



Partners for Sustainable Pollination

PFSP Newsletter-Spring 2010



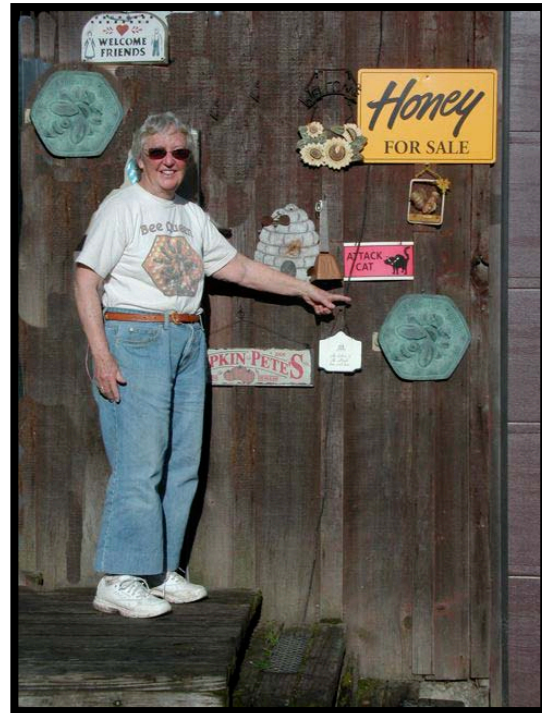
(1) Bee Friendly Farming™ (BFF)!

The “Bee Friendly Farming™” initiative continues to move forward! THANKS to the 17 founding members who have signed up to date, and to the experts who have provided invaluable input. Founding certified BFF members who are proudly displaying and using the BFF logo include El Verano Elementary, the [Sustainable Seed Company](#), [Singing Frogs Farm](#), and Peterson’s Farm.

Work is underway to continue improving and expanding program participation. [Click Here](#) for an updated description and photos. We hope to feature BFF’s on the website in the near future.

The BFF Initiative is an important means of raising consumer recognition and support for helping bees by:

- (1) Recognizing those producers who provide bee habitat,
- (2) Providing cost-share assistance to growers wanting to plant for bees,
- (3) Encouraging consumers and businesses to purchase farm products and local honey bearing the BFF logo, and
- (4) Raising awareness about the challenge beekeepers face to properly nourish their bees.



Bee Friendly Farmer™ Ettamarie Peterson,
Peterson's Farm, Petaluma, CA, Proudly
Displays Her BFF Plaque
~Photo Provided by Ettamarie Peterson



BEEcome a Bee Friendly Farmer yourself! There’s an annual, tax-deductible certification fee of \$25, which will be used to help fund cost-share assistance to growers to plant additional bee forage. Go to <http://pfspsbees.org/selfcert.htm> to access the on line self-certification.

Bee Friendly Farmer™ Mark Griffin, Estate
Manager, Napa Valley Reserve, St, Helena,
CA, Points to Buckwheat Bee Pasture in
Vineyard

~Photo by Serge Labesque

(2) 4th Annual Bee Symposium sponsored by and benefitting PFSP was a huge success!

The Symposium was held on March 7th, 2010 at the Subud Center in Sebastopol. The day featured some of the country's leading experts on honeybees and native pollinators.



The speakers for the day included: Dr. Robbin Thorp, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Entomology at UC Davis; Serge Labesque (left photo), PFSP board member and one of our areas best known and most passionate beekeepers; Kathy Kellison, Executive Director of PFSP; Noelle Johnson, Conservation Planner at Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District; Randy Oliver, Researcher, author and progressive commercial beekeeper; and Dr. Eric Mussen, Extension Apiculturist at UC Davis.

The day included a broad spectrum of scientific and practical topics, with lots of knowledge transfer to the sold out audience. The participants left with an increased understanding of the diversity of pollinators, with new knowledge of how to manage hives by utilizing lessons learned from natural bee nests, with updates on the latest advances in scientific discovery regarding honeybees and native pollinators, and with an enhanced understanding of how natural habitat makes good sense and helps both honeybees and native pollinators. We ended the day with a panel discussion so that hopefully nobody went home unsatisfied! The Symposium also featured the participation of many local nurseries & other groups who displayed pollinator friendly plants and other informational material.



Panel discussion featuring from left to right:
Dr. Eric Mussen, Serge Labesque, Randy Oliver, Kathy Kellison, Doug Vincent & Dr. Robbin Thorp
Symposium photos provided by Rebecca Woodruff

Overall it was a great day for knowledge transfer and networking, and we hope that those of you who couldn't attend this year will be sure to join us next year. For more information on the Symposium, check out our website, www.pfspbees.org.

(3) PFSP Advocacy Update

PFSP continued to be a advocate for honey bees and native pollinators during the winter months. Examples include: Letter to USDA, APHIS in support of petitions by the Honey Bee Coalition (Aussie imports) and Xerces (shipments of bumble bee packages outside their native range); Comments on EPA Spray Drift Labeling; Comments on USDA, NCRS Conservation Stewardship Program rulemaking, Comments on USDA, AMS Leafy Greens Marketing Order; Input to CA NRCS making the case for pollinator habitat and forage in NRCS EQIP priorities; and Presentation about Bee Friendly Farming™ at California State Beekeepers Association annual meeting. Go to <http://www.pfspbees.org/developments.htm> to view the archive of PFSP comments and other filings.

(4) Grower Workshops



As part of continuing outreach to growers about planting for bees, your executive director participated in two more Grower Workshops, sponsored by North Coast RCD—in Lake County in February and Shone Farm last October.

(5) PFSP Volunteer opportunities

PFSP is an all volunteer organization. Our growing band has an ongoing need for individuals to help across a broad spectrum of activities, including:

- Participation in local events, to hand out materials and educate others about PFSP,
- Help with grant writing and fundraising,
- Board membership in the organization,
- Website hosting and/or management,
- And lots more...

If you have an ability and willingness to get involved, please contact me at the e-mail address below. We are always interested in fresh ideas and energy for our Board and for our other activities.

(6) PFSP Membership

As I am sure you can appreciate, advocacy costs money. In order to have some modest funds available to cover operational costs such as print media, copying for presentations, web site design, etc. along with travel expenses to attend conferences and meetings by the executive director, we need to collect dues. Please continue to support PFSP's important mission and necessary work by going to PFSPBees.org and becoming a dues paying member!

The Symposium provided a great boost in membership (nearly 50 paid members to date!), and we'd like to thank our many new members for supporting our work! Particular thanks go out to our Queen Bee members.

THANKS Queen Bee members!
David Moreland (Agpollen.com)
Mark Griffin (The Napa Valley Reserve)
Sustainable Seed Company

Thanks to Wilibeas Wines <http://www.wilibeas.com> for posting a link to PFSP and committing to support our cause at their wine tasting events!

Thanks also to Pollinator Live, a new interactive pollinator education initiative, for featuring PFSP at <http://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org/teacher/links.php>. PFSP has reciprocated. Their site provides lots of good materials! **If you haven't done so already, please join!**

(8) Upcoming events

Sustainable Food & Gardening Festival – PFSP will be participating in the being held April 24th, 2010 from noon to 4:30pm at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. Stop by to visit our table or to hear my presentation. We are also looking for volunteers to staff the table for this event for a portion of the day.

PFSP Annual Meeting – As a registered non-profit organization our group holds an annual meeting of members in order to elect our Board, and to discuss other organization activities. While we are still working through the specific details, the annual meeting will happen the weekend of June 26/27. We will send out a notification as the details are nailed down, and post the info on PFSPbees.org—so check back often!

APAA Winter Losses Survey –If you are a beekeeper, you can help APAA and USDA, ARS tabulate 2009-10 winter losses by filling out the brief survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bee-loss0910>. The deadline is April 16.

(9) Network the CAUSE!

Help the hive through the Bee Friendly Farming™ initiative by *Spreading the Word*—now everyone can contribute to healthier bees!

- Please spread the word that 'Bee Friendly Farming™' certification is now operational through our website by talking up the concept with your friends and affiliated organizations. Engaging others will multiply the good we can do for our bees! The more exposure of the BFF logo, and folks ask "*What is that?*," the more we have an opportunity to create a voice, a buzz, for the bees! We can help everyone think and implement actions that can have a continued and increasingly growing impact thriving populations of honey bees and native pollinators!
- Encourage others to join the PFSP team!

Thanks, and have a Bee Well Day!

Kathy Kellison, Executive Director
kathy@pfspsbees.org (707) 321-4711

PS-Check out changes on the PFSP website at <http://pfspsbees.org>, and tell us what you think. It's a work in progress!