



Event Release

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Farming for Bees, Beetles and (True) Bugs A Farmscaping for Beneficials Farm Walk

EVENT DATE: Monday, July 23rd, 2007

PLACE: Sauvie Island Organics, Portland, OR

TIME: 2:00-5:00 P.M.

CONTACT: Gwendolyn Ellen, 541-737-6272, gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu or Matthew Shepherd, 503-232-6639, mdshepherd@xerces.org

Ever wonder why not all your baby squash develop into robust adult squash? Or why the flower bed next to the house is full of beneficial insects (at least you *think* they are *beneficial* insects) while the cabbage you just transplanted out in the field is turning to lace? The Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC) at Oregon State University (OSU), the Xerces Society, and the farmers at Sauvie Island Organics invite local farmers to take a break with an afternoon of intrigue and discovery with native bees, predacious ground beetles, and true bugs on the farm, **Monday, July 23rd from 2-5 at Sauvie Island Organics.**

Sauvie Island Organics is nestled between farms and a wildlife refuge on an island flanked by the Columbia River and the Multnomah Canal just fifteen minutes from Portland. Owner Shari Raider and her partners have been growing vegetables and fruits on small intensively grown plots for fourteen years. They manage a 200 member community supported farm, and market to several restaurants in the Portland area. Sauvie Island is a unique eco-region that hosts more than 2-3 million migratory water fowl and many other species of wildlife, including beneficial insects, pollinators and a healthy population of frogs! To find out more about Sauvie Island Organics Farm visit their website at www.sauvieislandorganics.com. To find out more about Sauvie Island and its unique features visit www.riversedge-bb.com/sauvie.shtml.

At the walk we will be taking a detailed look into the biology, ecology, and habitat associated with bees, bugs and beetles as well as the ecological pest management practices you can do to help assure their abundance on the farm. Don't miss this unique opportunity to follow veteran vegetable farmers and bugscapers as we attempt to understand and observe how the complex web of biodiversity and crop production interact right before our eyes!

Come witness first hand, the deadly world of insect predators as they relentlessly pursue their prey against countless obstacles while we probe such riveting questions as, "Does this pollinate squash?", "What is a generalist predator?", and "Hey, why isn't this guy (the beneficial insect!) around when I need him most?"

This is a **BYOB** (bring your own bug) event so if something has been *bugging* you this summer and you don't know what it is pop it in a jar and bring it along. Participants are also invited to bring a vegetarian food dish, your own plates and cutlery, and share a pot luck meal at the end of the walk.

Contact Gwendolyn Ellen at 541-737-6272, gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu for info and directions.

The farm walks are sponsored by OSU's, Farmscaping for Beneficials Project at IPPC and The Xerces Society who are working together on a project to support grower-led activities that build the knowledge and implementation of conservation biological control (CBC) on local farms. Conservation biological control can be defined as methods used on and around farms to restore and enhance beneficial organism populations that can increase to numbers that may limit pest populations. Such methods may include insectary plantings, grassy field margins, beetle banks and hedgerows.