

Dear Students, Colleagues and Friends,

It seems as if I took an unintended hiatus from this newsletter. However; it seems this has only served to provide greater fodder for this late summer edition.

I didn't set out to provide you with a robust coverage of bees and other pollinators. It just sort of – grew. First, Jane Hardy sent out a notice to the Tennessee Women in Green about something called the Wildbranch Writing Workshop. Since two books have been trying to force their way out of me and onto the page I applied. There are not ample words to describe the education I received there from my our instructors and all the gifted writers there; nor gratitude deep enough to recount the blessings of the friendships I made. What is pertinent to this newsletter is the resulting essay which I have attached. That's what started the bee thing. When you read it, you'll see.

Next, I heard from my dear friend and naturalist, Vera Vollbrecht. She sent this: The following is a link to the preview of the upcoming Time Magazine August edition. <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2149141,00.html>

It's a warning on honeybees to which every sustainabilist should pay heed as it affects the foundations of your lives, your children's lives and the upcoming conditions of our communities and world. To paraphrase The Duke, "No hyperbole. Just fact."

Maybe a week later I received this from some colleagues at EPA: FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE August 15, 2013

**New Pesticide Labels Will Better Protect Bees and Other Pollinators**

WASHINGTON – In an ongoing effort to protect bees and other pollinators, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed new pesticide labels that prohibit use of some neonicotinoid pesticide products where bees are present.

"Multiple factors play a role in bee colony declines, including pesticides. The Environmental Protection Agency is taking action to protect bees from pesticide exposure and these label changes will further our efforts," said Jim Jones, assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The new labels will have a bee advisory box and icon with information on routes of exposure and spray drift precautions. Today's announcement affects products containing the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. The EPA will work with pesticide manufacturers to change labels so that they will meet the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) safety standard.

In May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and EPA released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health, showing scientific consensus that there are a complex set of stressors associated with honey bee declines, including loss of habitat, parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.

The agency continues to work with beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, pesticide and seed companies, and federal and state agencies to reduce pesticide drift dust and advance best management practices. The EPA recently released new enforcement guidance to federal, state and tribal enforcement officials to enhance investigations of beekill incidents.

More on the EPA's label changes and pollinator protection

efforts: <http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/ecosystem/pollinator/index.html>

View the infographic on EPA's new bee advisory

box: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ecosystem/pollinator/bee-label-info-graphic.pdf>

Truly, some folks are paying attention to this. And so we should. When a bank of creatures are responsible for 90% of our flower blooms and make possible a third of the food we put on our tables, their needs should certainly be taken into consideration. But what of our other neighbors? Should our sustainabilist actions be based on quid pro quo? What are we doing today to create a better world than this for all creatures?

As is my want, I am providing you with another possible outlet for your solution space communication. Anne Paine (Journalist extraordinaire) sent me the following offer to those of you who are still students. For those of you who have already received it from me, please forgive the duplication. For those of you who haven't, what better way to contribute to the conversation of challenges to our pollinators (and help pay for college at the same time)! The relationship among habitat loss (from multiple causes), increases in pesticide use and decreases in pollinator populations is an area ripe for tackling as we redesign our homes, businesses and communities. We can be all like #doom and gloom or we can be about #resilience for all living things.

What's it going to be?

∞ In 1,000 words or less. \$1,500 in prizes. And accepted entries published.

<http://www.earthzine.org/2013/07/02/earthzine-seeks-student-essays-on-science-technology-for-observing-earths-climate-for-international-contest/>

Earthzine ([Earthzine.org](http://www.earthzine.org)) invites undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to submit an essay to its 2013 Student Essay Contest on “**Science Technology for Observing Earth’s Climate.**” The contest offers students an opportunity to sketch visions and raise critical thoughts that can be discussed with Earthzine’s global readership

THIS IS FROM:

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[Earthzine](http://www.earthzine.org) --- Fostering Earth Observation and Global Awareness, an [IEEE](http://www.ieee.org) publication

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∞ It's good to be reminded of the light in the world.

<http://thehive.com/2013/08/13/people-saving-animals-helps-restore-some-faith-in-humanity-video/>

Bee well,

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*Give good people good information and they'll do good things.*

(If you've just received this single newsletter, it may be because I thought you'd be interested in this particular subject. You may or may not get others. If you want on my list regularly, e-mail me. If you want off my list, e-mail me. Thanks!)



**Wildbranch Impressions of a Place (Autosaved).docx**

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