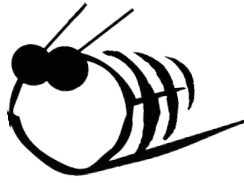


HELP THE BEES SHAKE THINGS UP!



Flowers don't have legs and trees can't lay eggs, so they need bees to help them out. Plants attract bees with their colorful flowers and sweet smells. The bees need the plants' nectar to make honey. When they visit these flowers, their fuzzy bodies get covered in pollen, which is kind of like a dusty seed. When a bee visits the next flower, it carries the pollen with her and now a baby flower can bloom. We have the bees to thank for about 75% of our flowering plants and 1/3 of all the food we eat - mostly fruits, vegetables and nuts. It would be nearly impossible to do this pollination without the bees.

But bees need our help. We have fewer plant species when natural environments are removed and single crops are grown. Many farmers and gardeners use pesticides to keep insects from hurting their plants, but these poisons also hurt the bees - especially when they are all collected together in their hives. Some beekeepers take bees from state to state on trucks, where they work year-round on different plants and in different climates. In many cases they will also take all of the bees' honey and replace it with sugar water. This combination leaves the bees weak and more likely to get sick.

We can help by buying organic fruits, vegetables and plants - that means they were grown naturally, not using poisons. We can plant flowers bees like to visit and avoid using pesticides in our gardens. Chicago, New York, Washington D.C., London, Paris and other big cities around the world are encouraging urban beekeeping. Taking care of bees is a little bit harder than taking care of a cat and a little bit easier than taking care of a dog.

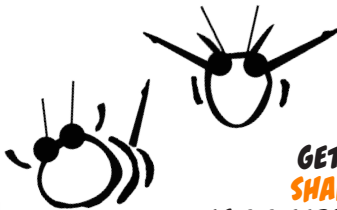
Bees work together to take care of their hive. They have a dance called the "waggle dance" they use to communicate with one another. They shake their bottom to let the other bees know the direction of the nearest source of flowers. The faster they shake, the closer they are to getting there. We can work together to take care of the bees - and ourselves. Let's shake things up!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Plant a variety of flowers that attract bees and bloom in different seasons.
- Don't use harmful pesticides in your yard or garden.
- Set up a bee nesting box or bee house in your garden.
- Buy organic fruits, vegetables and plants whenever possible.
- Consider beekeeping at your home, school or community.
- Learn and share information with others.

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Bees they need
Flowers to feed
They take a flower's nectar
So that they can make honey
Flowers don't have legs
And trees can't lay eggs
But their little friends the bees
Have a waggle dance
Just perfect for...

Shakin' up the pollen

We find today
The bees are going away
If there are no flowers
There's no reason left to stay
All kinds of pesticides
Messing with their insides
Takin' all their honey
Just to make a little money
It's all...

Shakin' up the pollen
Come on and shake it... Buzz

We need the bees
For fruits and veggies
Without their shakin' we would lose
A third of what we eat
Just like the bees
Help the flowers and the trees
It's up to you and me
To keep the bees healthy
So they can keep on...

Shakin' up the pollen

Words and music by James Dague
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