



**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, January 18      Time: 7 PM  
 Gateway Centre Suites      1313 E. Maple St.  
 The Rainier Room, Ste. 301      Bellingham, WA  
 "Bee-giners" session: 6–7 PM Rainier Room

Your Garden Bee-Friendly" with Kate Frey, co-author of *The Bee-Friendly Garden*.



**NORTH OF THE BORDER**

**NORTHWEST FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW**



It may not seem like spring will ever come, but the Northwest Flower and Garden show will. Not to be missed for garden lovers, and there are plenty of bee people represented. Go online for tickets: <http://www.gardenshow.com/>



Get a jump on registering for Honeybee Centre courses in February at [honeybeecentre.com](http://honeybeecentre.com). This courses may be of particular interest:

**Mead Making Workshop - February 2017**  
**Date: 25-Feb-2017**

Have you ever thought about making your own alcohol at home? This workshop will teach you how to create your very own honey wine (mead)! Learn how to sanitize, bottle, choose ingredients and tweak recipes to craft your own unique honey drink. We'll also tell you what you'll need to start making your own mead right at home.

**Washington State Convention Center**  
 705 Pike Street, Seattle, Washington

**FEBRUARY 22-26**  
 Wednesday - Saturday: 9am - 8pm  
 Sunday: 9am - 6pm

**Date:** February 25th, 2017  
**Time:** 12:00pm - 3:00pm  
**Location:** Honeybee Centre 7480 176st Surrey  
**Registration:** \$34.99

Among the many seminars offered at the show, there is an entire category titled "SHARING THE EARTH: ATTRACTING BIRDS, BENEFICIAL POLLINATORS AND OTHER WILDLIFE." Just a couple that are of particular interest are "Bees, Birds, and Beyond: Eco-Gardening for Life" with Eileen Stark, and "Making



## Meet the Bee Heroes Working On the Front Lines to Save Pollinators

In last month's *Bee Bits*, we offered an overview of an article by *Civil Eats*; here is one of the "Bee Heroes" outlined in that story, Marla Spivak, who is pretty well-known to our bee community. Be sure to take advantage of the many links offered.



Dr. Marla Spivak

"I had read a book about bees while in college in Prescott, Arizona, and was fascinated," says [Marla Spivak](#), a professor of apiculture at the University of Minnesota and 2010 recipient of a [MacArthur Fellowship](#). She stayed up all night reading [Bees' Ways](#), and by morning she had decided on her career. "I was fascinated by the bees' social structure—that they function without central authority," she says. Spivak's research focuses on the interplay between bee nutrition, pesticides, and disease. One of the most interesting areas of Spivak's research is on the [benefits of propolis](#) (tree resins) to the health and immune systems of honey bees. The bees collect resins on their hind legs, then deposit them in their nests to seal unwanted gaps. It can also act as an antimicrobial layer and immune defense against disease. "Rather than studying maladies, my preference is to study how bees keep themselves healthy, their natural defenses and natural 'medicines,' if you will," explains Spivak. Spivak is also interested in the development of "bee-lawns," or pollinator habitats in urban landscapes and engaging the community in the fight to save the bees. Her [Bee Lab](#) at the University of Minnesota, has formed a group called [The Bee Squad](#) to help area beekeepers raise healthy colonies and wild pollinator landscapes. Its successful [Hive to Bottle](#) program, which encourages businesses to keep a bee hive on their property, has, says Spivak, encouraged many businesses to "change their landscaping practices and pay attention to pesticides." Two other programs are

the [Bee Veterans](#) program and [Bee Arts](#), which support artists working with the themes of pollinators and the environment.

These activities underscore Spivak's belief that "public concern for the plight of bees is what is driving, and will continue to drive legislative efforts to actually do something to help them." Noting that there aren't enough flowers in many parts of the country to support bees' nutritional needs, she adds, "If we can get more flowers in the ground—in agricultural and urban landscapes—and if we can keep that bee food free of pesticides, we can reverse the downward spiral of bee deaths."

You can review the entire article at:

<http://civileats.com/2016/08/02/meet-the-bee-heroes-working-on-the-front-lines-to-save-pollinators/>

## SPEAKING OF SAVING BEES....



The [Critter Catcher](#) uses soft bristles, like those on a bee brush, with a trigger to expand and contract them in capturing crawling, creeping, or flying critters.

With the motto, "Stop Squishing, Start Saving!" the inventive folks at Critter Catcher are mostly trying to save spiders and bugs from the Raid can, but the application for gently escorting honey bees out of any enclosed space is obvious. Of course, the \$24. price tag is a lot more than a rolled-up newspaper, but if it saves a bee....And it looks like fun; check out their video at: [www.mycrittercatcher.com/](http://www.mycrittercatcher.com/).

