

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2009**

## **Bringing Bees Back to Your Garden**

*Corte Madera, California - May 26, 2009* - Cherries, Chocolate, Chilies, Cantaloupe, Cashews? Mmmm. Do any of these foods appeal to you? Do you know what they have in common? They depend on bees for pollination! You might be surprised at how much we depend upon this little insect for our sustenance.

The Corte Madera Women's Club will present a unique program on the importance of bees in our ecosystem and how you can encourage them in your own garden. The program will be held at the Corte Madera Recreation Center at 498 Tamalpais Dr., in Corte Madera at 10 am, May 26, 2009. Reservations are recommended so sufficient seating can be arranged in advance, but not mandatory. The program is free.

Our lively speakers for this program are Dr. Gordon Frankie, professor of entomology at UC Berkeley and his assistant, Conservation of Natural Resources (UCB) graduate Jaime Pawelek. Dr. Frankie has been conducting research on native bees and their behavior for over a decade. His research is widely quoted in nature and gardening articles.

With the alarming decline of commercial bee colonies, the role of native pollinators becomes increasingly important. Learn from these bee experts how you can contribute to the success of native bees in your gardens. They will talk about the role of mulch, selection of plants, diversity of plants and even delve into bee myths and fallacies.

You'll learn about social and non-social bees, wasps vs. bees, cuckoo bees and even buzzy bee garden behaviors. You'll also learn how to observe bees, to make your garden even more enjoyable. You'll be buzzing about this presentation for a long time!

If you've had bad experiences with bees, this is THE presentation to attend, as our speakers will discuss how to coexist with bees and avoid being stung.

To RSVP, please write: [workshops@cmwomensclub.org](mailto:workshops@cmwomensclub.org) or call 924-4740 and tell us how many persons will attend. This program is open to men and women, gardeners and non-gardeners alike!

For more information on Dr. Frankie and his research, including a list of bee-friendly plants, go to [www.nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/](http://www.nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/)

**CORTE MADERA WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

CONTACT: Kathy Hartzell  
Ph: 415-927-4740 • [workshops@cmwomensclub.org](mailto:workshops@cmwomensclub.org)  
Corte Madera Women's Club  
PO Box 486, Corte Madera, CA 94976

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