



23rd ANNUAL NAPPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
NAPPC Directory: Participant List and Biographies



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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.

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| Laurie Davies Adams | Laurie Davies Adams is Director of Programs at Pollinator Partnership, the world’s largest organization dedicated exclusively to the health of pollinating species. With 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 Federal Strategy to Support the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, introduced at the annual Pollinator Week in June. For the past 5 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. Signature initiatives include Bee Friendly Farming, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), and the Eco-regional Planting Guides. |
| Lauren Agnew | Lauren Agnew is PhD Candidate studying the impacts of urban pollutants on native bee populations. She approaches her work through the lens of trait-based ecological risk assessment to identify bees most at risk in polluted environments. |
| Jen Ainsworth | Jen is responsible for accomplishing Wild Ones’ mission through management of staff, national programs, fundraising, chapter and membership development, and partnerships with other organizations. Jen has over 10 years of non-profit management experience in business operations, project management and continuous improvement. Jen graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with an associate’s degree in business management with a specialty and green belt certification in Lean and Six Sigma. |
| Samantha Alger | Samantha is a Research Assistant Professor in the Plant and Soil Science Department at the University of Vermont (UVM). Her research aims to improve the health of both managed and wild pollinators through research, education and outreach. At UVM, she conducts research on bee disease, teaches introductory beekeeping courses, and directs the Vermont Bee Lab, a lab that offers disease diagnostic services for Vermont beekeepers. She serves as Scientific Advisory to the One Hive Foundation and the Vermont Beekeepers Association. |



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| Nicole Alt | The Center for Pollinator Conservation promotes working together to address declining pollinator populations in North America. This national center is a place for land managers, decision and policy makers, scientists, program leaders and others to explore, coordinate and share best practices and approaches. We work collaboratively with partners to implement conservation that benefits pollinator species. |
| Grace Anderson | Grace Anderson is the Science Education Specialist at the United States Botanic Garden. |
| Maria del Coro Arizmendi | Graduated from the UNAM Faculty of Sciences as a Biologist. Her postgraduate studies were carried out at the Ecology Center, also at UNAM. Her research has focused on the ecology, evolution and conservation of birds and particularly hummingbirds. She is a full-time research professor at the UNAM Faculty of Higher Studies Iztacala, where she is now also director. It belongs to the National System of Researchers with level III. She has taught more than 100 courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has directed more than 60 undergraduate and graduate students both at UNAM and other institutions. Her excellence in research work is reflected in his more than 100 publications in international journals, 12 books and 33 book chapters. |
| Erika Arroyo | Erika Arroyo studied biology at the Metropolitan Autonomous University. She completed her master's degree in demography and population dynamics of a species of cactus. For her doctorate, she studied the reproductive biology and facilitation of pollinators between two cacti that cohabit in a semi-desert area of Querétaro, Mexico. She is currently carrying out her postdoctoral degree, where her main objective is to describe the diversity and reproductive biology of herbaceous plants native to Mexico City and its surroundings that serve to provide resources for pollinators. She participated in the organization of a workshop to establish the first pollinator garden at the Metropolitan Autonomous University, which has been a success story since the student community has been involved and understands the importance of the conservation and maintenance of these spaces. |
| Antoine Asseline-Nguyen | Antoine is a Project Lead at the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, leading our project "Advancing Pollinator Conservation throughout North America". |
| Tim Bargar | Tim Bargar earned his PhD in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Tech University in 2000. Afterwards, he worked for 3 years (2000-2003) with the Environmental Fate and Effects Division of the USEPA, 5 years (2003-2008) with the Ecological Services Field Office of the Fish & Wildlife Service in Vero Beach, Florida, and is now working as a research ecotoxicologist |



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| | with the Wetland and Aquatic Research Center of the USGS in Gainesville, Florida. Currently, his research is focused on the risk of mosquito control insecticides to imperiled butterflies in the Florida Keys, and on the risk of neonicotinoid insecticides to monarch butterflies. |
| Nezahat Pinar Barkan | Pinar Barkan has been working on bumble bees for over 10 years. She is working as a postdoctoral scholar in Dr. Jamie Strange's Lab at the Ohio State University. Her research focuses on bumble bee genomics and genetics. |
| Amber Barnes | Amber Barnes is a Conservation Program Manager with Pollinator Partnership (P2). Combining her passion for plants and wildlife, she has helped lead and coordinate research, volunteer efforts, and other habitat projects aimed to enhance the landscape for imperiled pollinators like the monarch and rusty patched bumble bee. Through several P2 efforts, she's 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 over 1,000 volunteers in sustainable seed collection skills, who provide critical support to these landscape-level initiatives. Now, in partnership with the NRCS, she is leading a team of P2 staff who provide outreach, education, and technical assistance to landowners and conservation professionals to help accelerate adoption of pollinator and other voluntary wildlife conservation practices. |
| Lewis Bartlett | Dr. Lewis Bartlett is an assistant professor in Pollinator Health at the University of Georgia. He specializes in infectious disease ecology and parasitology in apiculture. NAPPC has funded his work in 2021 in preventing small hive beetle infestation of honey bees colonies during pollen feeding. He is an incoming Entomological Society of America Policy fellow 2023-2025 and will be working to improve regulation of honey bee health products and streamline tech transfer in the beekeeping industry. |
| Morgan Belle | I am currently a Conservation and Science Technician with Disney Conservation, where I work to make the world a better place for both pollinators and people. I graduated from San Francisco State University with a Master's in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology in 2021. I am passionate about the preservation of our planet's biodiversity and work within the field of conservation where I use my experience to contribute to scientific research and education. |



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| <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>Ron Bitner</p> | <p>With a Masters in Entomology from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in Entomology from Utah State University, Ron has over 45 years of experience with management of pollinators and crops requiring bee pollination. As the Partner/Pollination Consultant with International Pollination Systems (IPS), Ron worked to develop pollination and integrated pest management programs for alfalfa seed and hybrid canola seed grown in Australia. Ron is the owner/operator of Bitner Vineyards, a 15-acre vineyard of premium wine grapes. Ron blends his love for bees - specifically the Alfalfa Leafcutter Bee - with his work on the Vineyard, where he plants cover-crops to provide bee habitat and adorns bottle corks with images of leafcutters.</p> |
| <p>Michael Branstetter</p> | <p>Dr. Branstetter is a Research Entomologist in the USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Lab in Logan, UT. His research focuses on the molecular systematics, phylogenetics, and conservation of bees in the U.S. and globally. He also works on the development of new tools that aim to help specialists and non-specialists alike more easily identify bee species and monitor bee communities. He is passionate about wild bee diversity and conservation and about how native bees can be used improve pollination in agricultural systems.</p> |
| <p>Jessica Butters</p> | <p>Jessica Butters is a pollinator conservation specialist at Prairie Rivers of Iowa, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Prairie Rivers of Iowa informs community leaders on environmental projects and provides environmental education to community members throughout the state. Jessica received her Masters in Entomology at Kansas State University.</p> |
| <p>Carolyn Callaghan</p> | <p>Carolyn Callaghan is the Senior Conservation Biologist for Terrestrial Wildlife for Canadian Wildlife Federation. She holds a doctorate in wildlife ecology from the University of Guelph. The primary area of focus for Carolyn and her team is the</p> |



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| | conservation of biodiversity on working landscapes Canada, including rights-of-way and agricultural land. The team seeks compatibility with farming practices and business practices on rights-of-way and the recovery of pollinators, birds, and threatened ecosystems. Carolyn's work spans ecological research, government policy, and sustainable food indices. |
| Dewey Caron | Dr. Dewey M. Caron, Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, & Affiliate Professor, Dept Horticulture, Oregon State University. Professional appointments at Cornell (1968-70), Univ of Maryland (1970-81) and Univ of Delaware 1981-2009, serving as Department chairman at the last 2. Retired from Univ of Delaware in 2009 and moved to Portland, OR to be closer to grandkids. Currently active in bee education, writing for newsletters, giving Bee Short Courses, assisting in several Master beekeeper programs and giving presentations to local, state and regional bee clubs. Author of Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping, major textbook used in University and bee association courses and The Complete Bee Handbook. Major author of several Honey Bee Health Coalition publications including Tools for Varroa Management. Currently transitioning P@ NEE MD to a USDA APHIS Bee MD web program. |
| Sarah Chadwick | Sarah Chadwick recently joined the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) as a Sustainability Program Specialist. She works on cross-agency sustainability initiatives including water and energy use reduction. She also serves as a member of BPA's Pollinator Workgroup, committed to improving pollinator habitat across BPA's service territories. |
| Savannah Christiansen | Savannah grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area where she developed a lifelong love for the nature of both urban and suburban landscapes. Thinking about mutually improving our human communities' relationship with the environment is what led her to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University in English and Environmental Studies. Her past experiences include production for an environmental news radio program, teaching English and leading youth on an organic vegetable farm. She's thrilled to be home in San Francisco working with P2's grants and supporting pollinator conservation and education. |
| Alix Cleveland | Alix has worked as an Ecologist for the US Forest Service for 30 years at the Ranger District, National Forest, Regional Office, and Forest Service headquarters levels. Her current portfolio as an Assistant Director in the Washington Office includes Forest and Rangeland Management programs, and more specifically, the Forest Service's national botany program. The Forest Service intentionally co-locates the pollinator program in both the botany and wildlife resource areas, recognizing that the majority of our plant taxa rely on healthy, resilient pollinator populations. Alix graduated from SUNY College of |



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| | Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University with a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M. S. in Environmental and Forest Biology. |
| Cindy Cohanim | Cindy Cohanim is the Community Engagement Manager responsible for environmental initiatives and external market outreach at Calstone, a family owned Canadian manufacturer of business furniture located in Scarborough, Ontario. Cindy has focused on environmental solutions throughout her personal life and career which included the founding of Green With Envi, a distributor of reusable home products. Working with the team at Calstone, she is focused on managing relationships with partners, customers and communities to promote the environmental leadership that Calstone maintains as part of its innovative and industry leading products. Examples of their leadership in sustainability includes the Calstone Remanufacturing program that guarantees zero landfill use, their Rainwater Harvesting Project and the Tom Longboat Pollinator habitat for which Calstone received the 2019 NAPPC POLLINATOR ADVOCATE CANADA award. |
| Anthony Colangelo | Anthony Colangelo is a biology enthusiast who spends most of his time admiring and taking photographs of local birds and bugs. He received his Bachelor of Science degree at Queen’s University majoring in Biology, and researched interesting life history traits and parental care behaviours seen in many bird species during his undergraduate career. Anthony has worked through multiple field seasons on many study organisms including tree swallows, black-capped chickadees, and carrion beetles, and loves to be outdoors to conduct research. Based in Yellowknife, Anthony is excited to be working toward improving pollinator protection and health! |
| Sheila Colla | Dr. Colla is a Conservation Scientist working to conserve wildlife including native pollinators. She is part of York University’s BeeC, which aims to address pollinator health & sustainable agriculture from an interdisciplinary perspective. Her lab’s research uses ecological studies & community science programs to better understand species declines & design conservation management plans. Studies include assessing habitat requirements, relationships to flowering plants, & studies to better understand stressors. Her lab’s research also delves into the human dimensions of conservation including biocultural knowledge systems & evidence-based environmental decision-making. She works closely with ENGOs & government agencies to conserve wildlife & inform land management. She helped create the Toronto Pollinator Strategy & BumbleBeeWatch. She has co-authored “The Bumblebees of North America: An Identification Guide)” & "A Northern Gardener's Guide to Native Plants and Pollinators" |



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| Diana Cox-Foster | Diana Cox-Foster is a Research Leader at USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit (PIRU) in Logan, Utah. PIRU focuses on biology, management, and systematics of all bee species. 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 the impact of pathogens and pesticides on bee health, for honey bees, bumble bees, and solitary bees. 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. Cox-In 1987, Cox-Foster joined Penn State University as a faculty member and served as a full professor. At PSU, Cox-Foster helped respond to colony collapse disorder in honey bees and co-director of the CCD working team. She transitioned to USDA-ARS in October 2015. |
| Miles Dakin | Miles oversees the Bee Friendly Farming Certification program from Pollinator Partnership. Miles is also the co-chair of the Bee Friendly Farming taskforce. He has a master's from UC Davis in Entomology where he focused on Navel Orangeworm in almonds and pistachios and uses his experience in agriculture to help farmers implement pollinator bmps in their operations. He currently lives in Ukiah California with his wife and daughter (soon to be 2 daughters!). |
| Martín De Santiago | He is a doctoral student with experience in pollination ecology, specifically in the evolution of plant-animal interactions, network analysis, and quantification of pollination effectiveness. |
| Megan Denver | Megan’s interest in beekeeping began as a young child on her father’s dairy farm near Delhi, New York where they kept beehives behind the sugar shack. After graduating from Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles she moved to Woodstock, New York. She knew the first project for her property was a bee yard and she’s been hooked on beekeeping ever since. Her commitment to beekeeping grew when she opened Hudson Valley Bee Supply. The shop is a hub of resources for local beekeepers and has helped to grow a strong and sustainable local beekeeping community. She runs several hundred colonies for honey production in the Hudson River Valley with her partner Jorik Phillips. During the spring and fall you can find her in the Catskill Mountains looking for wild honeybees. With the help of Jorik’s queen rearing expertise, she introduces their genetic potential to her own bees. Dr Thomas Seeley, from Cornell University shares her passion for bee lining and she recently had the honor to work with Dr Seeley on his book Following the Wild Bees. Patent Wall Organic Farm in East Durham, NY is her passion project. The farm’s motto is “Bees First”. Her goal for the farm in the coming years is to serve as an outdoor classroom to teach about the importance of pollinators and to serve as a practical example of how |

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| | to create diverse pollinator habitat on small farms. She also serves on the board of Bees for Development, North America. Their mission is the relief of poverty through beekeeping. They affirm that beekeeping contributes to supporting sustainable livelihoods in poor and remote communities and honeybees provide an essential ecosystem service. Megan looks forward to the opportunity to support all pollinators with Pollinator Partnership. |
| Omar Díaz | Biologist, Master in Biology and Doctor in Biological and Health Sciences from the Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM). His studies have focused on the demography, population dynamics and reproductive biology of at-risk plant species and invasive alien species. He is currently Director of Systems and Science for Biodiversity Communication at the State Biodiversity Commission of Hidalgo |
| Irene Dickinson | Irene Dickinson recently started working as the Coordinator for the Arizona Monarch Collaborative (AMC). AMC organizes pollinator conservation initiatives across the state with more than 70 partner organizations. Irene is originally from Nevada, and has focused her career to date on pollinator conservation, especially monarchs. |
| Julie Dietze | Julie Dietze is a physical scientist with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). She has been with the USGS for over 20 years at the Organic Geochemistry Research Laboratory located in the Kansas Water Science Center. Her research focuses on the presence and distribution of organic contaminants in the environment which may have negative impacts on animals and ecosystems. In 2023, Julie started a citizen science project to establish the "Lepidoptera Research Collection" (LRC). The pilot project is asking members of the public in six pilot states (Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, and Georgia) to mail in already deceased butterflies or moths to establish a collection of specimens available to scientists within the USGS to further research related to the decline of insect populations. Julie has begun efforts in outreach in K-12 schools on the project to promote citizen science on pollinators. This is Julie's first time attending an NAPPC meeting. |
| Maddie Dong | Maddie grew up in Palo Alto, CA where she found a love for rock climbing and the outdoors. Traveling for weeks throughout the Pacific Northwest in search of climbing crags sparked her passion for promoting nature-based solutions to global and corporate sustainability. This led her to Oregon State University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Sustainability. Throughout her time in Oregon, Maddie gained experience in science communication and researching Douglas-fir encroachment on oak savannas. After getting hired as Pollinator Partnership's Program |



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| | Associate in early 2023, she has served on the NAPPC North American Expansion Task Force, the BFF team, and several other partnerships. |
| Briann Dorin | Briann Dorin is a PhD candidate at York University in Toronto, Canada. Her thesis investigates bee conservation in pollinator-independent crops such as vineyards. More generally, she is interested in sustainable agriculture and emerging fields such as integrated pest and pollinator management. She has an HBSc in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from the University of Guelph and an MSc in Plant Sciences, Viticulture, and Oenology from Brock University. |
| Cody Dreier | Cody Dreier is the Pollinator Ecologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He runs a monarch and regal fritillary community science project and helps with many other pollinator community science projects. |
| Ryan Drum | Ryan Drum serves as Senior Scientist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service - Center for Pollinator Conservation. |
| Jennie Durant | Dr. Jennie Durant is social scientist and research affiliate with University of California, Davis who focuses on bee health, commercial beekeepers, the almond industry, pollinator forage, and pollinator policy. |
| Hadil Elsayed | Hadil is a PhD Candidate in Biology working in Dr. Sheila Colla's Native Pollinator Research Lab at York University. Her current research is a multi-collaborative project taking place within the Long Point region that focuses on the impacts of climate and landscape changes on insect communities within protected areas. She is also studying how the long-term changes to insect communities impacts aerial insectivores. Hadil's research includes modelling current and future changes in habitat suitability for at-risk insect species within the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve. |
| Stephanie Espinosa | She is an experienced professional with a strong background in government project management. Currently serving as the Deputy Director of Information Management and Species Evaluation at CONABIO, (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity). Plays a pivotal role in the implementation of important initiatives for biodiversity conservation. Their notable contributions include active involvement in the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators and participation in the National Pollinator Initiative. As a key member of Network 7, she is instrumental in the national-level monitoring of pollinators. Their dedication and expertise make her a valuable leader in the field of pollinator conservation and biodiversity efforts. |



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| Tracey Etwell | Tracey Etwell is a Restoration Ecologist on the Rights-of-Way and Grasslands Project Teams at Canadian Wildlife Federation. She has been lucky to study plants and animals across Canada. She helps to build new habitats for these species. In recent years, she has been working on habitat for pollinators, such as native bees and monarch butterflies in Ontario. |
| Elaine Evans | Elaine Evans is a University of Minnesota Extension Educator and Researcher working on pollinator education and research relating to bee conservation. After completing an M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology at the University of Minnesota, Elaine has worked to monitor pollinators, improve the impact of pollinator habitat, raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, provide action steps for pollinator conservation, and connect people and pollinators. Read more in Elaine’s books “Befriending Bumble Bees: A Guide to Raising Local Bumble Bees” and “Managing Alternative Pollinators”. |
| Shannon Farmer | Shannon grew up on the Chesapeake Bay spending time with her family walking nature trails, fishing, and visiting various state and local parks. If you were to ask Shannon’s family where she could be found as a child, they would most likely tell you how she was off somewhere holding a bug of some sort. Shannon took her passion for animals to earn her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a minor in Biology at Eastern University near Philadelphia. She took an internship at the Philadelphia Zoo where she began to deepen her curiosity of animals. Pennsylvania proved to be too cold for her taste so she moved south to Florida to continue her work with various roles at zoos and aquariums for the next couple of years. Shannon became an expert interpreter through her experiences with climate activism, education, zoo-keeping, and conservation outreach. She later received a Master’s certificate in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management from the University of Denver. |
| Vicki Finn | Vicki Finn is honored to serve as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (Service) liaison to NAPPC. As Conservation Coordinator for the Pacific Region of the Service, she and her team collaboratively work with a variety of partners to advance high priority science and on-the-ground conservation for western pollinators. She believes pollinators are sentinel species alerting us to the decline of insects - "the little things that run the world" as E.O. Wilson reminds us. She is a member of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ Western Monarch and Native Insect Pollinator Working Group and the Service’s Sagebrush Ecosystem Team. Previous positions in the Pacific Region include Chief of Staff, Chief of Aquatic Habitat Conservation, Geographic Assistant Regional Director for Southern California, and Chief of Endangered Species. |

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| Tim Fredericks | Tim Fredricks, Ph.D., Environmental Engagement Manager, has 14 years’ experience with Bayer CropScience and is responsible for coordinating projects and outreach directed to bees, monarch butterflies, and other pollinators or species of concern with a diversity of partners including NGOs, Government Agencies, and Industry Task Forces. Personally, he enjoys an active lifestyle with his young family centered around outdoor family activities. |
| Daniella Garcia | Daniella Garcia joins you from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Sustainability and Safety Division, Environmental Safety & Health Programs Branch located in Washington, D.C. Currently, she leads EPA’s internal National Pollinator Protection program which protects and promotes pollinator habitats in 22 EPA facilities across the nation. This effort support sites to gather baseline information and develop recommendations to improve pollinator habitats. EPA developed a Pollinator Self-Assessment protocol to assist facility coordinators conduct their own pollinator site assessment with a list of resources and tools. This year, the program developed an integrated vegetation management plan which addresses existing and projected climate change effects. Daniella looks forward to working with other members to improve our habitats and protect our pollinators. |
| Sarah Gardner | Sarah Gardner is the Western Regional Partner Biologist with Pollinator Partnership (P2) and the NRCS, where she provides technical and educational training for landowners and diverse interest groups about pollinator habitat enhancement and conservation. She holds an MSc with an emphasis in Pollination Ecology from Utah State University, where she cultivated her enthusiasm for native solitary bees and the need to restore or conserve their habitats, specifically around agricultural and industrial development. Prior to her position with P2 and NRCS, she worked to monitor pollinator communities on culturally important food plants, and take inventory of threatened and endangered invertebrate species in the Pacific Northwest. Her other interests include plant-insect interactions, native solitary bee biology, and the effects of a changing climate on those systems. |
| Zak Gezon | Dr. Zak Gezon is the Terrestrial Conservation Manager with Disney Conservation. His projects range from tracking migratory birds over thousands of miles and across continents, to creating acre after acre of pollinator habitat in Florida, to working with communities to make sure that all of our conservation programs inspire a global community to save wildlife and protect our planet. Dr. Zak’s specific area of expertise is in pollinating insects such as butterflies and native bees, where his work ranges from leading the largest AZA SAFE program to date focused on the North American Monarch butterfly, to |



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| | working with the Elephants and Bees program in Kenya to use beehive fences to protect small farms from crop-raiding elephants. |
| Kelsey Graham | Kelsey Graham is a Research Entomologist with the USDA ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit in Logan, UT. Her research focuses on integrated pest and pollinator management, researching ways to optimize pest management while reducing harm to pollinators and other beneficial insects. She also researches the management of non-Apis bees for improved pollination of alfalfa and small fruit crops, including management of alkali bees (<i>Nomia melanderi</i>) and mason bees (<i>Osmia</i>). Kelsey is also interested in documenting changes in bee communities over time and space, and studying the pollinators of rare plants. Kelsey received her B.S. from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2009, and PhD from Tufts University in 2017. |
| Adèle Grenouilleau | Adèle is a recent Political Science graduate from UQAM and is now a Program assistant for Bee City Canada. Her research topics include pollinator conservation and more specifically bee conservation. |
| Andy Grinstead | Andy is Program Manager for Project Wingspan with Pollinator Partnership. He 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 specializing in ecological restoration. He has worked in the Northwoods of Minnesota, Great Plains of the Dakotas, mountains and foothills of Colorado, expansive deserts of New Mexico, and cascading gorges of Upstate New York. A common theme throughout his career has been community engagement and volunteerism in support of natural resource management initiatives. |
| Terry Griswold | Initially a high school teacher, Terry has spent most of his career as a research entomologist at the USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit in Logan, Utah where he is also an adjunct professor at Utah State University. His research focuses on taxonomy, systematics, and biodiversity of native bees. He is curator of the U.S. National Pollinating Insects Collection, a repository of over 1.7 million specimens with worldwide coverage. Current research includes a revision of the mason bees of North America, assessment of the conservation status of the Mojave Poppy Bee, bee-plant interactions in the alpine |

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| | Sierra Nevada, and exploration of patterns of native bee diversity across the continent. He collaborated on the Exotic Bee ID project (https://idtools.org/id/bees/exotic/), an APHIS funded project to develop interactive, illustrated identification guides to assist in intercepting exotic bees and more widely to assist all those interested in identifying our native and exotic bees. |
| James Hart | Originally from Tidewater Virginia, James developed a love of plants and the outdoors during family trips to the mountains of New England. These interests led him to pursue a BA in Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he focused on botany and forest ecology. His undergraduate thesis project focused on the effects of drought and fire adaptations on longleaf pine seedling survival. James has worked numerous seasonal positions over the years, and after graduating he took part in two terms as an AmeriCorps member, one in the Palouse region of eastern Washington State and one in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Through his time in California, James has grown passionate about the conservation challenges that the region faces and the solutions being implemented across the landscape. At Pollinator Partnership he works to help restore and promote pollinator habitat in California and beyond. |
| Ed Henry | Edward Henry is the National Ecologist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Edward has 30 years of experience in the conservation field at the national/Federal level. His current job duties include biodiversity, pollinators, monarchs, invertebrate habitats, invasive species and ecology, and indigenous ecological knowledge. In addition to working for USDA/NRCS, he has also worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a refuge manager and as a ranger for the National Park Service. Edward is also the author of four natural history/hiking books and an avid hiker, photographer and explorer of the planet and its natural systems. Edward has a master's degree in forest ecology from SUNY-ESF. When not working he is busy exploring the world through travel, writing, photography, running, storm chasing, hiking, camping, chess, baseball and the connections between humans, their history, and Mother Earth. |
| Caroline Hernandez | Caroline Hernandez is the Assistant Director of the Sustainable Landscapes program at the Energy Resources Center for the University of Illinois Chicago. Caroline supports the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group and manages programs to engage energy and transportation leaders across the U.S. and Canada in pollinator habitat creation and conservation. |
| Stephanie Hertz | Stephanie Hertz serves as the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP) Coordinator for the Department of Defense Natural Resources Program within the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment and Energy |

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| | <p>Resilience). The RASP is a partnership between the Department of Defense 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.</p> |
| <p>Chris Hiatt</p> | <p>Chris was born into a beekeeping family in Ephrata, Washington in 1975. He and his five brothers grew up spending springs managing apple pollination in central Washington and summers pulling and extracting honey in North Dakota. Together they now own Hiatt Honey Co., started by their father 50 years ago. Chris splits his work year between Madera, California and Bowman, North Dakota running 20,000 hives. He also manages the business’s almond orchard in Madera. Mr. Hiatt graduated from Brigham Young University in 1999 with a BA in Horticulture, minor in Business Management. Having served a two-year mission to Chile for the LDS church as a young adult, his fluency in Spanish has proved helpful in his business relations. When he is not in the bee yard, Chris likes to ride his dirt bike, hike, and also go birding. He has seen close to 600 species of birds within the US and 1,000 in the world. Chris has also served as a leader within his local church and Boy Scouts.</p> |
| <p>Elizabeth Hill</p> | <p>Elizabeth (Izzy) Hill is the Departmental Honey Bee and Pollinator Research Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, located within the Office of the Chief Scientist. Izzy works to help identify, coordinate, and communicate pollinator research with federal partners and external stakeholders in an effort to improve pollinator health.</p> |
| <p>Meredith Holm</p> | <p>Meredith Holm is a Wildlife Biologist & Great Lakes Pollinator Coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Meri coordinates the multi-agency, collaborative Great Lakes Pollinator Task Force, focused on galvanizing and implementing native bee and pollinator conservation within the Great Lakes basin. She is also a co-lead for the Service’s Pollinator Community of Practice and co-lead of the Michigan Monarch Collaborative. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University, a graduate certificate in Wildlife Management and Master’s in Fish & Wildlife Administration from Oregon State University. She has worked for the Service’s Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program for 13 years restoring habitat for migratory birds, T&E species, pollinators and other wildlife, with a recent focus on urban pollinator habitat restoration, creation and outreach. In her free time, she loves embarking on new adventures in nature with her family and friends.</p> |



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| Guillermo Huerta-Ramos | Guillermo Huerta-Ramos is an Evolutionary Ecologist with a deep-rooted fascination for phylogenetics and trait evolution. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. at ENEs-MoreliaUNAM, their research focuses on the analysis of the evolutionary forces driving species diversification. He is currently studying the macroevolutionary patterns related to the evolution of breeding systems in morning glories (<i>Ipomoea</i>). |
| David Inouye | David Inouye is Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland and Principal Investigator at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (Colorado). He has been a member of NAPPC almost since its inception, and has done research on pollinators and their floral resources for over 50 years. |
| Cathy Johnson | <p>Cathy is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, CA. In July 2009 Cathy joined NAPPC representing Region 8 in California. Cathy has degrees in biology, in soil and water chemistry and a Master’s in environmental chemistry, and has been the principal investigator on numerous on-refuge and off-refuge contaminant investigations ranging from the effects of temperature on acetylcholine esterase in frogs to the effects of herbicides on the endangered Lange's metalmark butterfly. She has been an active member of the pesticide taskforce and is currently involved with the climate change taskforce.</p> <p>Cathy can be contacted at: cathy_s_johnson@fws.gov</p> |
| Patrick Jones | <p>In June of 2023, our current Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler appointed Patrick to Director of the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division. Patrick Jones has worked for the department for nearly 40 years in various positions including pesticide inspector, field supervisor, enforcement manager and deputy director of Pesticide Programs. He is a Past President of the Association of American Pest Control Officials (AAPCO), and still serves as Co-Chair of the Pollinator Committee. He has also served on the FieldWatch Board of Directors, representing State Departments of Agriculture. Areas of focus have been the outreach and education efforts to inform growers on the pollinator protection and FieldWatch Programs implemented by NCD&CS to enhance communication between growers, beekeepers, and applicators. He has also been very active in regional and national training for pesticide inspectors.</p> <p>Patrick hobbies include gardening, caning old chairs, and genealogy research.</p> |

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| Taylor Kerekes | Taylor is the Lead Biologist of the Native Pollinator Initiative at Wild life Preservation Canada. She works to help conserve at risk pollinators with a special interest on bumble bees. Conservation efforts include surveying and monitoring of bumble bee populations in Ontario and bumble bee breeding with hopes of future releases. |
| Michael Kiernan | Bee the Change is a Vermont based not-for-profit that has been establishing pollinator habitat across the northeast region of the US since 2014. |
| Tawnya Kiernan | Tawnya Kiernan is a pediatrician and gardener who is Co-founder of Bee the Change, a Vermont based nonprofit that creates pollinator habitat across the Northeast |
| Mara Koenig | Mara Koenig has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for almost 20 years. Coming from the national wildlife refuge system, Mara broadened her communications and engagement in conservation moving to the Office of Communications. She has supported Wildlife Sport Fish and Restoration, Sea Lamprey Control Program, Monarchs, and Science Applications for the Midwest Region. Currently, Mara is the communications lead for the agency’s Center for Pollinator Conservation and is based in Minnesota. |
| Donata Kraskauskaitė | Donata finished her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies at VCU this past May. She recently completed an independent research project that involved a pollinator inventory of VCU's Monroe Park Campus in an effort to encourage native plantings around the university. Her main interests lie in pollinator research, as well as urban sustainability and urban agriculture. |
| Gary Krupnick | 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 Plant Conservation: A Natural History Approach (University of Chicago Press; 2005) and serves as the editor of The Plant Press (newsletter of the U.S. National Herbarium). |

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| Sally Lent | <p>Sally is a graduate student at the University of Texas at San Antonio where she's working on her M.S. in Environmental Science. Her thesis focuses on the effects of land use on urban bee diversity and genera richness. She is currently working as an intern at the Interagency Native Bee Lab through the American Conservation Experience EPIC program. In 2020, Sally was a Directorate Research Fellow with the Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office. For her project, she worked on the western bumble bee species status assessment and interacted with many leading bee researchers to help the Service understand this species' future. Then, as an Urban Monarch Conservation Intern, she worked with the USFWS and Field Museum to make recommendations on best data collection practices for bee surveys in urban environments. She is interested in working in collections to address the native bee taxonomic bottleneck to support conservation efforts.</p> |
| Josette Lewis | <p>Dr. Lewis has worked in agriculture for more than twenty five years, spanning government, industry, university and non-governmental organizations. Most recently, she led the Environmental Defense Fund's sustainable supply chain work. Dr. Lewis led the launch of the World Food Center at UC Davis, and worked in international business development with Arcadia Biosciences. Prior to that, Dr. Lewis spent 16 years at the US Agency for International Development</p> |
| Jake Li | <p>Jake Li is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs within EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, where he works on a wide variety of pesticide issues. One of Jake's priorities is to help EPA achieve its endangered species protection goals related to pesticide decisions. Immediately before joining EPA, Jake worked for over a decade in the nonprofit sector on natural resource conservation and chemical regulatory issues. Jake has also represented the regulated community as an environmental lawyer in private practice. Jake strives to bring his insights from working with the private sector and environmental groups to find practical, fair, efficient, and durable solutions to how EPA regulates pesticide and other chemicals.</p> |
| Reed Lievers | <p>Reed fostered his love for nature at an early age, hiking around the hills of western San Diego county with his family and spending time in his grandparents' garden. He followed his interest in environmental protection to UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources, where he graduated in 2020 with degrees in Society and Environment and in Geography, hoping to make a lasting difference in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. His older sister's fascination and affection for bees and beekeeping introduced him to the world of pollinators and the campaigns for their protection, and inspired him to dedicate his early career to their protection. In his free time, Reed can be found exploring Bay Area hiking trails,</p> |

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| | <p>playing board games with friends, and enjoying a round of disc golf. He is thrilled to be working on behalf of pollinators and the ecosystems they support.</p> |
| Rebecca Louie | <p>Rebecca Louie is the Executive Director of The Bee Conservancy, a NYC-based national nonprofit dedicated to protecting bees, safeguarding the environment, and securing food justice through community-based education, research, habitat creation, and advocacy. She is a beekeeper, Master Composter, and co-chair of the 2023-24 NAPPC Pollinator Habitat Installation Task Force.</p> |
| Sophie Maass | <p>Sophie Maass is a Conservation Coordinator at WHC. She supports applicants throughout the entire WHC Conservation Certification process, in addition to participating in a number of consulting projects designed to reduce regional and large-scale impacts of company site operations on biodiversity. Prior to WHC, she worked on various projects across the country, including working on the ground on fire fuels reduction in Arizona, conducting King Salmon surveys in Northern California, collecting and processing soil samples to inform rangeland management practices in Wyoming and Montana. She even had the chance to survey the endangered rusty-patch bumblebee! Her central interests lie in engaging communities to solve local to global environmental challenges faced today.</p> |
| Clare Maffei | <p>Clare Maffei is a pollinator biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Interagency (USGS/USFWS) Native Bee Lab in Laurel, MD. As a pollinator biologist for the Service, Clare completes the bee identification for FWS collections and supports project managers conducting pollinator surveys. Additionally, she is actively involved in developing teaching materials to enhance bee identification skills among colleagues and assists national pollinator science teams in creating guidance materials. These materials aid biologists in effectively addressing their pollinator conservation priorities.</p> |
| Lori Makarick | <p>Lori Makarick is an ecologist with the National Park Service, based in Fort Collins, CO. She serves as the Branch Chief for Landscape Restoration and Adaptation, within the Biological Resources Division. Lori also leads the NPS pollinator team and an informal pollinator community of practice within the NPS. Lori believes in the power of partnerships and loves to leverage work and look for collaborative opportunities. Lori has a passion for native plants, honed during her two decades at Grand Canyon National Park, which lead her to transform her front yard from turf to a biological diversity haven. With over 80 native plant species thriving, she loves to watch the pollinators enjoy the bounty and her neighbors marvel at the beauty.</p> |

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| Allison Malay | Allison is a PhD candidate at UCF where she studies honeybee viruses and spillover between other pollinators, particularly other Hymenopterans. Previous projects have taken an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating beekeepers and land managers to mitigate environmental impact to pollinators. |
| Silvana Martén-Rodríguez | Silvana Marten Rodríguez is a Professor at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Her research focuses on the ecology and evolution of flowers and plant-pollinator interactions. Her most recent projects evaluate changes in plant reproductive traits and pollinator assemblages along high-elevation tropical mountain gradients. |
| Loraine Matias Palafox | PhD en Ciencias Biológicas, jefa del departamento de gestión de Información y Evaluación de Especies en la Comisión para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO). Promotora en México de la Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación y Uso Sustentable de los polinizadores (ENCUSP), a través de la Coordinación de la Red 7 "Monitoreo de polinizadores". Mi principal interés son las especies en riesgo y los polinizadores. |
| Mike McClanahan | Michael McClanahan has been with TDOT's Highway Beautification Office since 2016 and received the Governor's Excellence in Service Award in 2021. In his role, Michael manages the Department's environmental outreach programs. These include litter pickup and prevention education programs, landscaping and pollinator habitat programs, and scenic roadways. Previously, Michael served as City Manager for the Town of Kingston Springs, TN and the City of Clifton, TN. He holds a Master of Public Administration from George Mason University and is a Tennessee Certified Economic Developer and Certified Municipal Finance Officer. Michael serves his community, as a volunteer fireman for the Williamson County Rescue Squad, and lives with his wife, Kaitlyn, and two children. |
| Michelle McPherson | Michelle is a Wildlife Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, where she works on Monarch butterfly and pollinator habitat restoration in southern Ontario. She also owns a small, thriving apiary in Nova Scotia, and is passionate about helping people connect with bees and nature. Through her business "A World for Bees," she teaches courses and workshops about natural beekeeping, wild bees, and bee conservation. As an ecologist (Master of Science in Biology), she is a big-picture thinker with more than twenty years in ecology research and writing: conservation planning for protected areas, Species at Risk, vegetation management, biodiversity standards, best management practices, and environmental assessment. Her latest endeavors included a project for Environment and Climate Change Canada to detail the |



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| | opportunities for establishing pollinator habitat on agricultural land in Ontario. She is also finishing a Master Beekeeper Certification from Cornell University. |
| Samantha Medeiros | Samantha (Samm) is passionate about increasing human relationships with the land. She believes that when we develop deep respect and care for non-human organisms, a responsibility to steward the land becomes part of all we do--informing our actions and decision making. Her focus on environmental stewardship began by creating mixed media art from waste materials and led to studying Indigenous Environmental perspectives, public education via community-building, and behavioural change. Informed and guided by these foundations, she found herself working to protect and support pollinators when she recognized that limited perspectives of "waste/d space" needed a shift. Nothing is wasted in nature; spaces that humans deem underutilized are used by other living things! Samm has worked in various types of gardens for +10 years and uses outreach, education and art/play to urge others to work *with* the Earth, not against. |
| Andony Melathopoulos | Andony is an Associate Professor of Pollinator Health at Oregon State University. He leads up the Master Melittologist program and is the host of the podcast PolliNation. |
| Maria del Rocío Meneses | Rocío is a Ph.D. student at the University of Groningen. She founded Paraíso Colibrí, an initiative focused on promoting native plants for pollinator conservation, the first green nursery specialized in pollinator plants in México. She has studied hummingbirds for the last 12 years and is now working on pollinator habitat restoration. |
| Michael Studer | Bee the Change is a Vermont based not-for-profit that has been establishing pollinator habitat across the northeast region of the US since 2014. |
| Sydney Miller | Miller earned a Bachelor of Science in Ecological Agriculture from the University of Vermont in May 2023. Since 2021, she has served as a research technician for the Vermont Bee Lab, working alongside the Vermont beekeeping community and engaging in research, education, and outreach. She is proud to be hired as the Vermont Bee Lab's first full-time employee. Working with Dr. Samantha Alger at the Vermont Bee Lab, Miller's work ranges from managing their honey bee diagnostic lab, supporting Vermont honey bee breeders to increase the quality and availability of locally adapted, pest and disease resistant honey bee stock in the Northeast, and researching bees' role in moss and fern spore dispersal. Her most recent funding has been directed towards understanding hygienic behavior in honey bees using Unhealthy Brood Odor assays |



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| | (UBeeO) and its interaction with nosemosis, an adult bee disease caused by the microsporidian parasites, <i>Vairimorpha</i> spp. (Nosema). |
| Gil Miranda | Gil Miranda is an entomologist, originally from Brazil. After getting his PhD from the University of Guelph, Gil worked in the Brazilian Amazon as a researcher and conservation officer. Working alongside the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Gil is currently involved in pollinator (bees and flower flies) monitoring on rights-of-way lands in Ontario, Canada, to test if different roadside maintenance practices promote healthy pollinator populations. |
| Mark Moffett | Called “the Indiana Jones of entomology” by the National Geographic Society, Mark is a modern-day explorer with more than a little luck on his side, having accidentally sat on one of the world’s deadliest snakes, battled drug lords with dart guns, and scrambled up trees to escape elephants, all part of his mission to find new species and behaviors in remote places. Presently Mark is studying the stability of societies across animal species and in humans right up to the present day, an outgrowth of his research for his fourth book, <i>The Human Swarm: How Our Societies Arise, Thrive, and Fall</i> . He received a Lowell Thomas Medal from the Explorers Club for his studies climbing into forest canopies around the world. Mark has written and photographed many articles for the National Geographic magazine, including on pollinators. He is one of only a handful of people to earn a doctorate under the Harvard sociobiologist and conservationist Edward O. Wilson. |
| Lora Morandin | Lora Morandin 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 and that grew into an interest in native pollinator conservation and sustainable agriculture. 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 small-scale farm restoration. Lora has co-authored books and book chapters, created outreach and technical guides, and has about 30 peer-reviewed publications on pollinators and sustainable agriculture, including innovative work on economic benefits of ecosystem services. She has consulted for government and industry on diverse ecological topics such as greenhouse coverings, seabird oiling from offshore oil and gas operations, and honey bee health research gaps. 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 and when she’s not working she spends time on her urban farm, with her family and pets, and enjoying BC’s beautiful natural areas. |



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| Margaret Mothershed | <p>Peggy is a senior, attending the University of Maryland, majoring in Environmental Science and Policy with a concentration in Politics and Policy and a minor in Sustainability. She is currently the Undergraduate Representative on the University of Maryland Sustainability Council where she represents the 31,000 undergraduate students and assists in executing UMDs Climate Action Plan and distributing grants for sustainable projects and research. At EPA, Peggy assists with the Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing to further federal sustainable purchasing requirements and goals.</p> |
| Kaleigh Obrock | <p>Kaleigh has a lifelong love of nature and conservation and spends as much time as she can outside hiking and exploring new areas. She graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Biology and Ecology with a minor in Environmental Science. As an undergraduate, she was involved in multiple research studies related to the conservation of local pollinators. After graduation, she worked for the local park system’s stewardship department where she managed native plants and improved pollinator habitat. She continues to be passionate about pollinators and conducts regular surveys and volunteer programs to promote pollinator health and education in her community. She is excited to be working toward improving pollinator education and conservation!</p> |
| Sakurao Ooe | <p>name: Sakurao Ooe Company: Mitsui Chemicals Crop & Life Solutions, Inc.(since 1996) Job title: Project Director, Marketing Dept., Intl. Crop Solution Business Div. Hometown: Tokyo Major: Applied Entomology Alma mater: Tokyo University</p> |
| Erika Ortigoza Vázquez | <p>PhD in environmental management. Specialist in recovery of wildlife species at risk (Mexican gray wolf, Mexican cats, California condor, sea turtle, American bison, among others). She is also a specialist in international cooperation and management in processes of conservation of wild flora and fauna and prevention and combat against illegal trafficking of wild flora and fauna. She is a promoter of the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators. She is currently the Head of the Hidalgo State Biodiversity Commission.</p> |



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| Vicki Papuga | Vicky Papuga is the Rights-of-Way Pollinator Habitat Coordinator for Canadian Wildlife Federation. She holds a Master of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University, where her thesis work incorporated social science methodologies with landscape and road ecology. In her new position, Vicky will be working with various collaborators in the Greater Toronto Area along the 407 ETR to restore monarch and other pollinator habitat on municipal roadsides. Previously, Vicky has worked in research on terrestrial biodiversity conservation, species at risk legislation, and in the field on meadow restoration in utility rights-of-way. |
| Jordan Phelps | Jordan Phelps is the Bee City Canada Program Coordinator for Pollinator Partnership Canada. His passion for pollinators was sparked as an undergraduate at Western University where he studied animal cognition and learned about the incredible feats of learning and memory that bees and other small-brained but mentally mighty pollinators are capable of. He went on to complete an MSc at Western in neuroscience where he studied how exposure to common pesticides impacts the ability of bumblebees to learn about and gather food from flowers. This experience launched a lifelong interest in pollinators – not only for the good of our food crops and the ecosystem, but also because they are fascinating creatures to watch and learn from. Jordan is delighted to bring this passion to Bee City Canada, where he works with municipalities, Indigenous communities, campuses, schools and businesses to make meaningful change for pollinators. |
| Mauricio Quesada | Dr. Mauricio Quesada is professor and coordinator of the National Laboratory for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (LANASE, http://www.lanase.unam.mx/), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. He has more than 150 publications that have been cited in more than 11,500 scientific articles (https://scholar.google.com.mx/citations?user=-OsTXSoAAAAJ&hl=en); many publications have focused on the study of plant-pollinator interactions in tropical systems. He has led more than 30 national and international research projects. He has recently been involved in the development of the "National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators in Mexico" funded by the German Agency for Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the Government of Mexico. He is currently conducting a research project to evaluate the impact of human activities on pollinator decline and its potential consequences in the agricultural sector in Mexico. |
| Gabriela Quinlan | Gabriela is an NSF-PRFB fellow, working in the Grozinger lab at Penn State. Gabriela’s research is highly interdisciplinary, leveraging techniques from landscape ecology, molecular biology, transcriptomics, and applied statistics to investigate pollinator nutrition. Gabriela uses honey bees and bumble bee as model organisms to investigate nutritional ecology, cutting across scales to understand the ecological, behavioral, physiological, and molecular mechanisms underlying |

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| | environmental-plant-pollinator interactions, and leveraging this information to find applied solutions for pollinator conservation, agricultural sustainability, and beekeeper management. |
| Mary Rust | Mary Rust has been working as a scientist at EPA for more than 30 years. Mary earned her B.S. degree in botany and plant pathology from Michigan State University and then served in the Peace Corps in Thailand. Mary has worked on human and ecological risk assessment for pesticides in OPP starting in the Health Effects Division and then the Environmental Fate and Effects Division. Her current role in the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division has her working on communication and outreach on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and much more. She has stayed involved with pollinator protection at EPA since 2006 when she was randomly matched up with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign through EPA’s Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP). Mary has a passion for learning about and protecting all pollinators. |
| Dan Salas | Dan Salas is a Senior Ecologist with more than 25 years of experience working in conservation planning and biodiversity decision-making support. Dan was a lead author of the Monarch CCAA and assists the University of Illinois at Chicago with technical aspects of the conservation program. Dan has also assisted Federal agencies and companies with plan development and decision tools to address a number of biodiversity and conservation challenges. |
| Dolores Savignano | Dolores Savignano works as part of 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. |
| Emily Schmidt | Emily Schmidt is the Agricultural Assistant with Pollinator Partnership as of August 2023. With P2, she focuses primarily in supporting the Bee Friendly Farming program and promoting pollinator health in agriculture. Prior to working with Pollinator Partnership, she studied Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at UC Davis. She has utilized this education working in the agriculture non-profit world with organizations like Farmer Veteran Coalition and NeighborWorks |

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| | <p>Sacramento, for the past 8 years in outreach and technical assistance and grant management. She has a passion for assisting underserved populations in agriculture and community development through food access and food distribution while promoting sustainable practices on- and off- farm. Emily is thrilled to further her experience in agriculture with pollinator health!</p> |
| Sharon Schmidt | <p>Sharon is the granddaughter of midwestern farmer/ dairy producers who were also beekeepers. She earned her Masters Degree in Nursing at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology was earned at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and she taught in University settings including OHSU. She published various journal articles on addictions, recovery and mental health, worked with hundreds of students and later, thousands of Veterans. Her Beekeeping practice and research interests lie in the areas of soil health, ethics, honey sensory analysis, mindfulness, education of underserved populations, bee nutrition, regenerative agriculture, and opportunities for women in beekeeping and agriculture. She is recognized at the initial level of the OSU Master Melittologist Program and certified as a Master Beekeeper through the University of Montana. She serves on the Pollinator Partnership's Agriculture and Pollination task force.</p> |
| Ben Slager | <p>Ben Slager currently serves as the Senior Entomologist for the APHIS permitting branch, Permit Compliance and Coordination (PCC). Ben joined PCC in February 2023 and in his role he develops policy and issues permits for importation and interstate movement of insects. Ben’s permit portfolio serves the insect zoo, butterfly house, and beekeeping industries, as well as home hobbyists.</p> <p>Ben began his career with APHIS as the supervisory entomologist at the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Biocontrol Rearing Facility in Brighton, MI in 2015. During his time with APHIS, Ben has helped to lead several programs in various acting roles, including National Policy Manager for EAB, Imported Fire Ant, Biocontrol, Roseau Cane Scale, and South American Cactus Moth and National Operations Manager for EAB, Firewood, Biocontrol, Coffee Berry Borer, Honeybees, and Cactus Moth.</p> |
| Lacey Smith | <p>Lacey Smith joined Pollinator Partnership (P2) in April 2023 as the Northeast Regional Partner Biologist. She works in joint capacity with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to promote, coordinate, and implement conservation efforts that relate to pollinator conservation on private lands. Lacey also provides pollinator related educational outreach and training to NRCS staff, producers, partners, and landowners. Prior to her position with P2, Lacey</p> |

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| | <p>was a Partner Biologist and Pollinator Specialist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WV DNR) and NRCS. Much of the work focused on imperiled pollinators, such as the monarch butterfly and rusty patched bumble bee. To aid in this, she became trained in the identification and survey techniques for the endangered rusty patched bumble bee in 2021. Lacey’s professional experience is supported by a BA in Environmental Geoscience and MSc in Forestry from West Virginia University.</p> |
| Tamara Smith | <p>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 NAPPC Imperiled Bombus Conservation Task Force, is a co-organizer of the National Native Bee Monitoring Network and serves on several national pollinator conservation teams. Tam previously was the Director of Northwest Conservation Programs for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program and studied at Cornell University. Tam lives and works in Minneapolis, Minnesota.</p> |
| Allan Smith-Pardo | <p>Allan H. Smith-Pardo M.Sc., Ph.D. Entomology Working on Systematics of Native Bees (Apoidea: Anthophila) and social wasps of the genus Vespa (Vespidae: Vespinae). Interested in Pollination Biology and Insect Conservation, in particular the impact of introduced species in natural habitats and native species Member of the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Cross Functional Working Group on Pollinators</p> |
| Donna Stockton | <p>Donna Stockton has worked as an Animal Keeper at the Smithsonian's National Zoo for the last 20 years and has a great interest in pollinator education and awareness. She works with citizen scientists, interns, volunteers, and students focusing on invertebrate education and encouraging their participation in native bee and butterfly surveys in their local area. Donna has a bachelor’s degree in Natural Resources Management and a master's degree in Entomology.</p> |
| Brad Stokes | <p>Brad Stokes is an Associate Professor with University of Idaho Extension, he is located in southwestern Idaho with a focus on horticulture, entomology and a passion for pollinators.</p> |

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| Michael Studer | Michael Studer has been the State Apiarist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture since December 2007. He is a past President and past regional director of Apiary Inspectors of America and is currently the Apiary Inspector of America representative to NAPPC. Michael Serves on the Honeybee Health Task Force as co-chair. From 1997 to 2007 Michael worked for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Entomology and Plant Pathology Department as a research specialist working on Honeybee pests and diseases. |
| Colleen Sullivan | Colleen Sullivan is a dedicated Sustainability Specialist at Burt’s Bees. Colleen works on a dedicated team that extends across various facets of sustainability including responsible sourcing, packaging innovation and carbon footprint reduction. Additionally, she serves as the Vice President of the Burt's Bees Foundation and drives the foundation mission to protect biodiversity and reconnect people to nature. |
| Billy Synk | The focus of his work ties together sustainability practices which improve soil health, pollinator health, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in ways that are practical for all land managers. |
| Christine Taliga | Christine Taliga is a Plant Ecologist on the National Plant Data Team within the Soil and Plant Science Division of USDA NRCS. Christine brings extensive national and field level experience over the past two decades to her position. As part of the national PLANTS database modernization efforts, she is currently coordinating with partners the development of plant/pollinator interaction data for inclusion in PLANTS. She received a B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Botany from the University of Iowa and a Masters in Natural Resources Stewardship with an emphasis in Ecological Restoration from Colorado State University. |
| Barry Thompson | An experienced keeper of honey bees, Mason Bees, and Leafcutter Bees, Dr. Thompson is initiating similar activities in Houston, having relocated from Maryland in 2021. He is the recipient of a NAPPC/ P2 seed grant to establish a wildflower garden at a retirement community. He remains active in local, state, national, and international pollinator protection efforts and is the District (central Texas) “lead” for Rotary International’s collaborative project (with Canadian Pacific Railroad/ Kansas City Southern Railway) to establish a “pollinator highway” paralleling the railroad from Ontario to Michoacán, Mexico and to replant 66000 Oyamel Fir trees in support of the Monarch overwintering site in Mexico. Rotary Clubs along the route will host pollinator garden and similar projects along the route. Dr. Thompson is a member of the |

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| | international Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) and of the Rotary District 5890 Environmental Committee. |
| Pam Thompson | Dr. Pam Thompson is a biologist at the U.S. EPA, where she works on ecological risk assessment of pesticides, and improving protections for listed species from the risks of pesticides. She studied bat pollination and forest fragmentation in Mexico for PhD at UCLA, and seed dispersal of PNW prairie plants and landscape genetics for her post-doc at Portland State University. She has served on the Pesticide Education Task Force and the Imperiled Bombus Task Force. |
| Teri Valenzuela | Teri is passionate about fostering interest and appreciation for the natural world through captivating, science-based content. Her inspiration stems from a diverse career in urban ecology, grassroots organizing, and conservation programming. In her daily life, she continues to explore the natural world through gardening, hiking, birding, cooking with seasonal ingredients, volunteering for nonprofits, and international travel. Teri holds a B.A. in Environmental Biology from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. |
| Elizabeth Walsh | Dr. Liz Walsh is a Research Scientist with the USDA-ARS laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Steve Pernal, of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, at the Beaverlodge Research Farm in Alberta. Liz's postdoc was spent exploring the links between honey bee health challenges and honey bee biomarkers as a part of the national BeeCSI project, but she also did disease ecology work which included asymptomatic vs. symptomatic infections and more. This was all very different than her dissertation work, which was done at Texas A&M University with Dr. Juliana Rangel exploring the impact of miticide exposure in immature queens. Liz is currently working on various projects which include: aggression vs irritation in honey bee stocks, drone and queen reproductive health and biology, and honey bee variation in responses to pathogens (chalkbrood and Nosema). |
| Dakota-Rae Westveer | Dakota-Rae is a dynamic content & partnerships manager with deep experience in sustainability, marketing, and education gained over 10 years across nonprofits and natural product startups. At Sunday, she collaborates with science, marketing, technology, and creative teams to develop content and experiences that engage and empower people to take action and develop habits to grow a more resilient, sustainable yard ecosystem. |
| Cody Wilson | Cody has spent the vast majority of his professional career focused on insect ecology and agricultural sciences. He received his B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he studied invasive and |



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| | <p>noxious species influence on arthropod community composition, and continued to receive his M.S. in Environmental Management with an Ecology concentration from the University of San Francisco, where he examined agricultural crop, pest, and pathogen relations in response to the pressures of climate change. Having worked at local farms, a county level Department of Agriculture, and a regional restoration and land management company, his background and passion for insect ecology, restoration, and agriculture has propelled his career sights to his home of the last three years; the PNW, where he encourages responsible land management practices through P2 and the Bee Friendly Farming program.</p> |
| <p>Kim Winter</p> | <p>Kimberly Winter has served as the NatureWatch National Program Manager for the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. for over a decade. She holds a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Management and a Master’s degree in Ecological Anthropology and has worked in the non-profit sector as an environmental educator and habitat program manager. Throughout her career, Kim has sought ways to bring the value of conservation to the public eye by promoting opportunities for diverse audiences to immerse themselves fully in nature, especially through special events such as Pollinator Week, Bat Week, and Amphibian Week; or online through the NatureWatch website. Kim has been a member of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign’s Steering Committee since 2004.</p> |
| <p>Sara Wittenberg</p> | <p>Sara has a BS in Zoology (Auburn University) and a MS in Biology (University of Arkansas). Her experience includes interning at the national zoo in Costa Rica, directing the rehab program at the Southeastern Raptor Center, running a HawkWatch banding station in the Florida Keys, tracking gopher tortoises, conducting breeding bird surveys for the USFS and Sandhill Crane/Sage-Grouse surveys for the USFWS, and assisting with Cornell University’s search for the (extinct?) Ivory-billed Woodpecker. As a public school teacher, she believes strongly in sharing her passion for the natural world with the next generation of conservationists! Her favorite quote is by Baba Dioum: ““In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.” In her free time, Sara enjoys reading, hiking, birding, traveling, gardening, and exploring the beautiful Ozark mountains with her husband and two children.</p> |
| <p>Nancy Wittpenn</p> | <p>Nancy Wittpenn is an Environmental Protection Specialist at Bonneville Power Administration, a federal power marketing agency in the Pacific NW that maintains over 15,000 circuit miles of high voltage transmission lines. BPA’s service area includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, western Montana, and small parts of Wyoming, California, Utah and Nevada. Nancy provides environmental analysis and documentation support to the transmission business line as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. In 2018, BPA became a founding member of EPRI’s Power-in-Pollinator Initiative and has greatly</p> |

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| | benefited from EPRI's knowledge and expertise as well as the various experiences and viewpoints of the other power company members in the Initiative. |
| Terry Witzel | Terry Witzel's career has focused on agriculture, food processing and food distribution. He is also interested in promoting sustainable food systems and serves as a member of the San Mateo County Food System Alliance. He joined the Pollinator Partnership because of its emphasis on the global and economic importance of pollinators in food crop production. Terry serves as a member of the board of directors and is serving as chairman. |
| Victoria Wojcik | Vicki has worked in pollinator conservation at P2 and P2C for 13 years. This thrilling work has allowed her to translate her passion and enthusiasm for pollinators into practical solutions for conservation and environmental management. She has supported efforts at local, regional, and national levels, including policy work on the US Pollinator Protect Strategy, Canada's Bee Health Round Table, and The Trinational Monarch Conservation Plan. In her role as Science Director at P2 she maintains momentum in pollinator research, especially restoration and resilience building in the face of climate change. |
| Victoria Woodhouse | Victoria Woodhouse is a Habitat Program Manager of Terrestrial Wildlife at the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), a registered charity dedicated to conserve and inspire the conservation of Canada's wildlife. She manages CWF's Rights-of-Way programs in support of native meadow restoration for pollinators. Victoria also holds the ENGO seat on the Rights-of-Way Stewardship Council, an accreditation program providing standards of excellence for environmental stewardship along rights-of-way. |