about the film

THE BEE CRISIS…an unnerving phenomenon began happening in the fall of 2006: honeybees were mysteriously disappearing from beehives around the nation with reported losses of 30%, while some beekeepers reported losses of up to 90% of their colonies.

QUEEN OF THE SUN is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis, taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees & the world of the beehive. This engaging & ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual & dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists & philosophers from around the world as they reveal both the problems & the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

EcoUrbia is pleased to present this fascinating film about our bee populations & the many ways we can nurture & protect them.

local resources

Bee Friendly

Bee Friendly is a not-for-profit, north shore-based community service, providing nest removal, a Native Bee Stewardship Program that trains local urban & residential volunteers on how to identify & conserve native bee species & their habitat, and is home to the North Shore Bee Club, a service for Hobby Honey Beekeepers across the north shore. www.beefriendly.ca

Bill'z Bees

Provides free bee removal & swarm collection **in** the GVRD. Did you know it is illegal to kill bees? Bill'z Bees will collect them FAST & for FREE. If you see a nest or a swarm, give them a call & a professional will safely collect the unwanted bees so that they can live to pollinate local crops such as blueberries, raspberries & cranberries. Bee Removal For emergencies call 604-644-9491 or visit www.bee-removal.ca/Contact.html

North Shore Beekeepers

This group represents beekeepers (both Mason & Honey) in North & West Vancouver & is a local chapter of the Village Vancouver Beekeeping Network, helping beekeepers to connect & share resources & ideas. www.villagevancouver.ca/group/beekeeping-north-shore

David Suzuki Foundation

Bees love to live in urban settings where there are short flight paths & a variety of different plants & flowers. Bees are more likely to thrive in your backyard, community or patio garden, and on mixed farms than on acres devoted to single crops. Plant a bee friendly garden, with native species. Learn what to plant by visiting www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/food-and-our-planet/create-a-bee-friendly-garden/

about ecourbia

ECOURBIA NETWORK is a local, not-for-profit organization working to build and operate urban farms, advocate for local food and organics, ethical e-waste recycling, and waste reduction strategies that includes a cradle-to-cradle approach to how we make things in the first place. Last year, we launched the first regional community-based sustainability portal to facilitate engagement in local & regional initiatives and for community champions to emerge in. Telling our stories and sharing our ideas is a powerful way to connect with each other!

EcoUrbia's **rethink food+waste film series** is a public outreach program whose goal is to focus on the importance of our food systems & urban agriculture, what we can do with our waste in support of our ecosystems, the benefits of organics, how food cultivation impacts our health and can act as a catalyst for social change and transformation.

about the filmmakers

Queen of the Sun is a film by Collective Eye, directed & produced by Taggart Siegel, award-winning director of "The Real Dirt on Farmer John", and Jon Betz, producer. Betz is also the director of "Memorize-You-Saw-It" a documentary on former child soldiers in rural Uganda.

Collective Eye films explores social & environmental topics to bring provocative, entertaining documentaries to grassroots organizations & to the world. They work to build bridges with marginalized cultures, shed light on our planet's needs and uncover unique points of view. They believe that awareness and a celebration of diversity inspire social change. Collective Eye, Inc. is a non-profit distribution and production company based in Portland, Oregon.

www.queenofthesun.com & **www.collectiveeye.org**

EcoUrbia Network

www.ecourbia.org
info@ecourbia.org
twitter @ecourbia

engage, empower, inform

QUEEN OF THE SUN: WHAT ARE THE BEES TELLING US ?

rethink food & waste film event

June 16, 2012

1:00-3:00pm & 3:30-5:30pm

Café for Contemporary Art
140 East Esplanade
North Vancouver , BC

FREE ADMISSION

a public outreach program of
EcoUrbia Network

ecolibrium = healthy food, healthy people, healthy planet

agricultural practices & impacts

Monoculture is mainly used in *industrialized agriculture* with inputs of fossil fuels & chemicals to produce large amounts of a single crop. They produce most of the food for international commerce; however, they are also more vulnerable to disease & pest problems.

- Monoculture reduces ecosystem diversity, resulting in soil & pest problems, which leads to increased chemical fertilizers & pesticides.
- Monoculture allows for large machines to aid in the mechanization of planting, weed control, and harvesting.
- Monoculture requires less knowledge about the actual plants.
- Monoculture practices ultimately pollute the land, the water, and the food it produces.

Polyculture is considered to be a *subsistence agricultural* practice that uses human & animal energy to produce smaller amounts of many different crops. Subsistence farmers may produce lower yields of each individual crop, but in the long run they are less vulnerable to disease.

- Diversity is the key to polyculture; it provides for pest management, nutrient cycling, a variety of resource use, yield increases, production of diverse foods, and a decrease in the risk of loss due to diseases.
- Polyculture leads to difficulty with the mechanization of planting, weed control, and harvesting.
- Farmers need to understand how their crops function ecologically in order for it to be successful.
- Types of polyculture: intercropping (growing more than one crop in the same field); agroforestry (incorporates crops within the forest); relay cropping (planting a crop among the existing crop); and rotation (the practice of changing crops that are planted in the field from planting to planting); and, cover crops (plants are not harvested, they restore nutrients to the soil).
- Polyculture recycles & re-uses all of its resources.

Monoculture practices can incorporate multiple cropping systems by using rotations, borders, and cover crops.

Polyculture can produce high yields & improve nutrient cycling, provide better pest management & resource use, and avoid vulnerability to widespread crop loss catastrophes.

rethink food & waste

about our pollinators

There are thousands of kinds of pollinators: bees, flies, wasps, butterflies & moths, birds (such as hummingbirds) & bats. All pollinators have their value, but they are not interchangeable; some are more important than others. Many plants are adapted to specific pollinators, while others can be pollinated by a variety of pollinators. For example, cucumber blossoms can be pollinated by bumblebees, honeybees, and several species of solitary bees, syrphid & bombyliid flies, some wasps, butterflies, and many other creatures.

The pollinators that do the greatest amount of pollination on earth are bees.

1. Bees are abundant & dispersed over the earth.
2. Bees are fuzzy. Pollen gets caught in their fuzz. One bee researcher calls bees "flying Velcro patches."
3. Bees carry a static electrical charge. This helps pollen (and other small particles) stick to them.
4. Bees deliberately collect pollen. Pollen is a high -protein food for bees; plants give up pollen in exchange for the bees' services in transferring other pollen from one flower to another.
5. Some bees tend to stay with a specific kind of flower. For example, a honeybee that visits an apple blossom on its first flight, will usually visit only apple blossoms until there are no more and its forced to change to another flower. Other pollinators may visit a dandelion blossom, then go to an apple blossom.

did you know?

- Pollen comes in many colours, most often yellow & orange, and sometimes red, green & black.
- There are about 20,000 species of bees.
- Bees are especially attracted to **blue, purple, violet, white & yellow** blossoms**.**
- Bees are the only insects that can produce food eaten by man.
- Honey is one of the safest foods on the planet; harmful bacteria cannot survive in honey for any length of time.
- The world's chocolate depends on midges, tiny two-winged flies, that pollinate the cacao flowers. If you love chocolate, thank a fly!
- The number of pollinators in an area is an indicator of the overall health of the local ecosystem.
- Bees & other beneficial insects (ladybugs, butterflies & predatory wasps) all need fresh water to drink; a bird bath with a shallow landing surface is ideal.
- Bees eat two things: nectar (loaded with sugar, it's a bee's main source of energy) and pollen (provides proteins & fats).
- Ornamental flowers & plants are sometimes sterile & of little use to pollinators; native plants & heirloom varieties are best.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would have only four years of life left." (Albert Einstein)

support bee populations

As it is now, honeybees are raised by a few mega-beekeepers, and trucked to locales across the nation. The result is a monoculture of weakened honeybees. If more beekeepers become established at the local level, bee populations will grow stronger through genetic diversification, and vigorous pollination will become the norm.

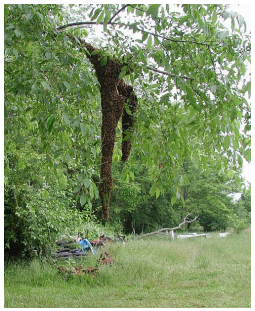
Nutritionally, honeybees provide a nearly perfect food. Honey contains pollen from the area, which carries all the trace elements a human needs to sustain life. The pollen also works like an antibiotic for people prone to seasonal allergies, providing a built-in resistance to allergens in goldenrod, aster and other local triggers.

If you want to support honeybee health, but aren't ready to become a beekeeper, consider these tips:

- Avoid using pesticides. Do not apply to plants in bloom, not even weeds.
- Leave wild areas for native pollinators to nest. Some species nest in sandy soil, some in fallen wood, and others in rough grasses, so even small areas of untended land can support a diverse population.
- Leave forage areas in their natural state. Pollinators need plants in bloom throughout the growing season.
- Leave hedgerows between fields, let cover crops bloom & permit some natural growth in your yard.
- Contact a local beekeeper if you discover a swarm. Hiving a swarm is a free community service.
- Soap nuts make a natural, bee friendly pesticide. Visit davidsuzuki.org to learn how.

about swarms

Swarms are a natural phenomenon. They can contain thousands of bees amassed together on a tree branch or a bush. Although they may look alarming, swarming is an instinctual way for bee colonies to reproduce.



Why Do Honey Bees Swarm?... Typically, swarms occur when a hive becomes overcrowded. The colony forms a new queen, and the old queen flies away, taking part of the colony with her. The swarm lands on a branch or other object and waits until scout bees find a new nesting site such as a hollow tree. The swarm will then move on to the new location to begin another colony.

When Do Honey Bees Swarm?... Swarms usually occur during spring & early summer when bee populations increase rapidly. If swarms occur later in the year, bees may not survive the winter if they do not find a suitable nest.

What to Do... If you come across a honeybee swarm, leave it undisturbed. Swarms usually relocate after a few hours to a few days. Swarms are typically calm & non-aggressive. If the swarm must be moved, contact a local service & they will send a beekeeper to safely remove the bees.

visit **www.ecorbia.org** for more information, resources & tools related to food & waste, simple ways to live a sustainable life + links to local initiatives, our projects & knowledge base

EcoUrbia Network