

## **A night to honor and learn about bees -- 2015 Pacifica Beach Coalition's Earth Hero**

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The 2015 Earth Hero, the bee, has been announced and to kick off the year the Pacifica libraries and Pacifica Beach Coalition will be teaming up to bring you an evening about bees.

First a screening of the very popular movie, "Vanishing of the Bees," will air on Friday, January 23, at 7 p.m. followed by an expert beekeeper who will speak about bees. The movie examines the issue of Colony Collapse Disorder, which has caused startling numbers of honeybees to disappear in recent years. Did you know honeybees are essential for the production of a third or more of the food we eat? In 2006, U.S. beekeepers began reporting that astounding numbers of their honeybees had gone missing. The film asks the question of what is the cause of the disorder. Following the movie will be a talk by Loret Farris, a bee expert, from the Beekeeper's Guild of San Mateo County.

According to the United States Dept. of Agriculture, honey bees are not native to the New World; they came from Europe with the first settlers. There are native pollinators in the United States, but honey bees are more prolific and easier to manage on a commercial level for pollination of a wide variety of crops. Almonds, for example, are completely dependent on honey bees for pollination. In California, the almond industry requires the use of 1.4 million colonies of honey bees, approximately 60 percent of all managed honey bee colonies in the United States.

Bee the Change, Bee an Earth Hero is the slogan for the Pacifica Beach Coalition's 2015 Earth Day of Action and eco-fest event. Every year the Pacifica Beach Coalition holds a Day of Action and eco-Fest for Earth Day and features an endangered species to honor, dedicate our work to, and to learn about. This year the bee was nominated and overwhelming voted on as the species to focus on. The Earth Day of Action and eco-fest will be held on Saturday, April 18. The PBC will bring speakers to the schools in Pacifica educating them about taking action and learning about the importance of the bee. For updated information or becoming a member of the Pacifica Beach Coalition please visit <http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org>.

Join us on Jan. 23 for the screening at Pacifica Sharp Park Library, 104 Hilton Way in the community room. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., program starts at 7 p.m. Refreshments served. Seating is first come first serve. Please come early to get your seat and parking space."