

Be a pal to your local pollinator



Honeybees, above, and native pollinators are at risk. Beacon file photo.

Learn what to 'serve' at free workshop on Aug. 24

The nonprofit North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council is presenting a workshop on enhancing biodiversity with pollinator habitat planting to improve agricultural sustainability.

The public is invited to register to attend and learn from experts about what can be done to conserve and enhance pollinator habitat, promote bee friendly farming, and entice pollinators to our property.

Eighty percent of the world's flowering plants are animal pollinated, and wildlife ecosystems are vitally dependent on pollinating partners.

Honeybees, other pollinators and pollination services represent a critical component of healthy wildlife ecosystems and sustainable agriculture, with honeybees pollinating an estimated \$15 billion of agricultural crops annually in the United States. Direct and indirect value could total \$30 billion annually.

Pollen

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Scientists and farmers alike are increasingly recognizing the importance of honeybees and native pollinators, and the reality that they are at risk. Bees are disappearing, and one important action to help bees is to create forage habitat where they can feed and nourish their colonies.

The workshop will be held Saturday, Aug. 24, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens Meeting Room, 18220 Highway 1, Fort Bragg.

Online registration for this free workshop can be found at: <http://pollinator-workshop.eventbrite.com/>.

This free workshop is sponsored by the North

Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council, in partnership with the Mendocino Resource Conservation District, UC Cooperative Extension, Partners for Sustainable Pollination, and others. This workshop is made possible by grants from the Clif Bar Family Foundation and the Patagonia Company.

The NCRC&DC is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working in Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake counties. The NCRC&DC's overall goal is to protect water, soil and air resources. Its all-volunteer council works to protect pollinator habitat, eliminate invasive species, promote agricultural tourism, support new and expanding farm operations, and encourage alternative energy from biomass.