

MEDIA RELEASE



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A Lifetime Committed to Wildlife, Pollinators, and People

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Dan Ashe, current Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recognizes the foundational role pollinators play in both the natural and developed world. Under Dan's confident direction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made significant steps in pollinator protection and set the pace for the whole country to follow.

Dan Ashe was confirmed on June 30, 2011 as the 16th Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the nation's principal Federal agency dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. His appointment by President Obama is the culmination of a lifetime spent within the Fish and Wildlife Service family. Dan was born and spent his childhood in Atlanta, Georgia, where his father began his 37-year career with the Service. Much of Ashe's childhood was spent on national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries in the Southeast, where he learned to band birds, fish, hunt and, most importantly, simply enjoy the outdoors. Ashe earned a graduate degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, where he studied under a fellowship from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. His Master's thesis, on estuarine wetland mitigation, was published in the Coastal Zone Management Journal, in 1982.

Dan's commitment to environmental stewardship and pollinator conservation has not got unnoticed, as he has been selected as this year's winner of the U.S. Pollinator Advocate Award. The award was presented to Dan last Tuesday night at the 16th Annual North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Conference Evening Reception at the USDA Log Lodge in Beltsville, Maryland.

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. Dan Ashe shares this great honor this year with Canadian Pollinator Advocate Robert McLean, Executive Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Mexican Pollinator Advocate 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).

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.



From left: Jason Hickman (Grower Relations, Sran Family Orchards), Dr. Vicki Wojcik (Research Director, Pollinator Partnership), Dan Ashe (Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Laurie Davies Adams (Executive Director, Pollinator Partnership), Marc Bercier (Winner, Canada Farmer-Rancher Award)

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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.