

24th ANNUAL NAPPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
NAPPC Directory: Participant List and Biographies



First Name	Last Name	Company/Organization	Email Address
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Rebecca	Louie	The Bee Conservancy	rebecca@thebeeconservancy.org
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Mauricio	Quesada	Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico	mquesada@cieco.unam.mx
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Flavia	Rutkosky	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	flavia_rutkosky@fws.gov
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Dolores	Savignano	US Fish & Wildlife Service	dolores_savignano@fws.gov

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Clint	Walker III	Pollinator Partnership	clintwalker3@gmail.com
Nicole	Webster	Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History	webstern@si.edu
Sara	Wittenberg	Pollinator Partnership	sw@pollinator.org
Vicki	Wojcik*	Pollinator Partnership Canada	vw@pollinator.org

* NAPPC Steering Committee Member



PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

The following information was provided by participants. Some biographies were edited to reduce length. We thank those who gave this information and offer apologies in advance for any errors.

Izzy Hill	Izzy Hill is the USDA Pollinator Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). She promotes collaboration across USDA offices, federal agencies, the commercial pollinator industry, conservation groups, and USDA grant recipients.
Dan Sonke	An expert on environmental issues in agriculture, Dan has 30 years of sustainability experience ranging from small-holder tropical vegetables to diverse specialty crops and large commodity crop systems. From 2011-2021, he developed Campbell Soup Company’s approach to sustainability in agriculture. In 2021, he became Head of Sustainability for Blue Diamond Growers.
Nancy Shaw	Dr. Nancy Shaw is a Research Botanist (emeritus) at the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station in Boise, Idaho, and immediate past-chair of the International Network for Seed-based Restoration. Prior to retirement she led the Great Basin Native Plant Project, a multi-disciplinary public/private program to increase the array of native species available for post-fire and other restoration efforts. Since retirement she has collaborated on local to international projects that examine native seed supply chains and provide recommendations for improving the diversity, availability, and quality of native seed required to support ecological restoration. Incorporating requirements for improving and sustaining pollinator populations plays an increasingly important role in this process.
Lucas Rhoads	As a senior attorney within NRDC’s Pollinators & Pesticides Team, Lucas works to protect bees and other pollinators from a wide range of threats, including pesticide use, habitat destruction, and climate change. He advocates at both the federal and state levels for policies that protect these vital species—while employing litigation to enhance and enforce existing protections. Prior to joining NRDC, Rhoads was the Ferraro Fellow at Public Justice, where he litigated cases to combat corporate abuses in a variety of areas. Rhoads holds a bachelor’s degree in natural resource policy and management from Cornell University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. He is based in NRDC’s Washington, D.C. office.

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Miles Dakin	Miles serves as the Co-Director of Agricultural programs for Pollinator Partnership, overseeing the Bee Friendly Farming program as well as many of Pollinator Partnership's California based ag projects. Miles lives in Ukiah, CA with his wife and two daughters.
Chia-Hua Lin	Dr. Chia Lin is a Research Scientist at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She holds a B.S. in Botany from National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan, an M.S. in Life Sciences with a focus on Ecology from Indiana State University, and a Ph.D. in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology from The Ohio State University. As an ecologist, her research interests encompass the impact of human-altered landscapes on the interactions between bees and their plant hosts, as well as the ecosystem services they provide. Her current work concentrates on developing management strategies to enhance the productivity of honey bees and cash crops in agricultural landscapes, exploring honey bee foraging ecology, and investigating the potential effects of agrochemicals on honey bee health.
Amber Barnes	Amber serves as Pollinator Partnership's (P2) Co-Director of Agricultural Programs. Over the last eight years, she has helped lead and coordinate research, volunteer efforts, and other habitat projects to enhance the landscape for imperiled pollinators. Through her former leadership of P2's Project Wingspan initiative, she worked with her team to develop high quality protocols, BMPs, trainings, and resources to guide seed collection efforts and support P2's goal of supplying regionally appropriate native seed to habitat projects. She has helped train a network of 1K+ volunteers in sustainable seed collection skills, who provide critical support to these landscape-level initiatives. Now, in partnership with the USDA-NRCS, she is leading a P2 team who provide outreach, education, and technical assistance to producers, landowners, and conservation professionals to help accelerate the adoption of pollinator supporting voluntary conservation practices on working lands across the country.
Christopher Crawford	Christopher Crawford is a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist, where he advises on projects at the intersection of agriculture and the environment. Chris is an ecologist and interdisciplinary conservation scientist who earned a PhD in Public & International Affairs focused on environmental policy from Princeton University in 2022, where he studied land use prioritization methods and how agricultural abandonment affects biodiversity and carbon storage. Prior to graduate school, Chris worked at the environmental nonprofit Sustainable Conservation in San Francisco, working to facilitate river restoration in California's Central Valley and reduce the use of

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	<p>invasive plants in gardening and landscaping through the PlantRight program. Chris grew up in East Lansing, MI and graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in ecology & evolutionary biology in 2012.</p>
<p>Silvana Martén-Rodríguez</p>	<p>Silvana Martén-Rodríguez was born in Costa Rica, where she completed her undergraduate studies in biology. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and currently, she is a professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Her research focuses on the evolution of flowers and plant reproductive systems, as well as the ecology and conservation of montane plant and pollinator communities in response to anthropogenic climate and land use change. These studies involve extensive fieldwork to document floral attraction and reward traits, reproductive systems, and plant-pollinator interactions across various plant groups. The focus is primarily on insular systems, tropical highlands, and associated elevational gradients. Additionally, some research questions employ phylogenetic approaches to understand the role of pollinators in floral diversification.</p>
<p>Kelly Bills*</p>	<p>Kelly Bills has been dedicated to pollinator conservation for a decade. Her focus is on large-scale habitat projects, plant-pollinator interactions, and agricultural and industry engagement. Kelly holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Anthropology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She has also received a Master's of Science in Environmental Management (Ecology Concentration) from the University of San Francisco. Her background in ecology, conservation, and culture has propelled her career in the non-profit sector. Kelly manages the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), National Pollinator Week, www.pollinator.org, and pollinator grants and scholarships. Kelly serves on the Board of Directors of Pollinator Partnership Canada, the Advisory Committee of the Monarch Joint Venture, and the Steering Committee for PlantAgents.</p>
<p>Gary Krupnick*</p>	<p>Gary Krupnick is a research scientist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, where he heads up the Plant Conservation Unit. He advises organizations on IUCN plant listings and represents the Smithsonian on committees for plant conservation and pollination. Gary studies plant conservation biology and plant-pollinator interactions. He has conducted conservation assessments of the flora of Hawaii and the flora of the West Indies. Along with the American Society of Botanical Artists, he co-curated the traveling exhibition, "Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World," a convergence of art, science, conservation, and education. Gary is the Vice Chair of the steering committee of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. He is the co-editor of the book <i>Plant Conservation: A Natural History Approach</i> (University of Chicago Press; 2005) and serves as the editor of <i>The Plant Press</i> (newsletter of the U.S. National Herbarium).</p>

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<p>Kristen Baum</p>	<p>Kristen Baum is the director of Monarch Watch, senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research and professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She earned a BS in Environmental Science from the College of William and Mary, a MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, a PhD in Entomology from Texas A&M University and completed a postdoc in Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University. Baum was previously the Associate Dean for Research for the College of Arts and Sciences at Oklahoma State University and a professor in the Department of Integrative Biology. She has worked with pollinators for more than thirty years. Her research interests focus on the effects of land use and management practices on monarchs and other pollinators. Baum has served on numerous state, regional and national working groups to support conservation efforts for pollinators</p>
<p>Mauricio Quesada</p>	<p>Mauricio Quesada obtained his degree in Biology in the Department of Biology, University of Costa Rica and M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Ecology in the Department of Biology of The Pennsylvania State University, USA. Dr. Mauricio Quesada is Research Professor of the Instituto de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas y Sustentabilidad (IIES) and the Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores (ENES), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Morelia campus. He is Head of the National Laboratory of Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (LANASE, http://www.lanase.unam.mx/es/). He has studied ecology, evolution and genetics of plants and biotic interactions. He is author of more than 140 articles published in peer review scientific journals, 23 book chapters, editor of 4 books and 6 technical reports. His scientific articles have been cited in more than 12,500 publications (https://scholar.google.com.mx/citations?user=OstXSoAAAAJ&hl=en). He is currently Associate Editor of Annals of Botany.</p>
<p>Kim Pegram</p>	<p>Dr. Kim Pegram oversees pollinator conservation and research at Desert Botanical Garden. This includes research on the interactions between plants and pollinators, milkweeds and monarchs, as well as propagation and distribution of native pollinator plants. She is also a steering committee member of the Arizona Monarch Collaborative, a partnership of more than 80 organization in the state working on monarch and pollinator conservation.</p>
<p>Eric Calhoun</p>	<p>Eric is a Supervisory Horticulturist for Smithsonian Gardens where he works at the intersection of ecology, science, history, art, and culture in Washington D.C. He manages the care of the gardens and aligns the programming of those gardens with their respective museums. Eric leads the garden teams surrounding the National Museums of Natural History, African American History and Culture, and the National Museum of the American Indian.</p>

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	<p>Before entering the public gardening world at the Smithsonian, Eric spent almost 2 decades with multi-million-dollar landscape design/build firms in the northern Virginia area. Eric pivoted to the public garden world to advocate for public gardens as destinations of respite, healing, cultural celebration, and historical significance.</p> <p>Eric has a Masters Certificate in Landscape Design from the George Washington University, and holds a B.A. with a double major in African American Studies and International Relations from the University of Virginia.</p>
Jennie Durant	<p>Jennie Durant is a social scientist, writer, and research affiliate at UC Davis who focuses on honey bee health, beekeepers, and climate change and pollinators.</p>
Robert Costello	<p>Robert believes in the potential of citizen science for fostering curiosity about the natural world, connecting humans to natural places, improving human, animal and ecosystem health, and uniting the public to preserve biodiversity. He uses his science, liberal arts, design and technology backgrounds to create experiences around nature and science. With two other colleagues, he created eMammal, the largest citizen science program in the world for monitoring and assessing mammal communities. More recently he cofounded PolliNation DC, a program for assessing pollinator preferences for native plants. His work in biodiversity and technology is expressed through mobile apps, websites and start up programs. His writings are multidisciplinary and include articles on citizen science and crowdsourcing, science education, visual literacy and storytelling, technology, and evolutionary and conservation biology.</p>
Clint Walker III	<p>Clint Walker III is a third generation beekeeper in Central Texas. He is a past president of the American Beekeeping Federation. Clint also served several terms on the National Honey Board. As he and his wife, Janice, are handing off the business to the fourth generation, Clint is finding time to support beekeeping development efforts in Eswatini, serve on the board of Pollinator Partnership, as well as doing more birding, fishing, and hiking with Janice and their two German Shepherds, Shelby and Emma.</p>
Sascha Nicklisch	<p>Dr. Sascha Nicklisch is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Toxicology at UC Davis who combines protein biochemistry, environmental chemistry, and toxicology to study multi-chemical impacts on organisms. With a PhD from UoCologne and postdoctoral experience in experimental physics (UoOsnabrueck), marine biomaterials (UCSB), and molecular toxicology (UCSD/SIO), he now focuses on honey bee health. Collaborating with the USDA honey bee lab at Davis, Dr. Nicklisch's team studies the effects of unintended co-exposures to various xenobiotic chemicals on bee health and survival. Additionally, the</p>

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	lab works with LLNL to trace chemical flow across hive members and into bee products. The goal of this research is to enhance the understanding of environmental chemical mixture impacts on bee colonies and to develop strategies to improve colony health and the safety of bee products.
Dewey Caron	Emeritus, Retired from Univ of Delaware (2009); currently Content and Communications Specialist (Affiliate faculty), Department of Horticulture, Oregon Master Beekeeper program, Oregon State Univ
Michael Studer	Michael Studer has been the Tennessee State Apiarist for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Consumer and Industry Services Division since December of 2007. He is responsible for regulating and protecting the honeybee industry in the state of Tennessee. He was previously employed by the University of Tennessee, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology as a research specialist for 11 years where he was responsible for researching and diagnosing honey bee pests and diseases for the University of Tennessee Bee Lab. Past President of Apiary Inspectors of America, Past Southern Regional Director of Apiary Inspectors of America, Past President of Tennessee Entomological Society, Honeybee Health Task Force board member North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.
David Inouye*	David has been associated with NAPPC since just after its inception. He has worked with pollinators at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory since 1971. He helped to write the 2007 report on Status of Pollinators in North America, and the 2024 Colorado Native Pollinating Insects Health Study, and is a member of the Research Coordination Network funded by the USDA to design a monitoring program for native bees.
Lora Morandin*	Lora is the Associate Director at Pollinator Partnership and has been doing research on bees and pollination since 1997. She started out working on bee pollination of greenhouse tomatoes at Western University in Ontario. She then did a PhD at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia studying modern agriculture and pollinators, followed by post-doctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley working on enhancement of native pollinators and natural enemy insects through farm habitat restoration. Lora has co-authored books and book chapters, created outreach and technical guides, and has many peer-reviewed publications on pollinators and sustainable agriculture, including innovative work on economic benefits of ecosystem services. One of her main interests is finding ways that human land-use, production, and conservation can co-exist for a healthy and sustainable environment. Lora lives in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

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Christine Taliga	Christine Taliga is a plant ecologist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service National Plant Data Team that manages the national PLANTS database (plants.usda.gov). This database provides standardized information about vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, as well as plant characteristics and ethnobotanical information. As part of this work current projects include the development of plant/pollinator interactions and ethnobotanical data resources. Christine’s background is in restoration ecology, plant materials, and conservation. I have worked all across the country on revegetation projects, that included seed collection, seed increase, prescribed fire management, and training.
Tamara Smith	Tamara (Tam) Smith is a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service focusing on endangered species recovery planning and implementation, species status assessments, and Endangered Species Act guidance. Tam focuses on imperiled invertebrates and is the national lead biologist coordinating the recovery of the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee and Poweshiek skipperling, among other species. Tam co-leads the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign’s Imperiled Bombus Conservation Task Force, is a co-organizer of the National Native Bee Monitoring Network, chairs the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society, and serves on several national and international pollinator conservation teams. Tam previously was the Director of Northwest Conservation Programs for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program and held other positions with the USFWS, Cornell University, and Sea Grant.
James Strange	Jamie is a Professor in Entomology at The Ohio State University. His research is focused on bumble bee health and genetics.
Morgan Christman	Mo is a remote Research Biologist and USDA-NIFA-AFRI-Postdoctoral Fellow with the USDA-ARS based in Columbus, OH. She is also concurrently serving as a Science Policy Fellow with the Entomological Society of America. Mo's research evaluates the impacts of climate change, habitat degradation and fragmentation, and management practices on bumble bees to develop evidence-based conservation practices. Her research integrates field ecology, bumble bee husbandry, population genetics, geospatial data analysis, machine learning, and multivariate statistics to address critical ecological questions.
Chick Adams	Chick Adams has been practicing bond law since his graduation from law school in 1976, and joined Jones Hall in 1979. He serves as bond counsel, disclosure counsel and underwriter’s counsel in financings for municipal bonds. Chick’s practice focuses primarily on representing school districts, cities and special districts throughout California, serving as bond counsel on their various financing needs. Chick has been active in local politics in his home town of Hillsborough, California, where

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	<p>he served on the City Council for 13 years and was Mayor for two of those years. He and his wife Laurie enjoy hiking and travel. His hobbies include woodworking, playing the piano, working on his 1957 Cadillac, and traveling the globe collecting butterflies and beetles.</p>
Dolores Savignano	<p>Dolores Savignano works in collaboration with the newly established U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pollinator Conservation Center to address declining pollinator populations. The USFWS has a wide range of pollinator conservation and science projects throughout the county and internationally. Dolores’s past work includes serving as liaison to the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, co-chair of the USFWS Pollinator Community of Practice and Chair of the Pollinator Work Group. She led the project with the U.S. Air Force to produce a pollinator conservation strategy, reference guide, and training. She received a B.S. in Biology from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from Univ. of Texas at Austin for her research on the facultative mutualism between Karner blue butterfly larvae and attendant ants.</p>
Scott Miller	<p>Scott Miller is Senior Biodiversity Advisor and Senior Research Entomologist at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. He previously held a series of leadership positions in the Smithsonian Institution central administration, including Deputy Under Secretary for Collections and Interdisciplinary Support, as well as Bishop Museum (Hawaii) and the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (Kenya). He helped establish and lead the Consortium for the Barcode of Life—an international network developing DNA-based identification tools to make biodiversity information more widely available. Many of his activities focus on mobilizing information from museum collections, and his research focuses on the integration of systematics, ecology, biogeography and conservation of insects and plants. Miller has a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.</p>
Shannon Farmer	<p>NAPPC Coordinator</p>
Vicki Wojcik*	<p>Vicki has been working to promote awareness and concern for pollinators throughout North America for 15-years with Pollinator Partnership. She is actively working to support the ratification of a pollinator MOU with Canada, the US, and Mexico, as well as directly supporting work on advancing a Pollinator Policy in Canada. Vicki's research focuses on how pollinators are using habitat in modified environments, including adaptations and resilience to climate change. Her partnership-building activities continue to encourage diverse stakeholders to engage with pollinators and sustainability. Vicki can't pick a favorite pollinator, but she's currently quite fond of small sweat bees (the sbbs that are so confusing).</p>

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Ryan Drum	<p>Ryan Drum is the lead conservation biologist for the USFWS Center for Pollinator Conservation. He leads national and international efforts working at the science-policy interface to solve conservation problems for native bees, butterflies, other pollinators, and their habitats. He also serves as the US co-chair of the Tri-national Monarch Conservation Science Partnership. He is based out of the USFWS Midwest Regional Office in Bloomington, MN.</p>
Rebecca Robertson	<p>Rebecca Robertson is a veteran beetender, involved in all things honeyfied and resides in Asheville NC USA . She is the founding Director of Mayan Melipona Bee.org, . We are a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, that is operating in the Yucatan Mexico. We are an Environmental and Cultural Project created to support Mayan Women in business, to preserve ancient Maya cultural traditions and help increase populations of the endangered Sacred Mayan Stingless Honeybees.(know as Xunan Ka’ab)</p> <p>The Mayan Melipona Bee Sanctuary Project ” was conceptualized by Rebecca Robertson after she was invited in February 2020 to represent Bee CityUSA/Asheville NC in a SISTER CITY -Valladolid delegation trip, in Yucatan Mexico. Her connection to the native Stingless Melipona bees and their women keepers was immediate. The first of our Bee Sanctuaries was built in February 2022. We are continuing to grow and thrive.</p> <p>You can purchase our Stingless Bee Honey on our website www.MayanMeliponaBee.org</p>
Erika Ortigoza Vázquez	<p>Erika Ortigoza Vázquez is a prominent figure in the field of environmental conservation. She stands out for her participation as a negotiator at the COP13 on biodiversity in 2016, and her representation of Mexico in dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN. She was also General Director of the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) and Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development of the municipality of Pachuca de Soto, Hidalgo. In addition, she is the founder and benefactor of the Fundación Invictus, a hospital for large carnivores unique in Latin America. Currently, she is the head of the State Commission of Biodiversity of Hidalgo (COESBIOH). She promotes and supports the implementation of pollinator gardens in cities, rural and indigenous communities, in schools of different educational levels, and for all interested society, always prioritizing the establishment of native plant species.</p>
Omar Díaz Segura	<p>Omar Díaz Segura is a biologist with a PhD in Biological and Health Sciences from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM). His areas of expertise are demography and population dynamics of endangered plant species and invasive exotic</p>



	<p>plant species. He has also conducted research on the reproductive biology and pollination of native and invasive exotic plants in Mexico. He is currently Director of the area of scientific dissemination of biodiversity at the State Biodiversity Commission of Hidalgo.</p>
Ciro Arturo Reyes	<p>Ciro Arturo Reyes Moreno is a nature and biodiversity lover. He studied international relations at the Universidad del Valle de México. He did professional internships at the UN in New York and the OAS in Washington. Currently, he leads the “Los Álamos” ranch project, a place that houses a great diversity of flora and fauna, as well as a field of more than 90,000 sunflowers that provide food and shelter to various pollinators. He also promotes the conservation of the firefly, which has been seeing more and more fireflies in recent years at the ranch.</p>
Erick Acoltzin Chávez	<p>Erick is a biologist who graduated from the Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo. He has 6 years of experience as an assistant at the INVICTUS Center for Rescue, Rehabilitation and Relocation of Large Carnivores. He is a lecturer, giving talks and training on animal welfare, illegal trafficking of species and wildlife rescue.</p> <p>He currently works at the Hidalgo State Biodiversity Commission, providing technical support in the implementation of pollinator gardens, citizen science and pollinator photography.</p>
Loraine Matias-Palafox	<p>PhD in Biological Sciences, Master in Biology and Bachelor in Biology from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa (UAM-I).</p> <p>Her professional and academic dedication has focused on the study of the reproductive success of native plants and their pollination.</p> <p>At CONABIO, she is in charge of compiling and systematizing information on priority species and native polliniferous nectar plants and their pollinators to integrate it into the National Biodiversity System of Mexico.</p> <p>She actively participates in the different activities of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (ENCUSP), and the National Pollinator Initiative. She also coordinates the Network 7 Pollinator Monitoring. She is a promoter of the establishment of gardens for pollinators, the #pollinator effect, #pollinate, the establishment of flower strips in agricultural areas and all the actions that lead to the conservation of pollinators.</p>
Mary Rust	<p>Working at EPA</p>

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Laurie Davies Adams	<p>Laurie Davies Adams has over forty years of experience in management and communications. She was a major contributor to the Obama Administration’s Presidential Memorandum on Pollinators which led to the appointment of a federal task force and the Federal Strategy to Support the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, each introduced at the annual Pollinator Week in June. For many years, every governor in the United States signed a state proclamation for Pollinator Week at the behest of Pollinator Partnership. She has worked with the Bush Administration to develop Pollinator Week, and with the Trump Administration to add the EPA Administrator along with the Sec. of Agriculture and the Sec. of the Interior to the proclamation roster, and with the Biden Administration on several USDA, USDI, and EPA efforts. Signature initiatives include Bee Friendly Farming, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), and the Eco-regional Planting Guides.</p>
Diana Cox-Foster	<p>Diana Cox-Foster is a Research Leader and Entomologist at USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit (PIRU) in Logan, Utah. PIRU focuses on biology, management, and systematics of all bees. Stakeholders include bee keepers, bee managers, growers who use Apis and non-Apis bees for pollination, and land managers of natural ecosystems. PIRU has the U.S. National Pollinating Insect Collection, with research on conservation of bee biodiversity. Cox-Foster examines impacts of pathogens and pesticides on bee health. Cox-Foster received a B. S. in Entomology and Zoology at Colorado State University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1987, Cox-Foster joined Penn State University as a faculty member and served as a full professor. At PSU, Cox-Foster was one of the scientists studying colony collapse disorder in honey bees and co-director of the CCD working team. She transitioned to USDA-ARS in October 2015.</p>
Anthony Colangelo	<p>Anthony Colangelo is a biology enthusiast who received his Bachelor of Science degree at Queen’s University majoring in Biology. Anthony has worked through multiple field seasons on many study organisms including tree swallows, black-capped chickadees, carrion beetles, and bumble bees. He loves to be outdoors to conduct research and is currently leading a Habitat Stewardship Program grant to learn more about the relationship between northern bumble bees, pollinators, and native plants in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. Anthony has worked with Pollinator Partnership for 7 years and is the Outreach and Education Specialist. He is excited to be leading the Pollinator Steward Certification Program again this upcoming year!</p>



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Mike Kiernan	A decade ago Tawnya and Mike Kiernan founded Bee the Change to create pollinator habitat in school yards, public spaces and solar fields across the Northeast US and in Central America. He has been a member of the NAPPC Managed Lands Task Force and is currently on the Pollinator Communications Task Force.
Mara Koenig	Mara Koenig is the communications lead for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Center for Pollinator Conservation. Mara has worked for the agency for more than 20 years and is based in Minnesota. Coming from the national wildlife refuge system, Mara broadened her communications and engagement in conservation moving to the Midwest Region Office of Communications in 2014. There she supported the Office of Conservation Investment, Sea Lamprey Control Program, America the Beautiful, and the Midwest Landscape Initiative. Mara has a Master’s in Environmental Education from University of Minnesota-Duluth and a B.S. in Park Management from South Dakota State University. She is a mother of two teenagers, married for 19 years and enjoys gardening, reading, yoga, hiking, golfing, boating and alpine skiing.
Grace Anderson	Grace Anderson is a passionate science educator who works to share the importance of plants, and their pollinators, with learners of all ages at the U.S. Botanic Garden.
Eleda Fernald	Eleda is the Assistant Horticulturist at Hagley Museum & Library, where she is involved in Hagley's pollinator garden expansion, oversees the bird box program, and assists in all of the property's horticultural areas
Rebecca Louie	Rebecca Louie is the Executive Director of The Bee Conservancy (TBC), a New York City-based national non-profit dedicated to protecting bees, safeguarding the environment, and advancing food security through education, habitat creation, and advocacy. From building pollinator habitats within the Port Authority of NY&NJ and the New York City Housing Authority to hosting festivals and youth programs across NYC, TBC builds a vast range of community-focused programs to increase access, help pollinators, and serve the people who depend on them.
Shayla Chalifoux	Shayla Chalifoux is a proud Stá̄t̄imc, Nêhiyaw, and mixed European plant enthusiast, dedicated to giving back to the t̄micw (land) and Indigenous Peoples. She aims to bridge knowledge gaps and foster learning through consultations and educational talks. Shayla is a passionate lifelong learner with a Bachelor's in Horticultural Science focusing on plant health and a Horticulture Diploma emphasizing sustainable production. She has completed the Stá̄t̄imc Language Fluency Certificate and is working towards the diploma.



	<p>Deeply passionate about the native plants of Salish lands, Shayla integrates Western and Ancestral wisdom in her 'two-eyed seeing' approach. Her mission is to Indigenize plant spaces, promote biodiversity, and nurture a deeper connection to the tmicw (land). Shayla believes that by working together, we can cultivate a harmonious environment for Tákem I snekwnúkwa7lhka (All Our Relations).</p>
Tawnya Kiernan	<p>A decade ago Tawnya and Mike Kiernan founded Bee the Change to create pollinator habitat in school yards, public spaces and solar fields across the Northeast US and in Central America. She is a member of the NAPPC Pollinator Habitat Installation Task Force.</p>
Andy Grinstead	<p>Andy grew up in Indiana, where he developed an enduring fascination for nature and exploration in the dense hardwood forests of the Hoosier National. He spent countless hours hiking, camping, building forts, and wandering the woods at night looking to uncover new natural mysteries. He wanted to share his passions for the outdoors and so pursued a degree in recreation with hopes of becoming an interpretive guide. Andy later discovered that to answer his childhood quandaries he needed to learn more about ecology and natural history, so he completed a masters in ecological restoration. He has worked in the Northwoods of Minnesota, Great Plains of the Dakotas, mountains of Colorado, expansive deserts of New Mexico, and cascading gorges of Upstate New York. A theme throughout his career has been community engagement and volunteerism in support of natural resource management initiatives. Andy is excited to share his enthusiasm for plants, pollinators, and human connection with the community.</p>
Flavia Rutkosky	<p>Flavia has been a member of the Habitat Installation Task Force since it's inception.</p>
Jane Breckinridge	<p>Jane Breckinridge is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the co-founder of the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators (TAP), a Native-led coalition that assists tribes with restoring native plants to their lands. TAP has created the largest native plant seed bank in Oklahoma. Jane is also the director of the Euchee Butterfly Farm located in Leonard, OK, which creates sustainable economic development for Native people through butterfly farming, and provides education about the need for habitat conservation and cultural preservation.</p>
Sara Wittenberg	<p>Sara Wittenberg has a BS in Zoology (Auburn University), where she examined causes of mortality of birds of prey admitted to a rehabilitation facility, and a MS in Biology (University of Arkansas), where she explored the natal origins of migratory</p>



	<p>Merlins and Northern Harriers. Her experience includes interning at the national zoo in Costa Rica; directing the rehab program at the Southeastern Raptor Center; co-running a HawkWatch banding station in the Florida Keys; tracking gopher tortoise movements at Fort Benning, GA; conducting breeding bird surveys for the USFS; conducting Sandhill Crane/Sage-Grouse surveys for the USFWS; and assisting with Cornell University’s search for the (extinct?) Ivory-billed Woodpecker. She believes strongly in sharing her passion for the natural world with the next generation of conservationists. In her free time Sara enjoys reading, hiking, birding, traveling, gardening, and exploring the beautiful Ozark mountains with her husband, two children, and dog.</p>
<p>Katherine Down</p>	<p>Katherine graduated in 2012 with a degree in chemical engineering from The University of Western Ontario. After graduation, Katherine joined LANXESS as a process engineer and has worked in a variety of roles within the global speciality chemicals company, and is now the Plant Manager of the West Hill (Toronto) facility producing lubricant additives and greases. Katherine's interest in how chemical producers can impact the environment began in 2014 when she was responsible for wastewater treatment and landfill operations at the company's Sarnia Industrial Complex. Taking this interest to Toronto, Katherine started the Earth Day program as a complement to the company's health and wellness activities. From there, Katherine's been the public face of the team's efforts to use the unused land to the benefit of Toronto's pollinators and has shared this positive impact locally, regionally, and globally through the LANXESS network.</p>
<p>Julie Bitner-Quick</p>	<p>Julie Bitner-Quick is the daughter of bee specialist and Idaho wine vintner, Dr Ron Bitner. Growing up she spent many hours in the company of leafcutter bees following her father around, whether in the fields of Idaho tracking them or in the labs at Utah State University studying them. Her father was also a farmer, starting up a family vineyard when she was young which she watched grow into a thriving wine business of today. More importantly, Bitner Vineyards led the way in Idaho as the first vineyard that is sustainable LIVE certified, Salmon-Safe certified, and a promoter of bee-friendly farming practices.</p>
<p>Josh Nelson</p>	<p>Josh is dedicated to growing Wild Ones by leading the organization’s fundraising efforts, building partnerships with like-minded businesses and organizations, and pursuing innovative opportunities for growth. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from Illinois State University and a master’s degree in Restoration Ecology and Habitat Management from the University of Idaho. Before joining Wild Ones in 2023, Josh spent a decade as a Restoration Ecologist, focusing on restoring native landscapes at the local level.</p>

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Sophia Athanas	Sophia recently graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Biology. She works with processing specimens and data at the USGS Bee Lab, and has a passion for all Hymenoptera, but especially bees and parasitoid wasps. She will begin her MSc in Entomology at the University of Manitoba with Dr. Jason Gibbs in January 2025
Christof Meyer	Christof is the President of AloTerra and believes that stewarding our ecological resources is the most important work of our lifetime. He was born into Restoration through the work on his family farm. Growing up in the rural Northwest of New Mexico, soil development and water conservation were second-nature for any project they undertook and left a permanent mark on how he views the world. The potential to reduce water usage while providing an improved environment for pollinators through local plant cultivation, retain moisture by crimping/discing cover crops, and increasing prairie resilience through the introduction of animals is massive. Additionally, Christof's experience leads him to believe in the critical roles that microbes, vermiculture, soil porosity, and co-planted communities play in establishing sustainable, thriving, native ecosystems.
Phoebe Redfield	Phoebe Redfield is a conservation ecologist whose passion for nature began with butterflies and bees in her childhood garden. Inspired by the mutualistic relationship between plants and animals, Phoebe's research has focused on ecosystem services such as pollination and seed dispersal. With graduate degrees in Conservation Biology and in Human Resources Management, Phoebe brings a unique blend of scientific and leadership expertise to her role at P2. She is dedicated to crafting effective training programs, supporting public outreach initiatives, and inspiring pro-pollinator behavior at the community level. When not working, Phoebe is an avid birder and a dog-lover who has volunteered for over a decade supporting retired racing greyhound organizations.
James Hart	James has been a Conservation Ecologist with Pollinator Partnership for 3 years, and has worked on various pollinator habitat-related initiatives, including native seed collection, plant materials grants, and educational programs. He is passionate about the ways that we can be positive players in the landscape around us. Based in Berkeley, California, James enjoys learning about the native plants and pollinators of the area. When he's not working, he can be found woodworking and hiking some nearby trails.
Caroline Wagar	Caroline Wagar is a Federal Legislative Associate with Environment America based in Washington, DC. She works on national campaigns to protect wildlife and wild places. Right now, Caroline is working to save bees and monarch butterflies

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	by expanding pollinator habitat along roadsides and on public lands. Caroline graduated with her degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland in May of 2024.
Cassandra Cruikshank	Cassandra (Casey) Cruikshank is a Biologist for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and a leading member of the KYTC Pollinator Initiative for installing pollinator plots on Kentucky right of ways.
Suzanne Fisher	Suzanne Fisher began her career with TVA 20 years ago as an environmental scientist. She is one of TVA’s Natural Resources employees that helps manage 293,000 acres of public land. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and has an MS in Environmental Health from East Tennessee State University. Through Public Outreach, her group is finding ways to reach our valley residents to engage, educate, and inspire them to love our public lands and use with care. Over the past three years she has also worked to develop pollinator outreach. This includes Pollinator Garden Buzz that is held each year handing out plants, creating citizen science opportunities to monitor bumble bees, and working on implementing biodiversity policy at TVA.
Stephanie Hertz	Stephanie Hertz serves as the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP) Coordinator for the Department of Defense (DoD) within the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environmental Management & Restoration). The RASP is a partnership between the DoD and Department of the Interior focused on developing and promoting conservation and recovery initiatives for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species while promoting increased flexibility for military mission activities. As the Coordinator for DoD, Stephanie focuses on proactive, innovative and collaborative approaches that enhance implementation of the Endangered Species Act, sustain and enhance the military mission, and achieve greater conservation outcomes for species.
Grace Schilling	Early career field biologist with a focus on plant-pollinator interactions, invasion biology and applied conservation