

REAPS READER



Have you helped the environment today?

Flight of the Bumble Beezzz!

The end of June marks **Pollinator Week!** This week addresses the issue of rapidly declining pollinators such as bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.

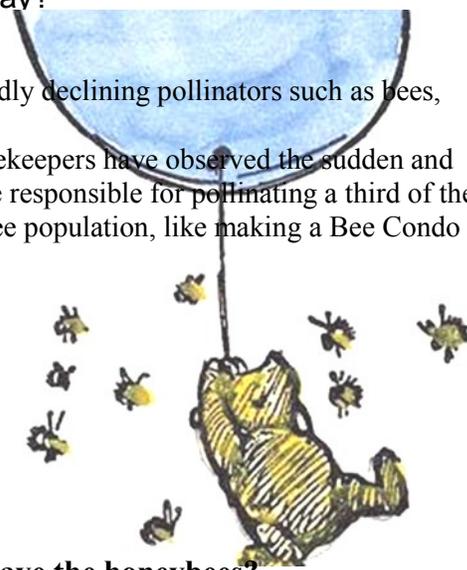
Have you heard the buzz about declining bee populations? In the past 20 years, beekeepers have observed the sudden and unexplained decline of honeybee populations, which is a problem because bees are responsible for pollinating a third of the foods we eat! The good news is we can do things that will help encourage honeybee population, like making a Bee Condo for bees to live in.

A Bee Condo is a homemade place for bees to live in. Although bees like to make their own homes (sometimes in a hollow tree branch, or by burrowing in the dirt), they also move into nesting blocks like our Bee Condo.

- Brown heavy cardstock paper or a recycled cereal box
- Cardboard tubes (from paper towel rolls)
- Paper straws (not plastic)
- Scissors
- Hot glue and glue gun (parents only)
- Hole punch and string:

Bees will find a bundle of paper straws with one end blocked off to be a hospitable place to create a home. Find paper straws in the party section of your local department store, or online. Bees prefer dark colors for their homes, so choose brown paper or the unprinted side of the cereal box to face outward on your bee condo.

1. Trim cardboard tubes into about 3" lengths.
2. Fold brown heavy cardstock or a recycled cereal box into a rectangle shape to house the cardboard tubes. Glue tubes inside rectangle.
3. Fill cardboard tubes with paper straws and trim straws to fit. If needed, secure straws in cardboard tubes with glue.
4. Parents only: fill ends of one side of paper straws with hot glue to block them off.
5. Fold a rectangle of cardstock into a sloped roof and glue on top of rectangle shape. Punch a hole in the top of the roof and add a piece of string for hanging the condo.
6. Add a rectangular piece of paper as a base to complete your bee condo.



How can you save the honeybees?

- **Respect bee homes** — do not disturb bee homes when you find them outside. Leave the bees alone so they can keep pollinating plants and making honey.
- **Bee calm around bees** — keep your eyes open when walking barefoot outside, and avoid stepping on bees. Bees will not bother you if you don't bother them!
- **Bee sure to eat local honey** — support your local bee keepers by buying local honey. You might find special honey flavors that are made from single flower sources, such as buckwheat, lavender, or raspberry.
- **Add a water source in your garden** — bees need water to survive. They like calm, shallow water sources, so adding a dish of water to your garden can encourage bees to stop and get a drink.
- **Plant bee-friendly flowers** — attract bees to your yard by planting flowers and plants that bees like. Bees are attracted to blue, purple, and yellow flowers especially, but not all flowers will attract bees.



REAPS garden is open for summer!

If you want to learn more about composting or worm composting, REAPS offers weekly workshops on these topics...and they are absolutely FREE! So join us for some fun and learning. Other workshops will be held on a weekly basis throughout the summer so be sure to stop by! Should you have any questions regarding recycling, organic gardening, natural pests or composting, come pay us a visit. The garden is open from 8:30-4:30 pm everyday located at 1950 Gorse Street, just behind the Exploration Place in Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park.

