



## Partners for Sustainable Pollination

### PFSP Newsletter-Fall 2010



#### **BEE BRIEF**

- 🍯 Time to [Join/Renew](#) ~ THANKS to [Wilibee](#) Sponsor Tops \$1,600 ~ Board Vacancy.
- 🍯 BFF Count Tops 50. NEW [Interactive Maps](#).
- 🍯 Farmers Commit to 41,000 Acres New Bee Pasture in Response to CRP Incentives.
- 🍯 [Bee Culture](#) Features BFF, Profiles BFF-Certified Growers.
- 🍯 BFF Grower Recipient of Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation [Award](#).
- 🍯 [BFF Facebook](#) Page ~ [Annual Report](#) ~ BFF [Bookmarks](#).

#### **(1) PFSP [Membership](#) and Support Growing.**

As I am sure you can appreciate, advocacy costs money, and the increasing demands on our leadership to participate in conferences and other events to provide a voice for improving honey bee health are escalating. While we are actively pursuing opportunities for co-funding of conference participation and grants that are in line with our goals, for now our activities are largely underwritten by membership dues and contributions.

- 🍯 Current Member [Renewal](#)—If you signed up prior to August 1, 2010, please renew by the end of January 2011 to keep your membership current. Those signing up after August 1 are paid through the end of 2011!

Our fledgling group's Membership has topped **75**. Thanks to ALL, and welcome to our recent new members, highlighted here-



#### **WELCOME!**

**Michael Swesey (AZ)-Queen Bee**  
**Kari Flores (CA)-Worker Bee**  
**Beekind (CA)-Queen Bee**  
**Rick Loftus (CA)-Worker Bee**



A special “**BEE THANKS**” goes to [Wilibeas](#). The owners help sponsor our efforts by donating 100% of the proceeds from their wine tasting events to PFSP—nearly **\$1,600** to date, and counting. **WOW!**

If you are local, stop by Wilibeas for Thursday night wine-tasting to support PFSP and also have some fun!

**If you haven't done so already, please [join/renew](#) or [donate](#).**

- 🍯 **Board Vacancy**—PFSP is an all volunteer organization. We currently have a vacancy on our board, and are soliciting members or others who would be interested in being more involved in the leadership of the organization. We would be particularly interested in diversifying our board membership to include growers or others focused on bee habitat. If you have an interest and ability to join us, please contact Kathy Kellison at [kathy@pfspbees.org](mailto:kathy@pfspbees.org) or any of the other officers or Directors of the organization for more information.

## (2) Bee Friendly Farming™ (BFF) Gaining Momentum.

The “Bee Friendly Farming™” initiative continues to move forward! The word is definitely getting out around the country, thanks to our outreach efforts and recent exposure in national publications, including *Bee Culture Magazine*. Over 50 BFF’s are now self-certified across the nation. Recent examples include **Mitchell Bay Farm and Nursery** (WA), **Enterprise Vineyards** (Sonoma, CA), **Wallace Family Apiary** (FL), **Crazy Flower Wines** (Napa, CA), **Chesapeake Apiaries** (MD) and **Beekind** (Guerneville, CA).

**NEW!** [Click Here](#) or on one of the maps below to check out our *interactive* US and Northern California BFF maps; or click on images below. When provided, links to BFF websites or photos are imbedded in the logos.



## (3) Farmers Respond to New CRP Incentives, Commit to 41,000 Acres of Bee Pasture.

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) responded to comments submitted by PFSP last year, for the first time offering financial incentives to growers during a general signup in August 2010 for the establishment of pollinator habitat through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Responding to the ongoing decline of honey bees and wild pollinators, American farmers enrolled in a USDA program to plant 41,231 acres of wildflowers in 2010. This effort, a nationwide attempt to increase the availability of pollen and nectar for beleaguered pollinators, is made possible by new financial incentives established as part of the CRP. Nearly 4,600 farmers signed-up for the incentives, which were offered for the first time in the Program’s 25 year history. Nearly 20,000 acres of new CRP pollinator habitat is being established in Colorado alone, with total commitments in Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Washington ranging from 1,200 to 3,200 acres.

The CRP is the largest private landowner conservation program in the United States with up to 32 million acres eligible for enrollment in long-term conservation easements. In exchange for annual rental payments, participating farmers agree to take highly erodible land out of crop production, and establish permanent vegetation to protect topsoil and provide wildlife cover. The program, which is administered by the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), typically contracts with farmers to maintain these easements for 10 to 15 years. Landowners who want to participate are ranked against one another to prioritize enrollments that offer the most conservation benefits. By agreeing to plant at least 10% of the CRP acres in native wildflowers, farmers received a higher score.

## (4) *Bee Culture* Features BFF, Profiles BFF-Certified Growers.

In our [Summer Newsletter](#), we reported on the exciting BFF tour by *Bee Culture* Editor Kim Flottum. This led to a [feature article](#) in the November 2010 issue, which has provided tremendous positive publicity at the national level. A number of readers have responded by signing up. *Bee Culture* also provides a link to our BFF site on its home page. Thanks for your support, Kim Flottum and *Bee Culture*!



**(5) BFF-Certified Grower Receives Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation [Award](#).**

Paul Kaiser of [Singing Frogs Farm](#) in Sebastopol, California—*one of our first BFF-certified growers!*—was presented the 2010 Farmer Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award at a special ceremony in Washington, DC at the 10<sup>th</sup> international conference of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC).



Vicki Wojcik (NAPPC), Paul Kaiser, Rich Duesterhaus (NACD)



Paul Kaiser at Home on [Singing Frogs Farm](#)





[Click Here](#) for NAPPC-NACD media release. Excerpt—

Laurie Davis Adams, Executive Director at Pollinator Partnership (NAPPC’s managing organization) spoke with approval about Mr. Kaiser and his work: “Paul Kaiser and Singing Frogs Farm are leading by example. They have made a concerted commitment to providing safe pollinator habitat, are turning their consumers and other producers on to pollinators and pollinator conservation.”

Singing Frogs Farm is a certified Bee Friendly Farming™ (BFF) operation, signifying that the operation meets or exceeds minimum criteria for providing adequate habitat for bees and other pollinators and using bee-beneficial practices. Farm tours and open houses hosted by Paul and his family continuously bring visitors onto his land and help to spread the word about the role that pollinators play in agriculture and the actions that are necessary to protect and support them. Thus, Singing Frogs Farm produces more than food – they grow consumer consciousness and environmental stewardship.




**(6) Other Outreach.**

Representation and tabling at a number of events this fall, including:

-  California State Beekeepers meeting.
-  Presentation to pesticide applicators re practices that can best mitigate impacts on pollinators.
-  Harvest Fair.
-  Insectapalooza.

Go to <http://www.pfspbees.org/developments.htm> to view the archive of PFSP comments and other filings.

**(7) Upcoming Events.**

-  Kellison representing PFSP at 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference in Galveston, TX, Jan 4-8.
-  Thanks to Georgia Beekeepers Assn for generous offer to PFSP to promote BFF to growers as part of their exhibit at the American Farm Bureau Federation 2011 annual meeting in Atlanta, GA.
-  Annual Meeting—Watch for Announcement!

### **(8) New Resources.**

- 2009-10 PFSP [Annual Report](#).
- Check out our new [BFF Facebook](#) Page! Become a friend, add your comments and spread the word to your friends and contacts. Our team is constantly trying to find better ways to call attention to BFF and provide information about how people can help. Your ideas (and volunteer help) are welcome.
- Free BFF [Bookmarks](#)!

### **(9) PFSP Volunteer Opportunities.**

- 2011 Events Volunteers**—It's never too early to plan, and we are already working on our calendar of events for 2011. We could really use volunteers to help us table at events in 2011, particularly in Sonoma County. If you have an ability and willingness to get involved, please contact Alice Ford-Sala at [fordsala@sonic.net](mailto:fordsala@sonic.net). We are always interested in fresh ideas and energy for our Board and for our other activities.

### **(10) Network the CAUSE.**

- Help the hive through the [Bee Friendly Farming](#)<sup>TM</sup> initiative by *Spreading the Word*—now everyone can contribute to healthier bees.
- Encourage others to [join](#) the PFSP team.

Thanks, and have a Bee Well Day!



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