

Mobilization for Pollinator Survival Honeybee Steelband



I'm Emily Lanxner, and I'm here to represent the Mobilization for Pollinator Survival - a community group based in Hardwick, that I helped start in 2016, in response to hearing alarming news about the existential threat facing bees and other pollinators. 2016 was also the year that my steeldrum group changed its name to the "Honeybee Steelband". We have since devoted our performances to raising awareness about the plight of the honeybee, specifically focusing on engaging people to help pass tough laws to protect pollinators, such as the present bill H.205 introduced by our local legislator Chip Troiano.



As a citizen of Vermont, of the United States, and of this planet, I am overwhelmed by the enormity of the level of crises facing our world today. I am constantly inundated with images on a daily basis that remind me of the perils that we face at this time in history.



I am also overwhelmed by enormous power wielded by large multinational corporations such as Exxon- Mobil, Lockheed Martin, Bayer-Monsanto, and others. These companies are reaping huge profits on the misery of others, and causing not just humanitarian crises, but crimes against all species and against our planet that indeed threaten to destroy life as we know it on our very fragile and wonderful planet earth.

EXXON Mobil

Climate Crisis.





Destroyed
animal habitats.

Pipeline spills.





Endless wars.





...and even the world's most lethal nuclear bomber about to take up residence in our very own Burlington Vermont.



Half of Yemen's 28 million people on the brink of starvation.

Over 65 million refugees worldwide.





The prison industrial complex, and the companies that benefit from prison labor.



Children in cages.





The opioid epidemic.



MONSANTO



And - we have the bee apocalypse.





I am not any kind of scientist or expert on bees. I am simply a citizen who recognizes that unlike climate crisis, nuclear war, and other overwhelming threats facing us, this is an issue that we certainly have the power to do something about.



Instead of supporting companies like these...



CALEDONIA SPIRITS



We need to be supporting companies like these. We can and should have the power to choose ways to protect our very fragile ecosystem.

BARR HILL



CELLARS AT
JASPER HILL



All About the Bees



So - back to the Honeybee Steelband. In 2015, the band was all children, which is a reminder that this is a paramount issue affecting their future on our planet. Here is our first parade in the Honeybee Steelband wagon. When we first started performing in parades, we knew we wanted to help bees, but didn't know about neonics. Vermont was in the midst of the GMO labeling struggle, and everyone was talking about RoundUp and glyphosates.

A Taste of Honey roller skating bees



Every year, we added a new bee-theme tune to our repertoire, and soon were attracting a swarm of roller skating bees to our cause.

Action Video at Aubuchon Hardware



At the end of Hardwick's spring festival in 2016, we collected signatures to give to Aubuchon hardware to ask them to take neonics of the shelf, staged an action video in their store, and publicized our efforts on social media.

2017: Pollinator Fest



In spring of 2017, we got together with Caledonia Spirits, High Mowing Seeds, and other community stakeholders, and created an event called “Pollinator Fest”. Lt. Governor David Zuckerman and Chip Troiano led a community discussion to explain a little bit about how the legislative process works. Judy Bellairs, from the Sierra Club, spoke about the Vermont Pollinator Protection Committee recommendations. There was a presentation by master beekeeper Todd Hardie, kids activities relating to bees, bats, and butterflies - pollinator garden, seed bombs, and bat house making.

POLLINATOR FEST

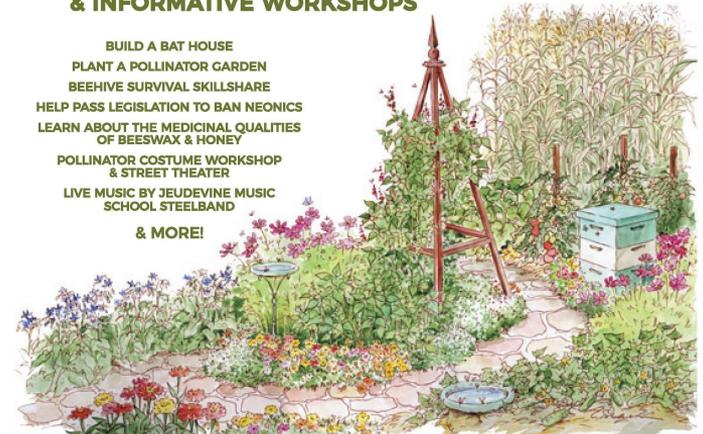
POLLINATOR PROTECTORS ACTIVIST SKILLSHARE

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH 12 - 4 PM

ATKINS FIELD, GRANITE STREET
HARDWICK, VERMONT

**FREE! FAMILY-CENTERED, CREATIVE,
& INFORMATIVE WORKSHOPS**

- BUILD A BAT HOUSE
- PLANT A POLLINATOR GARDEN
- BEEHIVE SURVIVAL SKILLSHARE
- HELP PASS LEGISLATION TO BAN NEONICS
- LEARN ABOUT THE MEDICINAL QUALITIES OF BEESWAX & HONEY
- POLLINATOR COSTUME WORKSHOP & STREET THEATER
- LIVE MUSIC BY JEDEVINE MUSIC SCHOOL STEELBAND
- & MORE!



THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO THE COMMUNITY BY

Sterling College
Working Hands. Working Minds.



Jewdevine Memorial Library

HIGH MOWING
Organic Seeds

**Center for an
Agricultural
Economy**

**BARR
HILL**



PANASHÉ
INTERNATIONAL

JEDEVINE
MUSIC SCHOOL

Buffalo Mountain
Food Coop & Cafe

Food for people, not for profit.

MOBILIZATION FOR POLLINATOR SURVIVAL

COMMUNITY FORUM

MONDAY AUGUST 28, 7-9pm
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING

Find out what you can do to help our pollinators!

Film "Neonicotinoids: The New DDT"

Discussion Current Legislative Recommendations, led by
Sierra Club member and Hardwick resident Judy Bellairs

Action Plan

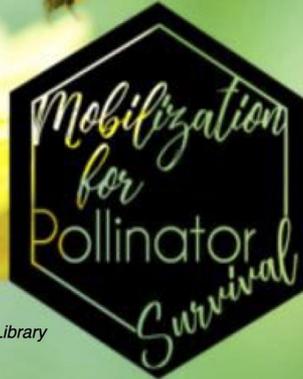
Let's Mobilize for Pollinator Survival!
led by 4th-Sister Facilitation
moderator, Sharon Fialco

Original live music
about pollinators

with Aro Venó and Friends

State representative Chip Troiano
will be present to help inform us
about legislative protocol, and
understand what could be the
most effective steps to get results.

Presented by Jeudevine Memorial Library
and PanAshé International.



MOBILIZATION FOR POLLINATOR SURVIVAL

LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLANNING MEETING

MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 7-9pm
JEUDEVINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
95 NORTH MAIN ST, HARDWICK

Find out what you can do to help our pollinators!

Action Plan

Let's Mobilize for Pollinator Survival!

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Jeudevine Memorial Library
and PanAshé International.
Further Info: (802) 917 2179



Throughout this period, we invited our local representative Chip Troiano to participate in community forums and legislative planning meetings, and asked him to do something about protecting pollinators. Our first forum included a presentation by master beekeeper Todd Hardie, from Hardwick based Caledonia Spirits, and a screening of the film "Neonicotinoids: the new DDT".



These discussions were open to the public, and we began to understand some of the the resistance to banning neonics. And Chip got to work drafting bill H.688, following most of the recommendations of Vermont's Pollinator Protection Committee. It was really a thrill to see that our concerns were being heard, and to have the opportunity to participate in the legislative process.

2017: Montpelier parade



We brought our message to the streets of Montpelier.

2018: “Plight of the Honeybee” performance



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1g86ylbhKs>

2018: Europe Banned Neonics - We Can Too!



2019: Pollinator Epiphany

A Pollinator Epiphany!
Sunday, January 6, 3-5pm
at the Plainfield Opera House

featuring Honeybee Steelband
activist singer Aro Venó
and members of the Honeybee Swarm

donations to support our 2019 campaign tour
for pollinator protection legislation

So, here we are today. We're working on expanding our outreach ideas: beginning our tour throughout Vermont to foster more community engagement with this issue. We've been on the radio several times, and we have a grant proposal submitted to Arts in America to create a giant bee-theme art installation, with hundreds of contributing artists.

From what we have witnessed in the legislative process, we understand that there are many pressures facing our legislators, and a very short legislative session. So we think Chip has a good strategy with his new bill, H. 205. By keeping the demands short and simple, it has a better chance of passing, and we will finally have a tangible first step in place in what we see as a very large issue that impacts not just bees and other pollinators, but the entire web of life that we depend on for our survival. Next steps might be to ban treated seeds, commercial and golf course ornamental use. We know it can be done. As a matter of fact, there are dozens of golf courses in Vermont that have already shifted away from neonic pesticides, including the Stowe Mountain golf course, which boasts an Audubon Signature pollinator sanctuary, and uses acelepryn - and no neonics. I am looking forward to assuring a sustainable future by helping Vermonters adapt to life without neonics.

