

THE BUZZ

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Pollinator Partnership Newsletter
Summer 2019



The newsletter for friends and supporters of the Pollinator Partnership

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Join Us for the 3rd Annual Mite-A-Thon, September 7-14!

The **Mite-A-Thon**, now in its 3rd year, is an international effort to help beekeepers gain knowledge of the level of Varroa destructor (varroa) infestation that their hives are carrying just before the overwintering season begins. This parasitic mite and the viruses it vectors are significant drivers of honey bee colony mortality. The **Mite-A-Thon** helps beekeepers learn more about their hives and documents a snapshot of the infestation level everywhere. Data collected by participants helps to visualize varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window, September 7-14, 2019.

More details from last year's report, resources on varroa sampling, and information for involvement in 2019 can be found at pollinator.org/mite-athon. This great partnership is being spearheaded by **P2** and uniquely supports honey bees and the beekeepers who work side by side with them.



It's About Time

It is my honor to be back at **Pollinator Partnership**, especially at a time when conservation and charitable work are more difficult than ever; especially when the science that guides all thoughtful and strategic decisions concerning climate change and human impacts on the future of the planet are being called into question; especially when it matters more than ever. Fortunately, around the world there is solid agreement about the anthropogenic nature of rising temperatures and extreme weather incidents, each of which have profound impacts on the health of pollinators, along with lack of habitat, assaults from pesticides, and invading pathogens and parasites.

It's *about time* for all of us to speak plainly and act decisively when it comes to conservation. We cannot afford to ignore the sustainable actions needed to support life on earth – reducing our carbon footprint, most notably – and we need to change behaviors in a systematic way that allows the economy to adjust and grow WHILE we incorporate reduced fossil fuel consumption and develop sustainable sources of energy. Most of the world has gotten the message, and most global businesses are planning for the real future that we face now.

It's *about time* to collaborate across all sectors of our society for the sake of our future, our children, and the natural world. In helping pollinators, we are really helping ourselves.

It's *about time* to be and act as if all of our actions matter, because they do. Thank you for joining the **Pollinator Partnership** family, and for doing your part in building a stronger, more resilient and hopeful future now with every act of kindness, conservation, and intelligence. I am honored to facilitate this fine work and to applaud your partnership.

Laurie Davies Adams
President and CEO

*“Look deep into nature,
and then you will understand
everything better.”*

–Albert Einstein



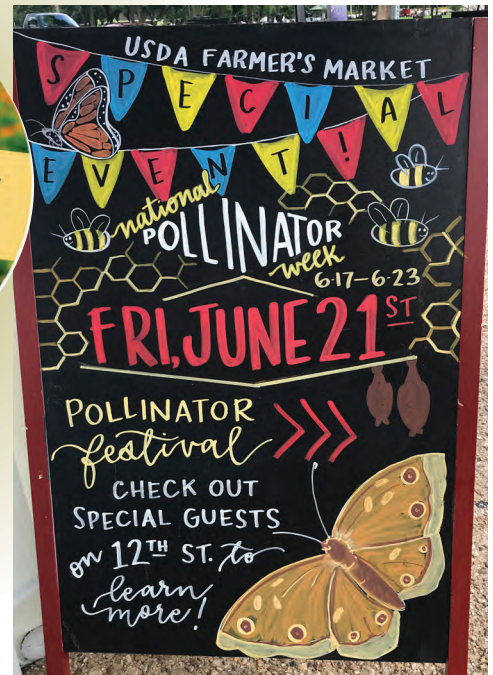
Pollinator Week Makes Bright and Hopeful Actions Visible Around the World

It has been a whirlwind of activity at **P2** and beyond as *Pollinator Week 2019* (June 17-23) wrapped up its thirteenth consecutive year of spreading the word and celebrating the importance of pollinators and their conservation. Not only did we once again obtain *Pollinator Week* proclamations from all 50 states, but the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, also signed proclamations supporting the observance of *N ational Pollinator Week*.

While **Pollinator Partnership** founded *Pollinator Week* in 2007 within the United States, it has grown far and wide and has become embraced as an international week of celebration, with activities being carried out world-wide! In fact, over 375 events were organized and registered on **P2's** *Pollinator Week* web page this year, including events in Kenya, France, Columbia, the Netherlands, Germany, China, Taiwan, Bermuda, as well as the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The world is making pollinators a priority thanks to **P2's** efforts and leadership.

P2 coordinated with attractions throughout North America, resulting in 13 major landmarks lighting themselves in pollinator colors (orange and yellow) between June 17-23. This included Niagara Falls, the Baltimore City Hall dome, Terminal Tower, and the San Francisco City Hall to name a few. **P2** staff across the United States and Canada led a variety of events, trainings, and outreach during *Pollinator Week*, including several in Washington, D.C., such as the *Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus Hill Briefing* and *Pollinator Festival at the USDA Farmers Market*.

And of course, your support makes all of these **Pollinator Partnership** initiatives possible. Thank you for making the world take notice of the plight of pollinators, and for making real change happen. Visit www.pollinator.org to make a donation. Your support is lighting up the world!



We're busy as bees producing **The Buzz**

President and Chief Executive Officer
Laurie Davies Adams

Director of Programs and Operations
Kelly Rourke

Graphic Design Marguerite Meyer

The Buzz is published by the *Pollinator Partnership* and mailed to all of our donors and interested friends of pollinators. This issue is also available at our website: www.pollinator.org.

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speaks at The Commonwealth Club on **July 29 @ 6:00 PM**

"Bees, Butterflies and Your Well-Being".

www.commonwealthclub.org/events/

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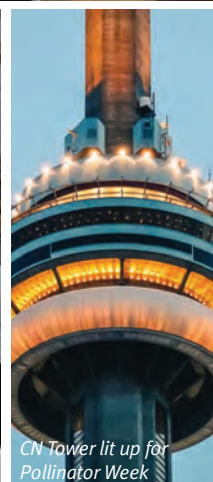
San Francisco City Hall lit for Pollinator week.
Photo courtesy: San Francisco Department of the Environment



Pollinator Week Congressional Briefing panel



P2 table at the Oakland Zoo



CN Tower lit up for Pollinator Week



The Best Supporters in the World! **THANK YOU!**

Over the past 6 months we've received donations from:

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Donna Kurilla
Mary LaFreniere

Wow! Your support is making a real difference. **THANK YOU!**

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Pollinator Partnership Spreading Wings and Seeds Across North America

Pollinator Partnership is leading coalitions across the monarch flyways with our *Monarch Wings Across America Programs*. With your support, these programs are growing and making real landscape level change. Some highlights:

Monarch Wings Across the Eastern Broadleaf Forest achieved great success in increasing quality monarch habitat across middle America by engaging citizen scientists and partnering with conservation practitioners in IL, IN, OH, MO, and AR. Through this initiative, **Pollinator Partnership** established an eco-regional native seed collection and plant materials development program. **P2** trained 327 volunteers whose collective efforts produced 100 lbs. of cleaned native milkweed and nectar plant seed, valued at nearly \$60,000. All of the collections, including 11,482 propagated seedlings, and additional habitat enhancement materials were distributed to 65 monarch habitat creation and enhancement projects across the region. **P2** held 5 in-person technical training workshops for public land managers and private land stewards and developed a 7-part online monarch habitat creation and management webinar series (pollinator.org/mwaebf/webinars) to provide dissemination of Best Management Practices for habitat management. Additionally, **P2** conducted 97 habitat consultation visits and worked with multiple conservation partners. The result? **Pollinator Partnership** far surpassed our original goal of 4,688 acres to sign over 27,700 acres into long-term monarch habitat management agreements.

Our current Midwestern/Great Lakes landscape initiative, *Project Wingspan: Landscape Enhancement for Imperiled Pollinators of the Midwest (PW)*, took flight in December 2018 and will run through 2020. This project will increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of monarch and rusty patched bumble bee habitat by expanding our native seed collection and habitat enhancement efforts. While continuing to work throughout the initial states, *Project Wingspan* expanded to include MI, WI, and PA, targeting 29 native milkweed and nectar/forage plant species. *PW* needs your support and participation – you can register as a seed collection volunteer at tinyurl.com/Wingspan-volunteer. Your donations make *PW* possible – donate at www.pollinator.org.

Another **P2** initiative, *Monarch Wings Across California*, establishes three strategic long-term monarch research and habitat sites in California to improve understanding of the migration patterns and forage requirements of California's lesser-studied western population of monarch butterflies. **Pollinator Partnership** is conducting extensive monitoring and collecting data vital to fill knowledge gaps while informing future habitat restoration efforts.





Bee Friendly Farming Shows Growth Across the Continent

Bee Friendly Farming has grown exponentially in the last few years with farmers from east to west, north and south, planting for pollinators and registering their properties. As the program grows, so does interest from our members and so do the technical questions we get as farmers strive to do better for bees. One common question that keeps coming up is: “what specific floral resources should we be planting in our region and for our crop to provide the greatest benefit?”

Pollinator Partnership is currently developing technical guidelines for farmers, highlighting the specific pollinators that frequent specific crops and outlining a list of plantings that support these pollinators, and, of course, all of this information is regionally specific.

BFFers will be updated on technical guidelines for on-farm habitat planting based on our EcoRegional Planting Guides. They’ll get updates to create the specific habitat these pollinators need through increased communication for all the *BFF* community, including farmer to farmer blog posts and a newsletter with specific tips for better farming that supports pollinators. Be sure to register your farm or garden in this expanding program.



Bee Friendly Farmer in Idaho

Pollinator Partnership Canada Builds Excitement for Pollinator Issues Across the Provinces

2019 has been an exciting year of growth at **Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C)**. Across Ontario, **P2C** successfully concluded a two-year project that saw the creation of 49 new monarch habitat sites, including school gardens, natural areas restorations, and 20 farms. The **P2C** team also conducted over 20 outreach events in Ontario and British Columbia, informing people about the importance of pollinators and ways to help them. In Ottawa, **P2C** presented case studies at the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s workshop on Pollinator Habitat Restoration on Rights-of-Way. Additionally, **P2C** has been working closely with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to expand their pollinator program that includes habitat creation at several of their properties, including the Darlington Energy Complex Ranney Falls Generating Station and Sir Adam Beck Generat-



School planting in Ontario



P2 Canada Team

ing Station in Niagara. **P2C** has gone from sea to shining sea with three new ecoregional guides for Nova Scotia and five for British Columbia!

Pollinator Week was a highlight of the year. In support of **P2C**, Brickworks Ciderhouse featured pollinators for their Community Cask night on June 20. Proceeds from a specially brewed cider made with wildflower honey, strawberries, and rose petals and a menu featuring pollinated foods were contributed to **P2C’s** work. **P2C** also hosted two Bee Safaris in Toronto parks, where participants learned about the 364 (and counting!) species of bees that can be found in the city. And what better way to celebrate the Canada Day long weekend than as a Partner in Protection at the Royal Ontario Museum, where **P2C** engaged hundreds of families on the importance of pollinators through games, activities, and scavenger hunts through the museum exhibits.