-to-be dead pot prohibition a way to clean their criminal records.

"Essentially the amendment is about crime-sentence reduction and eligibility for expungement," says Lininger, who has been working long days with the rest of the Joint Committee on Measure 91 Implementation.

The law wouldn't automatically clean everyone's slate: The amendment proposes a process that includes a filing fee, court statements and a judge ruling, but if successful, "the applicant ... shall be deemed not to have been previously convicted, or arrested ... and the court shall issue an order sealing the record of conviction and other official records in the case."

"There is a lot of momentum to pass a marijuana bill," says Dominic Lopez, a volunteer with progressive political nonprofit the Bus Project, which has been organizing for the amendment and previously for HB 3372 as part of its #FreshStartOregon campaign.

Lopez also worked extensively with the Yes on Measure 91 campaign in November.

"We're looking at people who are punished for breaking laws that are no longer laws anymore," Lopez says. "That sounds like a really horrible excuse to ruin people's lives. They've had their lives devastated because of felony convictions."

The law wouldn't apply to Class A felony convictions, but to B felonies, misdemeanors and arrests. Class B felonies can bring 10 years in jail, a \$250,000 fine and are on par with money laundering, the *Bend Bulletin* points out. The *Bulletin* came out against the amendment shortly after it was introduced, arguing in an editorial, "There's something unsettling about the idea of simply wiping out a person's criminal record with the stroke of a pen."

Hogwash, contends Peter Zuckerman, the former communications director for Yes on 91. "It doesn't make sense to punish people for possessing a substance that will be legal in a few weeks," Zuckerman says. He points out the convictions are unevenly distributed across society. "People of color, according to the ACLU, are twice as likely to be arrested or cited for marijuana. That's morally reprehensible."



The **Eugene Mini Maker Faire** is happening from 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, June 13, at the Science Factory at 2300 Leo Harris Parkway on the edge of Alton Baker Park. Featured will be dozens of booths and exhibits focusing on the art, technique and technology of making things, from 3D printing to rocketry to weaving. The event is geared to kids and adults and costs \$3 for Science Factory members, \$6 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at eugenemakerfaire.com.

Last week we wrote about **Tiny Tavern closing** but named the wrong individual as the outgoing business owner. Josh Connelly tells us he's the guy who was posting updates on Facebook (search for "The Tiny Tavern") and Jevon Peck was the previous owner. "Yes, I am looking for either a new place, or to open a small neighborhood bar like Tinys," Connelly tells us. "My services are also available to help 'rescue' or resurrect bars and taverns that need help." Connelly says the building and property have not been sold, just the tavern part. As we go to press, there are rumors that someone associated with Agate Alley Bistro might be the tavern's next owner.

The historic **Eugene Hotel** at 222 E. Broadway is celebrating its 90th year with a series of events Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14. The hotel lobby will come alive at noon Saturday with live music, followed by high tea in the dining room and music and dancing upstairs. Tours and exhibits are planned. Sunday events begin at 2 pm. The old hotel with its Spanish-flavored design catered to many dignitaries and special events for 60 years and is now independent living apartments for those 58 and older.

Wild Birds Unlimited at 25th and Willamette is doing something different as a promotion and a public service. Owners Barbara and Tom Gleason are offering free morning bird walks in June and July at locations to be announced, led by local bird experts. The walks, limited to 15 people, will go from 7 to 9 am and the dates are June 17 and 21, and July 1 and 12. Call 844-1788 or email eugenewbu@gmail.com.

We wrote about an open house at **IEQ Technology** in this column last week, but the information provided to us by the Springfield Chamber had the wrong month. The open house will be at 3 pm Friday, July 10, at 220 N. Fifth St. in Springfield. See ieqtechnology.com.

Cornbread Café at 7th and Polk is trying to raise money to build a year-round patio, say owners Sheree Walters and Kristy Hammond. The café serving "vegan comfort food" started off as a food cart in 2010 and found a storefront the next year in the building that once housed Deb's Diner. Find a link to the fundraising campaign at cornbreadcafe.com.

The Eugene **Jewish Film Festival** has a new home. At 3 pm Sunday, June 14, the monthly film festival will be showing *The Klezmatiks: On Holy Ground* at the David Minor Theater, 180 E. 5th Ave. Tickets are \$5 and a discussion will follow. "This change allows for more variety of films as well as a larger theater," says festival organizer Shmuel Shalom Cohen of Jewish Events Willamette-valley. "Hopefully we will not have to turn people away as we have in the past." More information at JewishEventsWillamette-valley.org.

We see the historic **Wolf Creek Inn** off I-5 north of Grants Pass will be closed for renovations this season and the Oregon Parks System is looking for a new concessionaire to run the place next year. Margaret and Mark Quist are leaving after five years. Email wolfcreek.inn@oregon.gov.