Bringing Back the Bees
Presenter, Susan Chan

Susan Chan will introduce participants to the common native pollinators in Ontario including the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee, listed on the Ontario Species at Risk list as endangered. The importance of native pollinating bees will be explained and their fascinating nesting habits and foraging behaviours will be highlighted. Six steps will be presented to help landowners create and preserve healthy habitat for native bees. Learn more about initiatives that increase bee forage and reduce insecticide use on farms. Resource materials will be available. Susan has a BSc in agriculture and an MSc in pollination biology.

Susan Chan directs the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee Project as part of the Native Pollinator Program for Farms at Work, a local not-for-profit organization whose mission is to keep farmland healthy and active in east central Ontario. The Native Pollinator Program encourages beekeepers, farmers, gardeners, conservationists, and the general public to participate in preserving the diversity of bee species through actions taken on their land and hosts the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee facebook page to allow "bee spotters" to send in photos and ask questions about native bees.

Chan is also author of *A Landowner's Guide to Conserving Native Pollinators in Ontario*. For more on these programs, visit farmsatwork.wordpress.com

Bees are essential to the production of our food. According to a University of California, Berkley study, one in three bites of food in the United States are a result of pollination by both wild and domestic bees but disease, parasites, habitat loss, poor over-wintering and chemical use have caused a serious decline in bee populations. The good news is something can be done. A seminar on how to encourage bees back to your property will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2013 from 9:30 am to 4 pm at the Civitan Hall, 6787 County Rd. 43, in Perth, ON. Susan Chan, program manager of Farms at Work, will provide landowners with ways to attract bees by turning unused or marginal land into habitat for these natural pollinators.

The seminar includes a visit to a local farm to see the plan Chan has created for this operation. The cost for the day is $10 and includes lunch; to pre-register, contact lanarkstewardship@gmail.com. This event is sponsored by the Stewardship Councils of Eastern Ontario.

For more information: (613) 267-4200, ext. 3192 or lanarkstewardship@gmail.com.