

Pollinator Stewardship Council
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Oct. 10, 2019

Report to the Tennessee Beekeepers Association

During 2019 the Pollinator Stewardship Council (PSC) accomplishments were made possible by the support of donors and members including the Tennessee Beekeepers Association. With the support of the Tennessee Beekeepers Association we continue to serve beekeepers through education, advocacy, and collaborative projects. Our mission, is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides. Our Board members and staff are all beekeepers.

In **Tennessee** specifically, we conducted grant research for a Tennessee beekeeper; participated in the Honey Convention; and provided information and referrals to individual beekeepers in Tennessee concerning specific pesticides, habitat development, pesticide labels, and notification of spraying.

We will continue to provide services and benefits to our members and supporters fulfilling our mission to:

- Affect regulatory processes of pesticide risk assessment, label, and enforcement.
- Provide advocacy, guidance and tools to document the detrimental effect of pesticides on pollinators.
- Raise awareness about the adverse impact of pesticides on pollinators critical to the supply of food and the ecosystem.

Our benefits to members and supporters, depending on membership level, may include:

- *a monthly newsletter,*
- *participation in advocacy actions,*
- *support letters for state and local advocacy (unless in direct conflict with our mission),*
- *possible collaborative programs,*
- *member's logo and web link posted on our website and newsletter (when provided to us),*
- *one to three presentations at the State/regional beekeeping group conference/meeting (travel expenses not included),*
- *assistance with a singular research or presentation project for the association,*
- *assist with grant writing/research for a local project,*
- *support through our advocacy software of your state beekeeping legislative issues,*
- *assistance with nonprofit development and strategic planning for your local/State Association.*

2019 Activities

Comment / Advocacy Actions

We submitted letters to EPA, USDA, APHIS, and for local/regional actions/research on issues relevant to beekeepers:

1. Pesticides; Petition Seeking Rulemaking or a Formal Agency Interpretation for Planted Seeds Treated With Systemic Insecticides; EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0805
2. APHIS grasshopper and Mormon cricket suppression activities, APHIS-2016-0045-0001
3. Pesticides; Petition Seeking Revised Testing Requirements of Pesticides Prior to Registration; EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0262
4. Support letter to designate the month of April as Native Plant Month in Ohio
5. Support letter for native bee houses to Canal Fulton, Ohio Planning Commission
6. Docket NRCS–2019–0003; Review of USDA-NRCS National Conservation Practice Standards as listed in the Federal Register: Vol.84, No. 47, March 11, 2019, page 8663
7. Support letter for research grant application for Dr. Judy Wu-Smart’s “Developing Regional Pesticide Exposure Monitoring and Mitigation for Midwest Beekeepers.”
8. Comment letter to EPA concerning their update to the RT25 Data Table
9. Docket NRCS–2019–0003: Review of USDA-NRCS National Conservation Practice Standards
10. Docket No. APHIS-2019-0002; Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.: Release of *Aphalara Itadori* for the Biological Control of Japanese, Giant, and Bohemian Knotweeds
11. Testified at Kroger shareholder meeting concerning their pollinator policy

Legal Actions to Protect Pollinators

Sept. 2019- filed a Petition in the Ninth Circuit Court to review the July 12, 2019 orders of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registering new uses for the active ingredient sulfoxaflor and amending sulfoxaflor’s registration to remove restrictions on use.

March 2019--Freedom of Information Act request for all documents in EPA possession (correspondence, memoranda, phone records, notes, or other documents) relating to the bee kill incidents that have been reported to Tom Steeger, Senior Advisor, Environmental Risk Branch IV (ERB4), Robert Miller, contact for Bee Kill reports at EPA and reports submitted electronically to beekill@epa.gov between 2013 and 2018.

Direct Education and Outreach

1. Jan. 9-11, 2019 ABF Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC/ AHPA in Phoenix
2. Jan. 17, 2019—East Central OH Beekeepers
3. Feb. 15-16, 2019- Western PA Beekeeping Seminar
4. Feb. 23, 2019- Indiana Bee School
5. March 21-22, 2019—Honey Bee Convention, Knoxville, TN
6. April 25-26, 2019--SUNY-Geneseo, NY
7. June 3, 2019 --Los Angeles County Beekeepers, Calif.
8. June 2, 2019--Long Beach Beekeepers, Calif.

9. June 16, 2019 --Preservation Parks, Ohio
10. June 17, 2019—developed and presented a Corporate Pollinator Habitat Symposium
11. June 18, 2019--CH. 8 Cleveland TV interview-New Day Cleveland
12. June 19, 2019--Maumee Valley Library presentation, Ohio
13. June 20, 2019--Zanesville Library presentation, Ohio
14. June 22, 2019--Franklin Park Pollinator Palooza, Ohio
15. July 15-19, 2019- EAS in North Carolina
16. Aug. 8-10, 2019- North Carolina State Beekeepers Assn. Conference
17. Aug. 19, 2019—Lake Shore Garden Club, Ohio
18. Sept. 28, 2019—Hunger Dialogue- Ohio
19. Oct. 10-12, 2019—Tennessee Beekeepers Association Conference

From 2013-2019, we have acted on our mission through our program activities:

- Challenged the registration of the pesticide Sulfoxaflor in the Ninth Circuit Court, winning the case to make changes to the label to protect pollinators and crops.
- Partnered with Scotts MiracleGRO Foundation to remove neonicotinoids from their Ortho home garden products by 2019 (two years ahead of schedule).
- Represented beekeepers on EPA committees (PPDC, PPDC-MP3 metrics, MP3 Symposium planning committee).
- Secured Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to create 33 acres of model habitat projects with the Dayton VA, Fairborn Cement, and Professional Psychological Services.
- Created collaborative project to bring beekeeping and pollinator habitat to the Boy Scout Camp in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
- Shared beekeepers' concerns nationally through Regulations.gov for 49 national, and 8 state public comment opportunities.
- Created a Pollinator Week Collaborative education event with destination venues in Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association and Scotts MiracleGRO Foundation.
- Provided education outreach to 146 groups across the U.S., Canada, and Australia.
- Collected and filed 83 bee kill reports for beekeepers.
- Provided information and support concerning Managed Pollinator Protection Plans to state beekeeping groups.
- Executive Producer of the *short film documentary* of the “Keep the Hives Alive Tour,” a partnership of 30+ nonprofit groups focused on sustainable agriculture.
- Collaborated with fellow pollinator/food/farmer advocates contributing to national legislation to protect pollinators.
- Collaborated with the Honey Bee Health Coalition, and the Bee Understanding Project.
- Strengthened our local and state beekeeping associations through nonprofit management and strategic planning services to 10 beekeeping club member groups.

- Supported the work of our members through education, advocacy, and action on their local and state pollinator concerns.

Collaborative Projects:

Corporate Pollinator Habitat—Ohio Env. Educ. Fund grant
 Squire Valleevue Farm -GRO1000 grant
 Boy Scout Project-Ohio State Beekeepers Assn., Subaru
 Keep the Hives Alive Tour- 30 nonprofit groups

Advocacy Actions

People & Pollinators Action Network- June 2018	Akron Bee Ordinance
Farm Bill 2018	OH HB 392
Colorado MP3	Flea Beetle
OH apiary Rules	EPA- Pollinator Week
USDA- Pollinator Week	2016 Pollinator Week-Congress
Massachusetts MP3	Tax payer funded research
Risk Cup Runneth Over	Support USDA Scientists
OH Honey bee License Plate	Secret Science Reform Act
Massachusetts S.2159	Calif AB 1789
Honey Month and Day	Saving America’s Pollinators Act
HR 4790- Highways Bee Act	

25 YouTube videos and number of views

Keep the Hives Alive Tour-primer-	2,407	Bee Understanding Project	140
Neonics Wordcloud	12	Beekill Word Cloud	30
Bumble bee sleeping	4	PSC accomplishments	6
Fairborn Habitat-sound	11	Fairborn habitat development	19
Prof. Services habitat dev.	9	Dayton VA habitat dev.	12
Ellis bee kill	33	TruGreen truck spill	248
Mosquito spray kill	80	What we do	30
PSC Projects	17	MP3s	4
Label exceptions	3	Bee kill-Jeff	53
Bee Indiegogo campaign	562	Develop habitat in your yard	1,060
Hive Tracking Project	64	Honey Bee License Plates	69
Apimondia	622	12 days of beekeeping Christmas	350
Bee Hazards	38		

Facebook posts

Posts in 2014	86	Posts in 2015 = 203	Posts in 2016= 109
Posts in 2017	283	Posts in 2018 to date=158	Posts in 2019= 206

Website: www.pollinatorstewardship.org

Added 100 pages to original website Redesigned website in June 2018

Average weekly work hours of Program Director 60 hours

Presentation history: 23 presentation topics

2013- 11 presentations across the USA

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2015- 30 presentations across the USA

2016- 29 presentations across the USA & Canada

2017- 37 presentations across USA & Australia

2018- 25 presentations across the USA

2019-19 presentations across the USA

Committee participation

EPA / PPDC MP3 submetrics

EPA- beekill metrics review

Honey Bee Health Coalition- 2 workgroups

Ohio Pollinator Plan committee; Cleveland Pollinator Plan Committee

EPA/USDA MP3 Symposium Committee


Nationally

- Secured the removal of neonics from Ortho home garden pesticide products
- Won changes to the label and use of Sulfoxaflor in 2015;
- Filed a new Petition in 2019 due to expanded use of Sulfoxaflor
- 49 comment letters submitted to EPA/USDA/States

The donation by the Tennessee Beekeepers Association helped to support all of this work. Your donation supported our work for beekeepers, beekeeping, honey bees, and native pollinators. I sincerely appreciate your support. Through your donation you have expressed a belief in our mission. Through the work of the Pollinator Stewardship Council we express a belief in you, in beekeeping, and our managed and native pollinators.

I hope you will continue to support our work for you, beekeepers, honey bees, and native pollinators.

Gratefully submitted to the Board and membership of the Tennessee Beekeepers Association Oct. 10, 2019,


Michele Colopy
Program Director