

MEDIA RELEASE



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Pollinator Partnership Elects New Board Member, Ron Bitner: Entomologist, Vintner and Bee Friendly Farmer

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Pollinator Partnership is delighted to announce the election of our newest board member, Dr. Ron Bitner. Ron received his Ph.D. in Entomology from Utah State University in 1976, where he conducted his dissertation research on the Alfalfa Leafcutter Bee. His Master thesis from Purdue University was on the tube dwelling wasps and bees of Indiana. Since then, he has gained decades of experience in the management and consulting of non-*Apis* bees and crops requiring their pollination. His diverse professional experiences include 35 + years as the past President of Pollination and Pest Management Consulting Services and International Pollination Systems. From 1995 to 2006 Ron worked with CSIRO to develop pollination and integrated pest management programs for alfalfa seed and hybrid canola seed grown in Australia

Ron has served as a board member for the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, the Idaho State Board of Education Research Council, and the College of Idaho's Board of Trustees. Past affiliations include the Entomological Society of America and the National Wine Grape Growers Association.

Pollinator Partnership is excited to welcome Ron, with his years of experience and passion for pollinators, to the team. Ron and his wife Mary live in the beautiful Snake River Valley of Southwest Idaho. Along with their family, they are the Owner/Operators of Bitner Vineyards LLC, growing 15 acres of premium wine grapes, first planted in 1981. They were Pacific Northwest Magazine's 2009 Idaho Winery of the year., Canyon County 2013 Farm Family of the Year, and have the only Live certified sustainable vineyard in Idaho (www.bitnervineyards.com).

To learn more about Pollinator Partnership or the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), visit www.pollinator.org.

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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.