

### **Olympia Beekeepers has Thurston County buzzing about bees**

The biggest news in the area right now, bee-wise, is the Olympia Beekeepers Association “Bee a Pollinator” campaign that officially took flight June 24 at pollinator garden dedication in Lacey. The campaign culminates nearly three years of work with governments, cities, citizens, beekeepers and others to curb neonicotinoids use and expand healthy forage for bees and other pollinators. They have developed Memorandums of Understanding with local jurisdictions and now nearly 13,000 acres of land in Thurston County is managed neonic free. Past Olympia president and now WSBA president Mark Emrich and current Olympia president Laurie Pyne are the creativity and energy behind this remarkable multi-year project. What an inspiration to us all! And, they are sharing their know-how. The campaign has been developed to be mobile. They are sharing their campaign to help beekeepers and the public with meaningful information and ways to provide solutions to help our pollinators. Contact Laurie Pyne at the Olympia Beekeepers Association for more information.

### **Pierce County Beekeepers are busy, too**

In Pierce County, we have been working with various food providers to help make the connection that pollinators are what turn flowers into food. We have met with Tacoma city staff, and will meet soon with the County executive and her staff. We’ve worked with health food stores, grocery stores and a farmers’ market to start building a buzz and more public knowledge.

Here are some photos of the Bee Festival held during Pollinator Week at one local market:

All set up, ready to go:



Making seed bombs:



Honey variety tasting:





Information on how to make a pollinator garden:





And the ever-popular body art:

