

## The Beauty of the Bee Photography Exhibit Travels to the State Capitol for Legislative Hearing

Bees and other pollinators such as butterflies are in dire trouble. Their existence is threatened by the increasing use of a highly toxic class of pesticides. These pesticides are “neonicotinoids,” a name indicating their chemical relationship to nicotine. American bee keepers are reporting that they are losing as much as 30% of their hives each year. It is sobering to realize that 70% of all the food we eat is somehow dependent on pollination by a bee.

Beyond Toxics has stepped up to take on the challenge of protecting bees. A critical step is increasing public demand for bee-friendly practices and policies.

One innovative project is our 2nd Annual “Imagining a World Beyond Toxics” Photography Contest.

With over 70 astonishingly beautiful photos submitted, five winners were selected. A total of fifteen photographs were chosen for “The Beauty of the Bee” Traveling Photography Exhibit. The exhibit is sponsored by The Kiva grocery store and the McKenzie Fund. Please contact Beyond Toxics if you are interested in having the



## Friends of Healthy Bees Project Update

exhibit displayed at your event or place of business.

The photography contest supports Beyond Toxics’ successful petition drive to demand that Oregon ban

neonicotinoid pesticides. Nearly 12,000 Oregonians have signed the petition so far.

### Legislative Plans

On November 21st, we will deliver petitions to ban neonicotinoid pesticides to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and attend a legislative hearing that will investigate recent massive bee die-offs in Oregon. Experts describe increasingly common bee deaths connected to neonicotinoid exposures.

Beyond Toxics and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters are leading the effort to convince lawmakers to take immediate action to protect bees. Beyond Toxics has arranged to have the *Beauty of the Bee* Exhibit on display at the State Capitol when the petitions are delivered and the hearing takes place.

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For a third time in recent years, Beyond Toxics volunteers took to the streets to survey community health in West Eugene. We verified that one-third of families living in the Bethel neighborhood have family members suffering from asthma and that people experience intense smells from nearby industrial sites.

## New Study on Asthma and Air in Eugene

Our findings are the subject of a 2014 health study (the Mobile Exposure Device Pilot Study), designed and led by researchers at Oregon State University (OSU). The study’s goal is to reduce human risk and susceptibility to environmental stressors in air. Study participants will wear a flexible silicon wristband that absorbs chemicals in the air. Researchers will analyze these chemicals and correlate them with breathing and lung function.

The OSU study is just one example of Beyond Toxics’ essential projects that protect health and create hope for families. Our work responds to concerns expressed by West Eugene residents about pollution from biomass and chemical companies that seek to increase their emissions of hazardous chemicals and resist working with neighborhoods to improve air quality.

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Dear Friend and Supporter,

When I think about Beyond Toxics' impact in 2013, I recall victories as big as passing the Oregon Safe Public Places Act, one of the nation's strongest pesticide reduction laws – and as intimate as helping a brave West Eugene family with both parents and two young children suffering from severe asthma.

That is how broad our influence is – passing protective statewide laws and doing cutting-edge research to expose how kids' asthma is linked to industrial air pollution.

Our victories are made possible by members like you. I thank you for supporting Beyond Toxics. Your support has a direct and meaningful benefit because it helps us accomplish effective, accountable, and transparent work on issues that affect Oregonians.

**The air "smells like cancer"**

This year we worked to stop coal exports, sound the alarm about children's asthma, protect communities from toxic air and reduce pesticides on state lands. The common theme in all these issues is toxic pollution. The West Eugene family – Jake, his wife, and their two children, ages 4 and 8 – have owned their home in the Trainsong area for a decade. All four suffer from asthma and use inhalers daily. Jake says that the air around his home often "smells like cancer." They felt isolated and hopeless until Beyond Toxics published our report showing that school children in industrialized West Eugene have a 72% greater chance of having asthma. Our report caught the attention of researchers at the OSU School of Public Health. A new study will look at whether asthma is more likely to be triggered by breathing polluted air. The study will be done in West Eugene, and Jake wants to be in it. He knows that the outcome will help his children's health.

You can feel proud to support Beyond Toxics because we use both legislative victories and scientific findings to solve the problem of toxic chemicals in our bodies, our air and our drinking water. We aren't flashy; we're effective.

**Turning your values into reality**

Our top challenges in 2014 are issues you care about: ending the rapid decline of bees; reducing asthma in Oregon's children; keeping pesticides out of our drinking water; promoting environmental justice as a human right. Beyond Toxics is working hard—and making a difference—to turn your values into reality.

Please make a generous contribution of \$50, \$100, \$250 or any amount meaningful to you. Each dollar you donate goes directly to support our work in Oregon and your community. Most of our support comes from membership donations. We need your help to take on the issues that matter most to Oregonians.

Thank you for continuing to make Beyond Toxics one of your top non-profits.



In gratitude,

*Lisa*

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

## Oregon's Industrial Forests and Herbicide Use: A Case Study of Risk to People, Drinking Water and Salmon

### Pesticide Reform Project

Beyond Toxics has published the first comprehensive report documenting and exposing the pervasive use of herbicides throughout Oregon's state and private industrial forest lands. "*Oregon's Industrial Forests and Herbicide Use: A Case Study of Risk to People, Drinking Water and Salmon*," is a game-changer for all those concerned about the discovery of forestry herbicides in the bodies of dozens of Lane County residents living near logged forests.

The report is a tool for Beyond Toxics to educate the public and drive the effort to overhaul Oregon's weak chemical regulations. Senator Ron Wyden and his staff are using the report to help craft his plan to protect Oregon's federal forests from a threat to increase logging and pesticide sprays.

We've uncovered damaging practices unknown to our elected leaders and the public. Here are a few highlights:

1. Both Washington and Idaho have stronger laws regulating forestry chemicals. In Idaho, residential areas are protected by a ½ mile no-spray buffer. Oregon has no buffer. Washington and Idaho protect headwaters of salmon streams. Oregon does not.



Aerial herbicide spray on steep clearcut. Photograph by Francis Earthington.

2. Atrazine (a hormone disruptor) and 2,4-D (a carcinogen) were the most common herbicides sprayed by air. These were the chemicals found at unusually high levels in Triangle Lake residents in 2011. Our report proves that, from 2009 to 2011, there was a significant increase in the quantity of atrazine (73%) and 2,4-D (80%) sprayed.

3. Herbicides were sprayed within yards of the Triangle Lake School drinking water well. Testing by the government showed that the same chemical was detected in the school's water a few months later.

The data raises questions about whether private forestry companies have complied with state and federal law regulating pesticides near salmon streams and the sources of our drinking water.

Pure drinking water is a top concern to Oregonians, according to a recent poll by the Pew Charitable

Trust. Most Oregonians get their drinking water from rivers, such as the McKenzie, that run through industrial logging areas. We are shocked that Oregon law does very little to protect drinking water and people from exposures to toxic forestry herbicides. Beyond Toxics' report will play an important role in changing the stalemate on forestry practices in Oregon. For more information: [www.BeyondToxics.org](http://www.BeyondToxics.org). \*\*\*\*\*

### Beyond Toxics welcomes 5 new board members...

We are pleased to welcome **David Monk** as our new Board President. David served as Executive Director of Beyond Toxics from 2001-2004 and as Board President from 2005-07. He was appointed by the Eugene City Council to the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency board in 2007 and served two 3-year terms. He has recently been involved in campaigns to hold public officials accountable and returns to Beyond Toxics with the hope of furthering our campaigns.

David joins a roster of four other new board members who will add energy and passion to our work:

**Joanne Skirving** is an independent technical and grant writer with experience in developing medical

and Oregon Health Plan communications, designing and writing e-learning, and managing health care and advocacy web sites.

**Carter McKenzie** is active in the poetry community as a writer, teacher, editor, and publisher. She is the author of the chapbook, *Naming Departure* and a full-length book of poetry, *Out of Refusal*.

**Cameron Hubbe** is a social worker for PeaceHealth Medical Center; she coordinates planning and support for patients and families with healthcare, drug/alcohol treatment, end of life, and financial concerns.

**Lokyee Au** is a University of Oregon graduate student and former Beyond Toxics intern working on environmental justice issues.

**Legislative Plans, cont.**

The hearing will be the first time the issue of pesticides and pollinators has been raised in Oregon's Legislature. Experts will give testimony on bee die-offs, as well as the \$4 million dollars of economic benefit honey and honey-related products provide for Oregon. If we do not protect bees now, Oregon could face potential losses of over \$600 million dollars in agricultural production. These figures do not take into account the value-added products produced from fruit and vegetables that go into making juices, applesauce, jams, confections, cosmetics, and more.

**City of Eugene Takes Bold Steps to Protect Bees and Birds**

Beyond Toxics is working with the Eugene City Council and city staff to establish Pesticide-Free Parks and a policy to ban the use of neonicotinoids on city property. As a result, there will be a Council work session, sponsored by Councilors Claire Syrett and George Brown. The proposal is to adopt new requirements for Pesticide-Free Parks for all neighborhoods. This is an important step we must take to protect children, pregnant mothers, pets and bees.

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