

Items of interest to beekeepers June 13

Clubs, please forward to your members, or give them the list of items in this mailing and my email address so they can sign up if they wish. Thanks.

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It's been a quiet week online, but that doesn't mean no good stuff. Let's start with a reminder from Michele Colopy at the Pollinator Stewardship Council. (More good stuff in her newsletters. Check the link at the end of this email.)

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK - CELEBRATE, SUPPORT, & PLANT SOME FORAGE ALREADY!

June 15-21 is National Pollinator Week! Beekeepers should be celebrating their honey bees, educating others about their honey bees, and supporting all those who support beekeepers. Beekeepers must feed the bees that feed the bees that go into winter, and that includes the beekeeping organizations that work for you at the local, state, and national level.

Honey Bee State License Plates Generate Research Funding--Every beekeeper's car or truck in Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Louisiana, Maryland, and Virginia should feature a honey bee license plate. Those states have them, ask for them, purchase them, support local bee research and education!

Plant some forage already!—No beekeeper should have a huge grassy lawn. Be the example! Plant forage for your honey bees, and native pollinators. Your honey jar will “overfloweth!”

Collaborative Projects:

Bee Understanding- this project helps others in agriculture “walk a mile in a beekeeper's suit.” With “understanding,” and your support come solutions!

Hive Tracking Project—we are collaborating with a university researcher, scientists, and commercial beekeepers testing the hive products of commercial hives pollinating our fruits, nuts, and vegetables. This research will provide insights into the effects of combined pesticide exposure and pathogen levels on hive health over time. Your support helps us complete the lab analysis.

Advocating for Beekeepers—Our advocacy software connects local and state beekeepers with their local, state, and national policy makers. We help you with your advocacy issues! Help us continue to

share the beekeeper's voice.

Apimondia USA 2019-- Working with other beekeepers we support this Committee's bid to bring the worldwide Beekeeping Congress, "Apimondia" back to the USA in 2019 after 48 years! It is an Olympic-like goal, but U.S. beekeepers can do it. Support the bid to bring Apimondia to the USA in 2019.

We are beekeepers, helping other beekeepers! Support our work that supports you!

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Erik Johansen, Policy Assistant for Registration Services at WSDA forwarded this update from the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs -

#### EPA'S PROPOSAL TO PROTECT BEES FROM ACUTELY TOXIC PESTICIDES Public Webinar and Comment Period Extension

EPA is hosting a public webinar that will provide background information and additional details about its proposed plan to prohibit the use of all highly toxic pesticides when crops are in bloom and bees are present under contract for pollination services. The plan also recommends that states and tribes develop pollinator protections plans and best management practices. EPA has already held webinars with states and tribes. The public webinar will be on June 23 from 3 – 4:30p.m. Eastern and accessible online at <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/pollinatorproposal/>.

EPA will also be extending the comment period on the proposal an additional 30 days, ending July 29. Please visit the regulatory docket for the proposal to protect bees from acutely toxic pesticides, EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0818, to read the plan and submit comments.

Learn more about the proposal and other EPA Actions to Protect Pollinators:  
<http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/epa-actions-protect-pollinators>

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This was received from Dave Fischer, Director of Pollinator Safety at Bayer CropScience and refers to a workshop held recently at the Bayer Bee Care Center in Triangle Park, North Carolina. Colorado beekeeper Al Summers was one of those invited to attend and a few comments from him are added to the end of the report.

#### HEALTHY HIVES 2020 WORKSHOP HOSTS DIVERSE EXPERTS TO DEFINE BEE HEALTH AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

When Bayer CropScience announced our Healthy Hives 2020 research initiative on April 28, I was concerned about finding the right mix of experts that could find time to meet to discuss how we can improve the health of honey bees within the next 5 years. After all, this time of year is extraordinarily busy for nearly everyone associated with agriculture or beekeeping. I shouldn't have been worried.

Last week a diverse group of honey bee experts representing academia, beekeeping, government and private industry came together for a two-day workshop at Bayer's North American Bee Care Center to seek tangible solutions to the problems affecting colony health in the United States. Despite our

different perspectives, the group was able to develop a working definition of what constitutes a healthy hive. While this may seem obvious to some, a proper definition is currently lacking and is fundamentally important to improving colony health. In fact, it's so important the group plans to publish this definition as a useful benchmark to help facilitate future research.

The workshop participants discussed a broad range of projects that could measurably improve or significantly increase our understanding of colony health over the next 5 years. These ideas were then provided to the Healthy Hives 2020 Steering Committee, which met to convert the workshop's input into several key areas for potential research initiatives:

- Development of Varroa mite management strategies suitable for commercial beekeeping
- Test and establish genetic strains of honey bees for traits related to improved colony health
- Long-term studies of commercial beekeeping to 'ground-truth' survey data and allow for economic evaluation of apicultural management inputs and practices
- Evaluate and implement the latest "smart hive" technologies for colony monitoring and management

While these research areas are still being developed, they provide a potential roadmap for the future. When the assessment of these projects is completed, the steering committee will present fully-developed proposals and work with partnering organizations in order to turn these ideas into reality.

Comments from Al Summers -

This was a workshop to brainstorm ways to improve honey bee health by 2020. I'd like to be clear here though..that Bayer hosted the workshop but they didn't dictate what we talked about and things were left open to discussion throughout the workshop, which lasted 1-1/2 days. At the end of that time we narrowed down our talking-points to about 5 areas that could possibly be implemented to improve honey bee health by 2020 ... which was the overall goal of the workshop. This was more of a work-in-progress sort of thing, with further details for implementation to be refined as time goes on.

What struck me the most about this workshop was the dedication of the attendees to work together to seek meaningful improvements in honey bee health. I'm convinced that this type of collaborative effort will lead to real solutions and healthier hives by 2020.

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## OTHER ARTICLES

The sustainability case for "industrial agriculture" - excellent overview of the how's and why's of modern agricultural. Lots of other great articles that can be accessed from this page.

<http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2015/06/09/the-sustainability-case-for-industrial-agriculture/>

And from Carlen Jupe at the California State Beekeepers Association comes this list of CATCH THE BUZZ and other items you can click on to read:

CATCH THE BUZZ – Organic Agriculture More Profitable, And Large Profit Margins Show Room For Growth.

Washington State University A comprehensive study finds organic agriculture is more profitable for farmers than conventional agriculture. Read the article at: [http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-organic-agriculture-more-profitable-and-large-profit-margins-show-room-for-growth/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=17bd96b96f-Catch The Buzz 4 29 2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-17bd96b96f-256242233](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-organic-agriculture-more-profitable-and-large-profit-margins-show-room-for-growth/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=17bd96b96f-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-17bd96b96f-256242233)

Monarch Migration Gets a Boost from Ohio Collaboration

Ohioans Step Forward to Make a Difference Read the article at: [http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-monarch-migration-gets-a-boost-from-ohio-collaboration/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=17bd96b96f-Catch The Buzz 4 29 2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-17bd96b96f-256242233](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-monarch-migration-gets-a-boost-from-ohio-collaboration/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=17bd96b96f-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-17bd96b96f-256242233)

A Bunch Of Ways To Keep Honey Bees Away From Your Outdoor Meals.

Read the article here, especially if you're planning to picnic in your apiary!  
[http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-a-bunch-of-ways-to-keep-honey-bees-away-from-your-outdoor-meals/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=413a859859-Catch The Buzz 4 29 2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-413a859859-256242233](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-a-bunch-of-ways-to-keep-honey-bees-away-from-your-outdoor-meals/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=413a859859-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-413a859859-256242233)

Tiny Chips Tell Where The Bees Are

(It's part of a research program.) Read the article here: [http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-tiny-chips-tell-where-the-bees-are/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=413a859859-Catch The Buzz 4 29 2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-413a859859-256242233](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-tiny-chips-tell-where-the-bees-are/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=413a859859-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-413a859859-256242233)

Eva Crane Trust

Read the article here: [http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-eva-crane-trust/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=637f0ece22-Catch The Buzz 4 29 2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-637f0ece22-256242233](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-eva-crane-trust/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=637f0ece22-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-637f0ece22-256242233)

Next: a lot of bits and pieces from various sources:

CSBA member Alan Mikolich forwarded this:

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/jun/03/uc-san-diego-study-offers-new-insight-honey-bee-po/>

CSBA member Patti Johnson sent in this, from ABC7 News:

<http://www.abc-7.com/story/29258794/a-new-study-suggests-aluminum-may-be-causing-dementia-in-bees>

...and this, from CBS News:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/amid-critical-bee-shortage-bee-thieves-still-thrive>

Joe Traynor contributed this, which was in the NY Times:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/03/opinion/mark-bittman-fear-of-almonds.html?emc=edit\\_ty\\_20150603&nl=opinion&nlid=69969736&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/03/opinion/mark-bittman-fear-of-almonds.html?emc=edit_ty_20150603&nl=opinion&nlid=69969736&r=0)

...and this, from Scientific American:

[http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/correction-plants-will-not-flourish-as-the-world-warms/?WT.mc\\_id=SA\\_ENGYSUS\\_20150611](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/correction-plants-will-not-flourish-as-the-world-warms/?WT.mc_id=SA_ENGYSUS_20150611)

... AND this, from the June 7 Sacramento Bee:

ANOTHER VIEW - FOCUS ON NEONICS AS HONEY BEE PROBLEM IS UNWISE

BY Joel Nelson, Special to The Bee

The American humorist Josh Billings once said, “The trouble with people is not that they don’t know but that they know so much that ain’t so.”

That goes double for many in Washington who think they know about bee health and neonicotinoid insecticides. Neonics, as they are often called, are a critical tool in almost every farming operation in the U.S., from major commodity crops to fruits and vegetables. But the EPA and White House are clearly moving to restrict these essential pesticides.

That’s because so many in our nation’s capital have been listening to activists who warn of the coming “beepocalypse” and say that neonics are to blame. But, as the White House report illustrates, bee populations in the U.S. have been steady since the mid-1990s, about the time when neonics first came on the market.

The problem is, the scare stories being promulgated by the activists just “ain’t so.” Neonics have been banned in Europe for two seasons, yet colony collapse continues. In Australia, there are no restrictions on neonics, but colony collapse does not exist there.

For my own industry, citrus, neonics represent survival, pure and simple.

The citrus industry is facing a real crisis in the form of a deadly citrus plant disease called Huanglongbing, or HLB. It is spread by the Asian citrus psyllid, an invasive insect that is now endemic in Florida and spreading quickly throughout California, including the Central Valley where 50 percent of the nation’s fresh citrus is produced. There is no cure for the disease, and once a tree becomes infected, it must be destroyed.

Neonics are one of the best tools available to combat the psyllid. Take away neonics, and we can say goodbye to California-grown citrus.

The Sacramento Bee should not make statements based on emotion (“Obama’s bee report is a bit of a buzzkill”; Editorials, May 26). There is much to applaud in the White House document. It recognizes that bee health is a complex, multifactorial problem requiring a multipronged response. It would be unwise for the White House to isolate a single potential stressor.

Commodities such as citrus, which do not require pollination, actually help to enhance bee health by providing forage. It is unacceptable for The Bee to suggest that we “do more.” It is inappropriate for The Bee to suggest forsaking the health of one industry for the supposed betterment of another, when science and data clearly indicate it just “ain’t so.”

Joel Nelsen is the president and CEO of California Citrus Mutual.

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MORE BOOKS ON PLANTS FOR BEES  
(These are available on Amazon)

Garden Plants for Honey Bees  
by Peter Lindtner, Dr. Lawrence J. Connor, Randy Kim, Robert Muir

American Honey Plants; Together with Those Which Are of Special Value to the Beekeeper as Sources of Pollen Paperback  
by Frank Chapman Pellet

Honey Plants of North America  
by Harvey B. Lovell

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VIDEOS -

First 21 days of a bee's life: <http://twistedifter.com/videos/first-21-days-of-bees-life-condensed-into-60-seconds/>

Book scorpion mite killer: [www.beenature-project.com](http://www.beenature-project.com)

Life of a seed  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9tlirsBNg4>

What is the difference between cross breeding, GMO, & cross pollination  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVWsDUWRgT4>

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## LINKS

These links will take you to important websites. Reprinting the items gets too voluminous, so I encourage you to visit the originals for some good reading any time.

From Julie, an after-school child care worker: Looking for a good information site to teach children and beginning beekeepers? Try

<http://www.serenataflowers.com/pollennation/flowers-bees-honey/>

UC-Davis on-line Newsletter is [http://elninobeelab.ucdavis.edu/apiculture\\_newsletter.html](http://elninobeelab.ucdavis.edu/apiculture_newsletter.html)

Apis newsletter - PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE. The Apis newsletter is now found at <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9296a3543dc631c8a50086511&id=ec6bf7d517>  
It can also be accessed through <http://apis.shorturl.com>

<http://beecare.bayer.com/service-center/publications/beenow-magazin>

California State Department of Food and Agriculture blog - [plantingseedsblog.cdffa.ca.gov](http://plantingseedsblog.cdffa.ca.gov)

Honey Bee Health Coalition - [www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org)

Pollinator Stewardship Council - [pollinatorstewardship.org/?page\\_id=349](http://pollinatorstewardship.org/?page_id=349), with the most recent one posting at the top of the page

Project Apis m. - [www.ProjectApism.org](http://www.ProjectApism.org)

Washington State University on bee health - [www.extension.org/bee\\_health](http://www.extension.org/bee_health)

WSU 'Green Times' newsletter - <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/blog/2015/01/wsus-green-times>

Colorado State University Pollinator Protection office - <http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/Pollinator%20Protection/index.html>

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Archived "Items...." are available on request.

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