

UPDATE



Safer Pest Control Project—
working to reduce the health risks and
environmental impacts of pesticides
and to promote safer alternatives.

Spring 2012

Welcome to New Board Members:

Susan Besson is a communications professional, having worked for public relations agencies in Chicago and Paris before training and working in Chicago as an interior designer with a focus on sustainable practices and materials. Currently she does media relations and strategic communications in the Chicago area.



An Evanston resident, Susan is co-chair of the Evanston Environment Board, where she has served since 2007. She is bilingual French/English, and enjoys biking, swimming and camping with her two children.



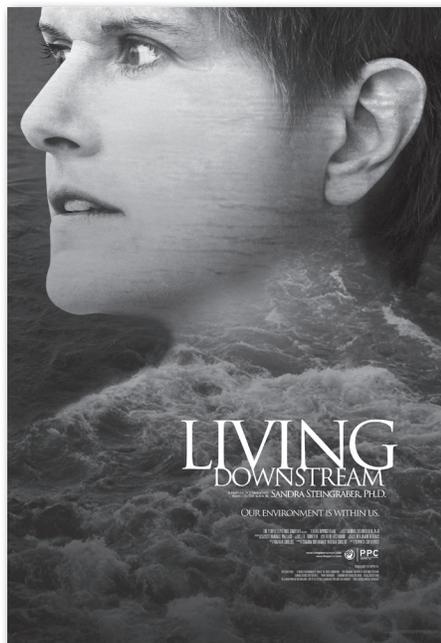
Katherine Tipper is CFO at Hunter Benefits Consulting Group, a firm that specializes in compliance for company sponsored retirement plans.

Katherine lives in Palatine with her husband and two teenage children. She spends most weekends at sports fields and gyms supporting her children in soccer, rugby, basketball, football and wrestling. Katherine likes to garden and is a member of several book clubs.

A Screening of “Living Downstream” Celebrated Earth Day

Part scientific exploration, part personal journey, this poetic and timely film follows biologist, author, mother, and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber during one pivotal year as she travels across North America trying to break the silence about cancer and its environmental links. Through the film, we see how pesticides and other toxins migrate to some of the most beautiful places in North America, and how these chemicals enter and affect our bodies.

The event included an informative Q&A moderated by SPCP’s Executive Director, Rachel Rosenberg with Dr. Susan Buchanan, Director of the Great Lakes Center for Children’s Environmental Health, and Dr. Jonathan Higgins, SPCP Board member and Senior Aquatic Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy. Thank you to Columbia College for hosting the screening.



Keeping an Eye on Bed Bugs

Bed bug training courses and outreach from SPCP are in high demand from the housing and social service community. In order to more efficiently respond to the requests, we have created a series of workshops this spring. Working closely with community groups and organizations, we planned three centralized trainings. The first two were held in the Humboldt Park and the Grand Crossing areas, the last one is planned for June 6th in the Garfield Park neighborhood. These trainings are free with limited space, so please sign up today at spcpweb.org/training.

Boulder, Colorado is Inspired by SPCP’s Dandelion Initiative

We’re pleased to report that Boulder has initiated a new campaign taking cues from SPCP’s successful campaign, “A Healthy Park is a Natural Park” for the Chicago Park District. The “Healthy Parks” campaign has helped raise awareness about the hazards of pesticides used to control weeds and is credited with reducing dandelion complaints to the Chicago Park District by 90%. We are very proud that this campaign is influencing other cities across the country. If your community is interested in a similar campaign, please give us a call at 773/878-7378. We’re happy to help.



Staff Updates

Congratulations to **Ruth Kerzee** who has been promoted to Associate Director. Under her direction, our housing program has developed new strengths and capacities. She will be working closely with senior staff to provide guidance for our strategic program planning and development to help shape the future for SPCP.



Sarah Neville is SPCP's new Program Associate. She received both her Master of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Policy from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. Sarah brings a strong background in environmental policy having worked to create and disseminate outreach materials for educational campaigns, build collaborative partnerships, and develop resource

management plans in the nonprofit and private sectors. Most recently, she worked as a Research Fellow at the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office.

Newest Additions to our Resources:

Our newest fact sheet is a collaboration with LAF (the Legal Assistance Foundation). The fact sheet, entitled *The Fair Housing Act: Reasonable Accommodation*, outlines what a landlord is required to provide to a tenant who needs assistance preparing an apartment for a pest control visit.

In order to better serve the needs of the diverse communities that need accurate information on bed bugs, SPCP had 10 fact sheets translated into Polish and Chinese. These fact sheets are available on our website and on the City of Chicago's website.

Natural Lawn Care Workshops Featured in Northwest Indiana

This two day event held in Indiana this March was developed with our Lawn to Lake partners and featured Chip Osborne, our Natural Lawn Care training expert. He engaged an audience of representatives from municipalities and lawn care companies on the first day, while the second day was devoted to educating school and childcare facility staff. Attendees learned the basics of sustainable lawn care and got a good introduction to soil science. School and childcare facility staff heard from the Indiana state chemist on applicable pesticide use laws that impact how outdoor pesticide are applied in those facilities. We also featured a live webinar of Chip's soil presentation that reached a national audience.

Both audiences gained a better understanding of the basic elements of a Natural Lawn Care program that are instrumental in protecting communities and our watershed. We appreciate the support of our Great Lakes Restoration Initiative partners: Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Purdue University, and we thank all of the attendees for opening their minds to Natural Lawn Care concepts.

Five Easy Ways to Make Your Garden Bee-Friendly

1. Don't use pesticides in your garden or yard. Pesticides play a major role in the decline of bee populations.

Pesticides get into the pollen and nectar and are carried back to the hive, affecting the entire colony. Be aware that many commonly used lawn and garden products contain pesticides. For example, "weed and feed," a combination of pesticide and fertilizer, is commonly used for lawn care. Be sure to check labels and only use pesticide-free products.

2. Don't pull all of the weeds out of your garden. Not all weeds are bad. Weeds such as dandelions are actually great sources of pollen for bees and other pollinators. Consider letting weeds bloom first before removing so that bees can use their pollen.

3. Plant bee-friendly plants in your garden or yard. Native plants are the bee's best friend. Native plants serve as a sustainable food source for bees, especially if chosen for varying bloom times.

4. Plant groupings of the same plant. Bees love feeding from mass plantings of the same plant as well as dense plantings of different plants.

5. Protect Your Bee's Habitat. Leave dead branches or other wood materials on the ground as nesting sites for bees. In areas likely to house bees, protect bee nests by not turning the soil. Most bees are not aggressive and won't sting you.



Save the Date!

Please plan to join us for the 6th annual Ladybug Bash on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Ravenswood Event Center. This benefit for Safer Pest Control Project will feature craft beer, delicious wine, local and organic food, a green auction, and live entertainment. We are looking for volunteers to join the Host Committee to help plan this year's event. For more information, please contact Kristin Weiss at 773/878-7378 ext. 208 or kweiss@spcpweb.org.

