

Pollinators from 1A

"They modulate the climate and atmosphere, and turn the sun's energy into a form of energy that provides the basis for all fauna food sources. We can't live without plants, so we can't live without pollinators — and the vast majority of animal pollinators are insects."

Unfortunately, there are a number of significant factors impacting the honeybee that have endangered the process of pollination and the availability of many foods humans consider staples.

Recent studies conducted by academic groups and agricultural businesses, have shown that there are three major elements responsible for the deaths of hundreds of millions of these invaluable insects.

The most impactful of these are pesticides, which are used to control plant damage. These poisons are designed to kill many insects, most of which are not pollinators, but they also poison bees, hornets, wasps and butterflies.

Pesticides are often sprayed over vast swaths of land used for agriculture. This spraying also eliminates many of the wild flowers and grasses that provide food and lodging for pollinators.

The other two major factors in pollinator death are pathogens and habitat loss.

Schatz suggests that homeowners can help to offset the loss of safe habitat by not mowing parts of your lawn, or by planting pollinator-friendly plants in underused areas on their property to encourage bees to visit. The attracted bees then might start a hive or colony nearby.

Ethan Bennett of Alpine, Ore., is a beekeeper that first became interested in bees when he moved onto a new property in 1997. There was an abandoned hive on the property and Bennett took the opportunity to extract a small amount of honey. His interest was piqued.

"It was decrepit, but had bees in it, probably a wild swarm. I got a hive of bees, made a few gallons of honey, had the equipment and figured it would be a new hobby, a new part of normal for me," Bennett said. "Things changed a bit in 2000, when it was time to do my internship to complete my bachelor's degree in horticulture at Oregon State University. I took a job with Kenny Williams at Wild Harvest Honey as a beekeeping assistant. After working with him for six or seven years, I started my company in 2006 with 20 hives. Now I have 400 hives."

Bennett and his company, Honey Tree Apiaries, now travel for part of the year to California to pollinate crops. Daily, he faces challenges to keeping his bees alive.

"The biggest challenge in commercial beekeeping is minimizing annual loss of bee hives," he said. "In a good year, I may lose 20 percent of my hives. It has been as bad as 50 percent. Most of this loss occurs over winter. Other factors such as climate, chemicals and stress due to moving contribute.

"As a commercial beekeeper I generate my income from the products of the bee hive: honey, wax and pollination. If the bees don't survive, I don't make money."

Last weekend, the City of Yachats held its first annual Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival. The event was well attended, and interest in the subject of beekeeping and the challenges facing all pollinators were subjects of intense discussion among participants and attendees.

Schatz attended the festival and spoke as a representative of the beekeepers association. She also spoke to the fear expressed by many in attendance that honeybees were in danger of extinction.

"I don't think there's an immediate danger of bees dying out, but declines in native bees do have a significant impact and have been taking place, and there is now a bumble bee species on the endangered species list," she said.

The second installment of this series will examine the role played by hornets, wasps and butterflies in the process of plant-specific pollination, and how people can assist bees and other pollinators in the production of fruits and vegetables.

Voting from 1A

To be eligible to vote, a person must be an organization member in good standing by no later than March 12.

Ballots will be sent to members, via mail, on or about March 30, and completed ballots must be received by Hanawalt by 4 p.m. on or before April 16.

In order to be a candidate for the new board, interested individuals must be OCHS members in good standing, and must submit a candidate form to Hanawalt no later than 4 p.m. by March 12.

Membership and candidate forms can be obtained at the OCHS website or from Hanawalt's office.

Completed ballots and candidate forms can then be mailed to P.O. Box 1153 or delivered in person at the

drop box located at Hanawalt's office.

According to the literature provided to the public on Friday by OCHS, the non-profit seeks to seat a minimum of seven new directors during this election cycle. Elected board members will serve until June 30, 2019.

Senior ODJ Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth M. Grant said the process now in place was agreed upon by OCHS and her office with the goal of providing members the means to directly elect the board.

It is also hoped the election will contribute to a transition process that has been difficult for the community and the organization.

OCHS' letter also stated, "The process will be open and there will be no nominating committee. The newly elected board will select

board officers at its first meeting and will schedule a future membership meeting."

"We are encouraging any interested individuals to apply for a board position," Grant said. "We have worked in conjunction with the OCHS to come up with this process and we believe we have put in place a way for members to elect a new board and move forward in a positive way."

Grant also stated the ODJ will be working with Hanawalt to review applications for candidates who wish to be included on the ballot, as well as the members who will be allowed to vote for the new board.

The results of the election will be announced on or before April 18.

For more information, visit oregoncoasthumanesociety.org.

Boys & Girls from 1A

a 9mm handgun being raffled as part of this weekend's BGC Fraudville fundraiser, Davis' termination came days before the controversy, according to sources who asked to remain anonymous.

Davis took over the role of executive director on July 17, 2017, after Trent stepped down from his position to continue his retirement.

Trent first became involved with the club in

2014 as a board member during a tumultuous period for BGC, after former Executive Director Jonathan Hicks left the organization. At the time, the club was \$120,000 in debt, which didn't include the \$30,000 it owed in back taxes.

"When you have the IRS come knocking on your door with their gold badge, that is not a pleasant experience," Trent recalled in a previous interview.

Trent, along with the board and BGC staff, rebuilt the program to financial solvency with help from community

donations of money and sweat equity.

Davis had become familiar with the club while covering it as a reporter for the Siuslaw News. Trent, who came out of retirement to help guide the club to solvency, decided with the board that it was time to make the director position paid again. Davis applied for the position through a six-month process, and Trent remained on the BGC board until a few months ago.

Currently, BGC reports no major debt, aside from a bank mortgage.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!
Write a Letter to the Editor today. Email:
EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

THIS WEEK ON THE COAST

A WEEKLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE FLORENCE AREA

SUBMIT ALL EVENTS INFORMATION VIA EMAIL TO PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

Now through March 15

Fundraiser for Senior Center
Raffle for five-course prime rib dinner for 10
Tickets \$10
Drawing March 15 at noon
541-997-8844

Feb. 24

Indoor Yard Sale
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Small admission fee
Florence Events Center

Central Oregon Coast British Car Club Meeting

9 a.m. — breakfast
10 a.m. — meeting
Open to public
SandPines Golf Clubhouse

Siuslaw Vision Seminar: 'Evaluate Your Impact'

10 a.m. to noon
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library
RiverCal.org

"World Heritage Sites"

International Challenge Art Quilt Show

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$5 admission
Yachats Commons
pollyplumb.org

Military Heritage Day

Presented by Oregon Coast Military Museum
2 p.m.
Open to public; RSVP preferred
Sam Spayd's hangar at Florence Municipal Airport
oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com

Fraudville

Fundraiser for Boys & Girls Club
5 p.m.
\$25 admission, 21+
Three Rivers Casino Resort

Tease Burlesque Revue

Featuring Fanny Rugburn
7 to 9 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

Comedy Night at Three Rivers

Featuring Amanda Arnold and Mike

Kelly Walter
8 to 9:30 p.m.
Open to public 21+
Blue Bills Sports Bar & Tap Room

Feb. 25

Florence Ukulele Club "The Flukes"

1:30 p.m. — beginners
3 to 4 p.m. — song circle for all levels
Loaner ukuleles available
Siuslaw Public Library
janetwellington@charter.net

Dr. Mark Presents "Just One Drop" homeopathy film

2:30 p.m.
Tickets required
City Lights Cinemas

Feb. 26

Keep the Brush Moving

Open lab for watercolor painting
10 a.m. to noon
Open to public
Lane Community College Florence Center

Florence City Council, Planning

Commission Work Session

5:30 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

Feb. 28

Caregivers Dealing with Dementia

6 p.m.
Educational series open to public
Spruce Point Assisted Living & Memory Care

50/50 Bingo to benefit Florence Food Share

7 p.m.
Open to public
Jerry's Place Bar & Grill
88274 Rhododendron Dr.

March 3 to 5

Florence Home and Garden Show

All day
\$2 admission
Florence Events Center

March 3

Florence Area Democratic Club Meeting

11 a.m.

Open to public
Florence Senior Center

Ada Grange's 100th Birthday Bash

1 to 3 p.m.
Open to public
Ada Grange
10 miles out Canary Road

March 4 to 9

Revival Services at First Baptist Church of Florence

11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Monday through Friday
Open to public
1935 East 25th St.
541-999-7953

March 5

Siuslaw High School Band Concert

7 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

For more calendar events, visit Siuslaw Vision 2025's website, rivercal.org.

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