



Leadership
For a
Clean and Just
Oregon

SUMMER
2017



Photo by Carla Hervert

Beyond Toxics NEWSLETTER

The path ahead on environmental health

by Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

Perhaps you and I started 2017 feeling absolutely confident Oregon would be a bulwark against the destructive forces rapidly tearing at the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal environmental protections.

But that's not the way things are working out – at least not yet. Beyond Toxics brought forward three legislative initiatives this session reflecting real environmental health problems faced by Oregonians.

What were our goals? First, our Oregon Pollinator Protection Act would prevent further die-offs of pollinators (SB 929 - Chief Sponsor Senator Prozanski); Second, Beyond Toxics' aerial spray bill would give rural residents advanced warning about aerial herbicide sprays and documentation of what pesticides are used in their drinking watersheds (SB 892 - Key Sponsor Senator Dembrow); Third, our Air Toxics Reporting bill would require polluters to stop cloaking their toxic air pollution in secrecy by reporting to local governments (HB 2669 – Chief Sponsors Senator Taylor and Representative Nosse).

You and I know the Legislature can be a labyrinth of dead-ends and an incubator of false facts. After highest hopes for successful passage, I am frustrated to report that, as a result of corporate lobbying and budget battles, our 2017 bills were killed in committee. But we aren't done fighting...not by a long shot!

Industrial lobbyists made use of the old gimmick of killing rational conversation by repeating these phrases over and over: "job killing regulations" and "fringe environmental agitators!" Also, addressing Oregon's budget deficit stole energy and resolve from legislators. Bills with a "price tag" were unceremoniously dumped, regardless of their merit.

Truthfully, seeing our Pollinator Protection Act falter because of one vote was discouraging. Looking forward, I intend to make sure that future Oregonians will never have to ask, "Where was Oregon when our native bees faced extinction and our food security was threatened?"



Beyond Toxics and allies rally for Water and Wildlife at the State Capitol April 19th.

We do have good news to share. Another pollinator campaign we've worked on is winning! Major retailers, Walmart and True Value have committed to eliminating the sale of neonics in 2018! That means our message about the bio-persistence of neonicotinoids is getting traction!

I am hit hard with the reminder that chemical trespass and pollution affects all of us, often in devastating and random ways that change our lives forever. To protect Oregon's most beleaguered communities and our planet we must work together to maintain a full court press. Will you join me to champion the moral imperative to protect the integrity of soils, water, air and wildlife? The actions we take today will help pave the road for a future of environmental justice and community health.

Dear Friend,

In our lifetimes we have never faced such daunting challenges to protect the environment as we encounter today. Yet, Beyond Toxics remains *undaunted*! Our passion for justice guides how we meet this challenge.

Many people tell me they are grateful for Beyond Toxics' effective and cutting-edge work merging science, environmental health and social justice. We appreciate being recognized as strong grassroots organizers. Thank you for supporting our work to protect Oregon's frontline communities from harm caused by the burden of pollution and chemical trespass.

Too many Oregon communities are assaulted by industrial air toxics. Families can't play outdoors because of noxious vapors. We all know that clean air is basic for a healthy life. That's why we will ensure that Oregon puts your health before industry profits. In my appointed position on the Governor's Cleaner Air Oregon Policy Committee, I focus on equitable, health-based air quality policies. This is critical to me and a high priority for our work. I know clean air is very important to you as well.

Your support empowers Beyond Toxics to make sure every Oregonian has pure water to drink. In fact, about 70% of Oregon towns get their drinking water from rivers. All of us should be concerned that pesticides are showing up in Oregonians' drinking water where they absolutely don't belong! Beyond Toxics is committed to keeping agricultural and forestry pesticides out of streams and rivers.

We've had an outpouring of support for our project to protect native bees and pollinators. Bees are responsible for the majority of foods we enjoy. That's why our Oregon Pollinator Protection campaign is part of our food justice work. When food becomes scarce, the first people to feel the impacts will be the workers who harvest our food. Farm workers are the poorest among us, and have an average life span of only 49 years, compared to the national life expectancy of 79 years. Both bees and workers are harmed by neurotoxic neonicotinoids and other insecticides. Beyond Toxics works with farmworker rights groups and labor unions to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and protected equally under the law.

So many of you have reached out to ask me what more you can do to help. The answer is to join us, get involved and advocate with us! I sincerely invite you to attend one of our many events or meetings to learn more about environmental justice and health.

Our voices are stronger together. Please join with us in taking action against political attacks on the clean air, clean water and healthy food we all depend on.

I ask you to please support Beyond Toxics' effective grassroots organizing with your contribution of \$25, \$40 or \$100 to protect environmental health.

Together we embrace our shared vision for a future when fairness and inclusion in environmental policies becomes a reality in our beautiful state.



Lisa and her granddaughter, Lily.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

You can donate using the enclosed gift envelope or by going online: www.BeyondToxics.org.

P.S. Beyond Toxics is a grassroots, community-focused non-profit. Your donation makes a significant difference in our ability to advocate on your behalf. Please consider giving a gift membership to a friend!

Beyond Toxics welcomes a new board member and a new staff member!



Kristina Lefever

BOARD MEMBER

Soon after moving to Ashland in 2012, Kristina became involved in the movement to help save our bees and other pollinators. As a leading member of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, Chair of Bee City USA Ashland, a member of the Ashland Garden Club, and a certified Jackson County Master Gardener, Kristina often gives presentations about pollinators and other beneficial insects, the plants and habitats that will best support them, and the harm pesticides cause to us and our ecosystems. Kristina and her husband turned their barren property in Ashland into a pollinator garden, with many native plants, trees, and dandelions. Her dream is that everyone's yard will include a little or a lot of pollinator habitat, even if it's just a pot of lavender on the porch.

We're grateful, Kristina, that you are adding your knowledge and experience to Beyond Toxics!

Farewells to four hardworking board members!

by Lisa Arkin

After four years of meaningful service on the Beyond Toxics Board of Directors, members Dr. Lauren Herbert and Joanne Skirving are stepping off our board to pursue additional work that is very much related to the Beyond Toxics mission. Pediatrician Lauren is joining the Lane County Medical Society Board to apply her considerable knowledge in the environmental determinants of children health. Joanne is increasing her leadership in CeaseFire Oregon, an educational group aimed at ending gun violence. Beyond Toxics thanks you for your dedication to our mission and projects and wishes you lots of success in your future endeavors. Our Board had the honor of two members from the University of Oregon Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER) serve on our Board. CAER leaders Jackie Mayorga and Abel Cerros enriched our board with their perspectives on organizing youth and communities of color. As graduating seniors, they are now off to pursue the next chapter of their busy lives.

We wish them well and thank them for their service to the mission of Beyond Toxics!



Mysti Frost

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Mysti was born in Billings Montana. Her father is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe so Mysti spent her early childhood immersed in tribal customs and lifestyle. She then moved to and was raised in Jalisco, Mexico. She is bilingual and multicultural having had a very unconventional childhood. Mysti worked as a Legal Assistant at the Law Offices of Lourdes Sanchez. She worked there for over three years helping Spanish-speaking injured workers all over the state of Oregon access the law. Mysti heard many stories from farmers and heavy laborers about the toxic working and abusive conditions they were forced to endure. This fueled her passion for environmental justice and workers' rights and her desire to help create safe work environments for all Oregonians. Mysti joined our team in January 2017.

Beyond Toxics is fighting for your right to (absolutely) clean air by Lisa Arkin



Photo by Natalie Hardwicke

Beyond Toxics is the environmental representative on the Governor's Cleaner Air Oregon Advisory Group (CAO). Our task on the CAO is to call into question, and reverse, a long history of building an industrial economy around the dumping of unlimited toxic waste into our common air shed and rivers. The paradigm change we seek stops industry's irresponsible and disparaging treatment of the health and safety of nearby communities. As we've seen in the 2017 legislature, corporate lobbyists constantly belittle the growing science on acute and chronic diseases attributable to air pollution. That is why the goal of CAO is to regulate air pollution using health-based criteria. Basing air regulations on the principles of health protection is a welcome 180-degree shift for Oregon.

As things stand, Oregon's laws prioritize the polluter's economic costs and benefits. In contrast, health-based regulations hold polluters legally accountable for reducing pollutants that are known triggers for cancer, asthma and heart disease.

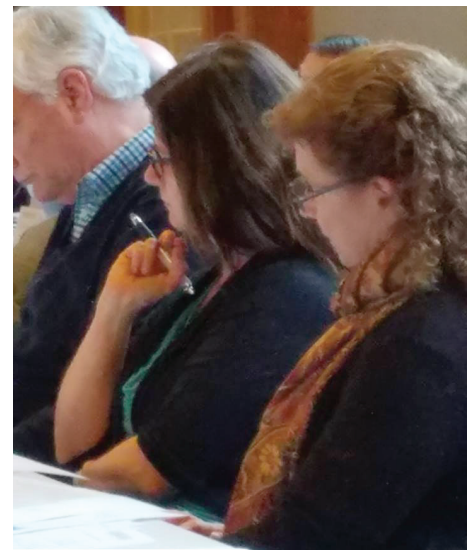
Beyond Toxics continues to be a vocal advocate for science, common sense and public health in the CAO meetings. We have been working to keep the conversation focused on protecting vulnerable, frontline communities who are overburdened by air toxics. Our grassroots organizing has inspired us to reach out to communities in Corvallis, The Dalles, and Medford. We are lifting up their voices in the CAO process, attending their town hall meetings, giving presentations and helping them draft community recommendations.

We are active partners with suffering communities in the Portland area such as the Eastside Portland

Air Coalition, Cully Clean Air and PDX North Harbor Neighbors. Beyond Toxics spearheaded the statewide coalition to demand that polluters disclose their air toxics to local, impacted communities. Over twenty-four organizations signed on to our coalition letter for House Bill 2669, the Toxics Reporting and Community Right to Know bill.

On your behalf, Beyond Toxics is fully committed and involved in a statewide movement for clean air in Oregon. And that is where you come in as our key ally. We need an activated public alliance to stand up to industry opposition! Stand with us to reform Oregon's air pollution laws to focus on preventing the harmful effects of pollutants on health, The Cleaner Air Oregon recommended policies will be open for public comment very soon. By adopting Cleaner Air Oregon laws, Oregon can be one of the nation's top protectors of clean air.

With your help, we can increase our impact to pass these health-affirming laws. If you have an air pollution story to tell or can volunteer to help us mobilize public testimony, please call our office and talk to Lisa: 541-465-



Clean Air Oregon meeting (L: Jessica Applegate, Eastside Portland Air Coalition; R: Lisa Arkin, Beyond Toxics)

Oregon's shame: the mistreatment of farm workers

by **Mysti Frost, Environmental Justice Community Organizer** and **Lisa Arkin, Executive Director**

Good news! The EPA recently passed new laws to require a 100-ft. no-spray buffer to protect people living in farm worker housing located in fields and orchards. Bad news! Oregon's state agency charged with protecting worker safety, OSHA, wants to exempt farmers and orchardists from following federal law! "How can that be!?" you ask. We asked the same question!

Beyond Toxics, along with our allies in labor and farm worker advocacy, submitted a letter condemning OSHA for refusing to adopt federal worker standards for pesticide protections. Instead of protecting workers, OSHA bowed to industry pressure to ignore the required 100-ft. no-spray buffer altogether. Instead, Oregon's agricultural industry wants to force workers (and their families) to "shelter in place" during pesticide applications.

"Shelter in place" is a euphemism for having farm workers cower inside their wooden shacks while aerial and air blast pesticide sprays swirl all around them. OSHA's misguided "shelter in place" recommendation takes away the 100-ft. no-spray buffer.



Farmworker housing, Jackson County, Oregon (May 2017)

pesticide fumes without a safe option of going outside to cool down, get water or use a bathroom.

Employers object to any protective buffer! One orchard owner told OSHA in a rulemaking meeting, "We love our people." Statements like this seem disingenuous when growers spray organophosphates such as malathion and chlorpyrifos!

It's clear that the workers' real stories aren't reaching the people at the top who make the rules. We must make sure Oregon's migrant farm workers are not exploited. Lifting up their voices is part of the solution. Beyond Toxics will continue to push OSHA forward and support worker advocates and our allies to defend workers' rights.

ROSA'S STORY...

At the invitation of our partner, Latino Unidos Siempre, Beyond Toxics met with farmworkers at a farm worker housing complex just outside of Salem. Our two organizations planned a day of awareness about the health risks of exposure to pesticides and cleaning chemicals. During our time at the training, We met a farm worker, Rosa (not her real name). Rosa was accompanied by her son, 11 years old. You could tell that he was very protective of his mom. Rosa is from Guatemala and came to the US when she was 14, fleeing that country's civil war. I asked her to tell me about her experiences as a farm worker. Her first complaint was about not having a bathroom while working. She told me she is regularly exposed to pesticides on her skin and by breathing fumes. I asked her if she had protective gloves. She said the owner at a strawberry patch didn't allow her to use gloves when picking strawberries and said she would be fired if she did. There wasn't any water to wash her hands or get a drink.

Rosa's story is all too common. Big industry denies all these problems. They insist they have an economic need to mistreat workers. It is no coincidence slave owners used the same argument. Here we are in 2017, a century and a half after the Civil War, yet our society still allows the same shameful treatment: shanty housing, no protection from hazardous work conditions, and a lack of simple human amenities like bathrooms and running water.

The Buzz on Beneficial Insects

Every spring organic gardens begin buzzing with activity, much of it a life and death struggle between predators and prey. When nature is in balance, you'll find a diverse abundance of beneficial, predatory bugs that eat many of the invasive pests that gardeners don't want, such as aphids, spider mites and mosquitoes. Attracting these beneficial insects is a safe and environmentally friendly way to control damaging insects you'd rather not have feasting on your kale and roses.

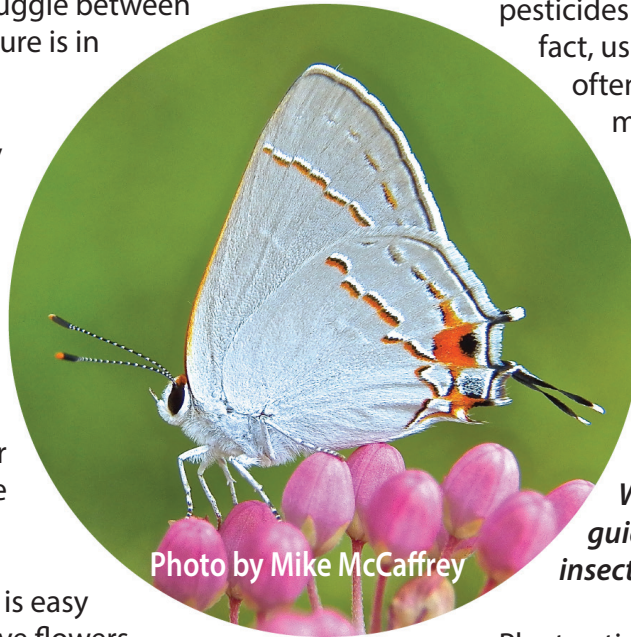


Photo by Mike McCaffrey

Encouraging nature's balance is easy to do! Start with planting native flowers and shrubs to enhance habitat. This will attract beneficial insects to your garden. It's essential that your garden landscape is free of toxic pesticides (like

by Krystal Abrams

neonicotinoids). These highly persistent pesticides throw nature out of balance. In fact, using neonicotinoid pesticides can often worsen pest problems by killing microorganisms that support the plants and wildlife we love. It takes time for beneficial insects to resolve pest issues naturally, so a little patience will pay off! This summer, put aside the pesticides that indiscriminately kill both predator and prey insects.

We hope you enjoy Beyond Toxics' guide to attracting beneficial garden insects sent to you in this newsletter!

Plant native flowers that enhance habitat for these beneficial insects in your garden and start building an environment that is clean, safe and healthy for everyone!

BEYOND TOXICS IN ACTION



Jack Anderson drove from Garibaldi, OR to support Wildlife & Water Rally Day at the State Capitol.



Lauren Willis organized sign-making for Rally Day.



Krystal, Lauren & Sulley drove a bus-load of activists to the State Capitol for Rally Day.



People from every corner of the state gathered to demand stronger environmental leadership in Oregon.



Mysti Frost (center) w/ members of Latin Unidos Siempre (LUS) gave out non-toxic cleaning supplies to farmworkers.



10-year-old, Alice, testifies in support of SB 929, the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act.



At the CAER conference, we met with Dr. Robert D. Bullard, the father of Environmental Justice.



Our intern, Sulley, recruits young activists from the University of Oregon during Earth Week.



Stephen Nichols designed & created the official logo for the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act.



Residents of Cedar Valley harmed by aerial spray return to legislature to testify in support of SB 892, Aerial Spray Notification.



Immigrant Recognition Day at the State Capitol w/ Ramon Ramirez & Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon.



FOLLOW BEYOND TOXICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



2017 Events Calendar

JULY

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PARTY Wednesday, July 12th 5-7 PM

Join us for beer and snacks to help us celebrate YOU, our members! Without you, we couldn't be successful in this challenging work we do. It's a chance to engage in a dialog about projects and priorities and chat with our staff.

Check our website or sign up for our email alerts to learn the party location.



Krystal Abrams, Lisa Arkin and Mysti Frost

NATIVE BEE CONSERVATION DAY July 25th - All Day

WHAT: Native Bee Conservation Day Fundraiser at Cornucopia – both locations

WHEN: Tuesday, July 25th all day (8 am to 10 pm)

WHERE: Both locations of Cornucopia in Eugene: 295 W 17th Ave. and 207 East 5th Ave.

Mention "Beyond Toxics" to your server and 20% of your meal will be donated to us! The bartender will mix special bar drinks made of Mountain Rose Herbs Pollinator Tea. Free tastings of this tea will be available!



AUGUST

BEE JAZZY August 3rd 5:30-9:30 PM

WHAT: Bee Jazzy, a Benefit to Save Oregon's Bees

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 3rd, 2017 from 5:30 - 9:30 pm

WHERE: Silvan Ridge Winery - 27012 Briggs Hill Rd, Eugene, OR 97405

Music by: Halie Loren Jazz Trio with Halie Loren, Matt Treder and Brian West

TICKETS: \$35, includes free glass of Silvan Ridge wine.

Sponsored by: Mountain Rose Herbs and GloryBee

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Leadership for a Clean and Just Oregon

P.O. Box 1106
Eugene, OR 97440
Phone: 541-465-8860
info@beyondtoxics.org
www.beyondtoxics.org

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Beyond Toxics weaves social justice and human rights advocacy into environmental protection policies.

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our very special annual event!



BEYOND TOXICS

invites you to

Bee



Jazzy

featuring music by

Halie Loren Jazz Trio

with Halie Loren, Matt Treder and Brian West

Sponsored by:

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SAVE THE DATE

Thursday

August 3rd

5:30 - 9:30 PM

a benefit to save bees

AT

Silvan Ridge
WINERY