

MEDIA RELEASE



Tom Van Arsdall tva@pollinator.org t: 703.509.4746
Kelly Rourke kr@pollinator.org t: 415.362.1137

Making Pollinators a Priority in Mexico

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Alejandro Del Mazo Maza, the National Commissioner for Natural Protected Areas at the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (*Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas*, or CONANP), recognizes the foundational role pollinators play in both the natural and developed world. Under Alejandro's confident direction, CONANP has made significant steps in pollinator protection and set the pace for the whole country to follow.

"I would like to express my gratitude and admiration to our colleagues and friends from other Federal and State governmental agencies, academic and non-governmental institutions in Mexico for their tireless and continued efforts to support monarchs." Alejandro noted in his acceptance speech. "The joint efforts of our three countries towards the conservation of the monarch and the various and complex ecosystems they require will hopefully inspire more people, more institutions, more citizens to work together across borders, not only for the monarchs, but also for other pollinators and many other shared species."

Alejandro's commitment to environmental stewardship and pollinator conservation has not go unnoticed; representing the effort of CONANP, including park rangers and protected areas' staff whom everyday safeguard Mexico's natural capital, he has been selected as this year's winner of the Mexican Pollinator Advocate Award. The award was presented to Alejandro last Tuesday night at the 16th Annual North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Conference Evening Reception at the USDA Log Lodge in Beltsville, Maryland.

Alejandro graduated in Business Administration from the Anahuac University, as well as a specialty in Energy and Environmental Policy and Management from the University of FLACSO and a Diploma in Management Finance from Harvard University. As federal deputy in the LXI Legislature, he was president of the Commission on Climate Change and Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, as well as Secretary of Metropolitan Development Commission and Secretary of the Commission for Strengthening Federalism. As Chairman of the Committee on Climate Change, he facilitated the discussion and approval of the General Law on Climate Change. He was Secretary of "GLOBE MEXICO" Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment. He was also part of the transition team of President-elect Lic. Enrique Peña Nieto. Alejandro served as Deputy Natural Resources of the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection from 2013 to 2015. As of April 21, 2015, he serves as the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas.

The Pollinator Advocate Award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to pollinator protection, conservation, and issue outreach resulting in increased awareness of the importance of pollinators and pollination. Alejandro shares this great honor this year with U.S. Pollinator Advocate Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Canadian Pollinator Advocate Robert McLean, Executive Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Without pollinators we would lose one third of our diet, nearly all of our high-nutrient food, most terrestrial ecosystems would collapse, important plant species that provide the raw materials for medicines would die out, and the biosphere would stop filtering air and freshwater for us and other wildlife. The world as we know it depends on pollinators. Pollinators require healthy clean habitat, and factors such as uncontrolled development, agricultural intensification, chemical misuse, and pathogen introduction are decimating their populations. Some species have seen a 90% decline in their populations over the last decade.

The Pollinator Partnership (P2), as the world's largest organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators, hopes to encourage environmental stewardship and to catalyze future actions that benefit pollinators by identifying individuals that have taken on advocacy. P2 manages NAPPC – the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign – and coordinates pollinator conservation outreach with over 150 stakeholders. P2 works to promote widespread collaborative stewardship practices on public, private, open, and working lands, within institutions and among individuals.

For more information about the Pollinator Advocate Award, Pollinator Partnership, and the NAPPC, please visit www.pollinator.org.

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NAPPC is a collaborative effort of over 150 organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico whose common goal is to promote awareness of the essential role that pollinators play in food systems and ecosystems, and to provide the public with simple, effective ways to engage in environmental stewardship.

Pollinator Partnership is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and the largest in the world dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. The Pollinator Partnership's mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research. Signature initiatives include the NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign), S.H.A.R.E., National Pollinator Week, and the Ecoregional Planting Guides.

To learn more about the NAPPC and the Pollinator Partnership visit www.pollinator.org or contact info@pollinator.org or call 415-362-1137 for more information.



The Pollinator Advocate Award designed by acclaimed artist James Randolph.