

## Pollinator Partnership: Bee Calm and Keep Buzzing

The fight to contain and conquer the Covid-19 virus is a problem facing everyone in the world. We are all in this together, and Pollinator Partnership (P2) is pledged to keep working on behalf of pollinators, plants, people and the planet through this difficult time.

Keeping our P2 staff and all the people they connect with healthy and safe is our top priority. At present, P2 is working mostly from home but also out in the field at a socially responsible distance from any other person, helping all of our pollinators greet spring in a safer and more sustainable environment. The P2 Staff is amazing – here is just one example; Pollinator Partnership’s Holly Frainer will be carefully planting and labeling close to 20,000 plugs to support monarchs in the next couple weeks for P2’s Project Wingspan. You can keep track of all of our P2 staff’s progress in blogs coming to [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org).

Bees and butterflies need our help right now:

- Bees are beset with virus problems of their own. We’re working hard to protect them from contamination and infestation from mites that can vector viral diseases. Our **Mite-a-Thon** is an international effort to support beekeepers in accurately testing for Varroa mite infestation levels at least twice a year – the Mite-A-Thon shows how important accurate measurements of infection are in honey beehives and, clearly, right now in human health as well.
- **The Bee MD** is our program to help beekeepers determine just what might be happening in their hives through accurate descriptions and photos of various honey bee maladies. It’s available for free on our web site [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org).
- P2’s **Bee Friendly Farming** program supports all those great farmers out there who are not only growing food for people, they are providing floral resources and doing best agricultural practices that support the pollinators sharing our landscapes.

All of these programs are found on [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) which is a great place to explore, offering over 1000 pages of free, fun, helpful ways to support a sustainable future. But we are here to help YOU right now, too! **Here are a few things that you might enjoy right now:**

- **Get trained!** – Our P2 programs like the online seed collection module - <https://www.pollinator.org/wingspan/seed-collection> is ready to educate and certify your training as a seed gatherer; great help for pollinators and enlightening for you.
- **Bee dirty.** Plant some bee and butterfly friendly plants in your yard, garden, on your patio or window box. You will be encouraging pollinating visitors. P2’s Ecoregional Planting Guides are there to help you select the right plants for your neighborhood [www.pollinator.org/guides](http://www.pollinator.org/guides). A dig in the dirt always feels great!

- **Stay put.** By not traveling, you are reducing your carbon footprint – good going! By cleaning up your footprint while you are sequestered at home, you may become in touch with how little you really need to be happy and healthy. Great maps on the reduced pollution from quarantined countries are at the New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/coronavirus-pollution.html>.
- **Make a recipe.** P2 has a doozy sent in by world famous, Presidential Medal of Honor Winner Dr. Mae Berenbaum. It uses all pollinator-assisted ingredients and is yummy – Cranberry-Chocolate Tart <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/Cranberry-Chocolate-Tart-2020.pdf>
- **Order some brilliant art.** The new Pollinator Week poster is absolutely brilliant. Meet the artist online at <https://www.pollinator.org/shop/posters>.
- **Read a book.** Here are some of the recommendations found on pollinator.org. –“Bee Basics” by Beatiz Moisset, Ph.D. and Stephen Buckmann, Ph.D. And “The Human Swarm” by Mark Moffett, Ph.D. Enjoy – and recommend your favorites to us at [info@pollinator.org](mailto:info@pollinator.org). One of our P2 Board members, Terry Witzel recommends “The Honey Bus” by Meredith May.
- **Bee a Citizen Scientist.** Watch for butterflies and bees as they emerge – I saw my local bumble bee for the first time today (*Bombus vosnesenskii*). You can find them all in [Bumble Bees of the Western States](#) and [Bumble Bees of the Eastern States](#). Click each to go to order them now and enjoy! Use the [Insight APP](#) (download from the APP store for IOS) and register an observation.
- **Bee grateful.** Getting through the next months will be a challenge, but there will be less aggravation if we express our thanks and share the love. It is spring, and you should see little flying ambassadors soon. When you see a bee, say thank you. It’s a beautiful world, and we will get through this together. Your financial support makes all of this possible, and your partnership makes a real difference in the world. **Thank you!**

We visualize each of us in a “waiting” scenario; at home, at work, on campus, or wherever we might be. STOP WAITING! Do something (see suggestions above) and feel better fast. Remember, we at Pollinator Partnership are here for the pollinators, plants, people and the planet. Let us know what you are up to at [info@pollinator.org](mailto:info@pollinator.org). Don’t be a stranger – we are all part of the same hive. **Let’s keep buzzing!**

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