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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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 Berhardt, also signed proclamations supporting the observance of National 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!
The Best Supporters in the World!  THANK YOU!

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

Abel Odor
Kally Abrams
Brian Adams
Laurie and Chick Adams
Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies
Almond Cow
Elizabeth Alseth
American Beauties
American Beekeeping Federation
American Honey Producers Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
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Sarah Kline
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Tom Knezick
John and Wendy Kopley
Emily Krasowski
Thomas Kruse
Thomas Kubat and Stacey Deck
Donna Kurilla
Mary LaFreniere
Wow! Your support is making a real difference. **THANK YOU!**

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

- Archibald Lake
- Sarah Lambson
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- Stephanie Law
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- Genji Leclair
- Evelyn and Clarence Lee
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- Mary Lellouche
- Ronald Leopold
- Jack and Debra Levin
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- National Park Service
- Nature’s Way
- New Beat Foods
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- William Yoos
- Christine Zahner
- Christopher Zander
- Robin Zielin
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](http://tinyurl.com/Wingspan-volunteer). Your donations make **PW** possible – donate at [www.pollinator.org](http://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.

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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/mwaebl/webinars](http://pollinator.org/mwaebl/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.
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.

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 Generating 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.