

MEDIA ADVISORY

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POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP

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The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Provides Recognition to Pollinator Advocates, Farmer-Ranchers, DOTs, and Businesses in 2021 Award Ceremony

On October 19, 2021, this year's award winners from the United States, Canada, and Mexico were honored by Pollinator Partnership and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) during the NAPPC conference. By recognizing individuals or organizations that have contributed significantly to the promotion and conservation of pollinator species, NAPPC aims to encourage their activities and inspire future actions in support of pollinators.

NAPPC is a collaborative body of diverse partners, including respected scientists, researchers, private sector stakeholders, conservationists and government officials working to find common ground to catalyze groundbreaking initiatives that benefit pollinators.

"Each one of our awardees this year showcases a unique and meaningful dedication to the protection and promotion of pollinator species. As we honor their efforts, we hope others will be inspired to learn, plant, study, and celebrate pollinators," says Kelly Rourke, Executive Director of Pollinator Partnership, which founded and facilitates NAPPC.

A brief description of award winners and their actions follows:

2021 NAPPC Pollinator Advocate – United States



The Bee Cause Project is a Charleston, SC based non-profit organization that works to engage students of all ages within their own environments through observation-based learning. Ted Dennard, a lifelong beekeeper and the founder of Savannah Bee Company, and Tami Enright, a fellow beekeeper and environmental educator, have dedicated their lives to protecting pollinators, founding The Bee Cause Project and securing a national partnership with the Whole Kids Foundation. The organization solicits honey bee grant and observation hive program receives hundreds of schools'

participation applications annually, and **more than 550 schools and organizations have received bee grants to date, impacting thousands of children across North America**. They have also introduced digital hives as an alternative for schools or community centers that cannot host a live beehive, and have just launched a Pollinator Garden Grant for Libraries. The organization's goal is to be equally open and accessible to everyone, **expanding their educational offerings to the Open Educational Resources Commons (OER)**. If a teacher is looking for a pollinator or bee-specific lesson that addresses the STEAM standards for their class, they can search it in OER and find free and printable versions of The Bee Cause project's curricula.

2021 NAPPC-NACD Farmer-Rancher - United States



Dan and Michael O'Loughlin operate a 200-acre farm in Yamhill County, OR that primarily grows tall fescue seed. There are few pollinator initiatives in Oregon that the O'Loughlins have not supported or helped, including having surveyed bees at over 1,500 locations for the Oregon Bee Atlas, having worked with the county to establish trials assessing roadside pollinator seed mixes, having created pollinator habitat at schools through the State School Garden Network, and having served as leaders in the State Pollinator Protection Initiative, the Oregon Bee Project. O'Loughlin Farm has also made major strides to increase insect biodiversity. The farm rarely uses insecticides owing to the high endemic populations of beneficial insects and vertebrates, and insectary plantings are key to this strategy. Many of the plants they use are important nectar and pollen sources and butterfly host plants. They have also created a **1/3 mile-long beetle bank** that also serves as a Monarch Waystation. They have worked hard to **enhance their riparian areas** by planting key shrubs and trees; they **rotate beneficial cover crops** for pollinators; they **maintain muddy ponds** for social wasps; they have **enhanced their woodlands** by planting early blooming trees. Among other initiatives, the O'Loughlin brothers take their knowledge back to the community via a **100 person classroom** in their barn equipped with dissecting microscopes. Michael alone has contributed over **2,500 hours to train volunteers** in the Master Gardener program.

2021 NAPPC Pollinator Advocate – Canada



Pollination Guelph, founded in 2008, is an entirely volunteer-run charitable organization that focuses on protecting pollinator habitats by building and maintaining public and private gardens throughout Guelph, ON. Several notable projects include **Eastview Pollinator Park**, **The Gosling Pollinator Gardens at Hospice Wellington**, **Trans Canada Trail Pollinator Gardens**, and **Clair Road Emergency Services Centre Pollinator Habitat Meadow**. In addition to on-the-ground work, Pollination Guelph reaches out to its diverse audience with numerous education initiatives and advocacy campaigns through their website in the form of videos, web links, downloads, factsheets, and newsletters on a wide range of topics. The organization also hosts an annual symposium featuring workshops and networking opportunities that is attended by people from all over Canada. In addition, their Community Grant program enables other nonprofit groups in Guelph to establish and maintain pollinator habitat. In 2021, this program **provided a total of \$10,000 to 16 local organizations**.

2021 NAPPC Farmer-Rancher – Canada



Shannon McNally of White Church Farm manages over 33 hectares for pollinators in Mount Hope, ON. Once a monocrop corn and soy farm, Shannon has been hard at work planning for long term biodiversity. Each year, she tries to restore areas by planting permanent, native species including **30 trees, acres of permanent pasture, and hundreds of perennial wildflowers** last year alone. She has also planted **over 5 acres in permanent, mixed bee forage, created clover pathways around the farm, cultivated diverse, mature tree lines and hedgerows, and recently established a 2-acre permaculture orchard**. Each year, the farm grows a succession of sunflower fields for bee forage and bird seed and plants cover crop for pollinators. In the coming year, Shannon plans to restore a riparian area with native trees and shrubs as well as install a monarch focused garden featuring three milkweed species.

2021 NAPPC Pollinator Advocate – Mexico



Especies, Sociedad y Habitat, A.C. (ESHAC) is a nonprofit organization that uses a human community-centered approach to implement projects that promote the conservation of natural resources and endangered species while promoting sustainable use of biodiversity. ESHAC has **implemented more than 30 projects in northeast Mexico, impacting more than 30,000 hectares of priority area for conservation** in the region. Over the last five years, ESHAC has been collaborating closely with Don Martin-CONANP to promote the conservation of the Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*), with special emphasis on protecting cave roosts and enhancing foraging habitat along their migratory corridor. To date, they have **planted over 9,500 agaves near critical roosts and restored over 250 hectares of habitat**. They have also worked with local communities to develop holistic management approaches, **train 79 individuals from 5 communities** in sustainable and regenerative agriculture and grazing techniques, and pioneer a drone-based survey protocol to evaluate foraging resources for pollinating bats at the landscape level.

2021 NAPPC Farmer-Rancher – Mexico



Emilio Vieyra owns and operates Mezcal Don Mateo de la Sierra to produce one of the few environmentally friendly, sustainable mezcals. He ensures that the areas where they grow agaves remain forested and was one of the first to receive **recognition of Bat Friendly© practices**, keeping the recognition each year since 2016. In keeping with this recognition, Emilio allows **at least 5% of his agaves to flower** for bats and other pollinators. The majority of bats visiting their plants are the **endangered Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*)**, showing the impact of their practices at the local level. Regionally, Emilio is educating his peers and extending his practices to other mezcal producers. He also **hosts practical seminars** covering all his production processes for bartenders and others during the flowering season, creating many other promoters of Bat Friendly© practices in the process.

2021 NAPPC Electric Power



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) **The Meadoway** is an active urban restoration project in Toronto, ON that encompasses **200 hectares and 16 linear kilometers** of the Gatineau Hydro Corridor between the Don River Ravine and the Rouge National Urban Park. The goals of the revitalization are to create and maintain a diverse, native meadow habitat for local wildlife and to create an active East-West link between Toronto and the Rouge National Urban Park. Full project completion is expected by the end of 2024, but by the end of 2021, **64 hectares will have been restored, completing 70% of the project**. The

Meadoway will connect **seven rivers and ravine systems, 15 parks, 16 km of trail, 13 neighborhoods, over 200 hectares of greenspace, and more than 1,000 diverse species of flora and fauna**. Corporate and community groups have also been engaged as participants in stewardship activities including the planting of native potted stock, garbage collection, invasive species removal, and interpretive walks.

2021 NAPPC Roadside Managers



The **Nebraska Department of Transportation** (NDOT) includes environmental stewardship as a goal within its mission statement and seeks to fulfill this commitment by establishing desirable vegetation, managing roadsides, and removing undesirable plants. A Roadside Development and Compliance Unit focuses on an ecoregional approach to these activities to ensure that the agency's rights-of-way serve as pollinator habitat and are improved as appropriate. Seed mixtures planted off highway **shoulders contain nearly 25% native wildflower seed**, and NDOT has been working with Nebraska Game and Parks

Commission to plant locally adapted high-diversity prairie seed along the **321 mile-long Nebraska Cowboy trail**. NDOT has also taken great care to **steward small white lady slipper orchid**, a very rare orchid pollinated by halictine bees. In the Cowboy Trail project alone, **60 acres and more than 15,000 milkweeds were hand planted**. NDOT has also funded University of Nebraska research investigating wildflower islands' effects on pollinating species and pollinator use of roadside vegetation.

2021 NAPPC Lifetime Achievement



Peter Kevan is University Professor Emeritus for the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph. He was Scientific Director for the Canadian Pollination Initiative Strategic Network from 2009-2015 and has served on the executive Committee of the International Union for Biological Sciences since 2009. He also serves as President of the International Commission for Plant Pollinator Relations. Dr. Kevan received his B.Sc. from McGill University in 1965 and his Ph.D. from University of Alberta in 1970. He has had full-time appointments with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Agriculture Canada, Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of Colorado, and University of Guelph. Dr. Kevan developed and taught pollination biology courses for undergraduate and graduate students in Canada, USA, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia and is the editor of several influential books including "Pollinating Bees: The Conversation Link Between Agriculture and Nature" and "Practical Pollination Biology". He has authored **over 250 scientific papers and book chapters and holds several patents**. He is a **pioneer in micrometeorology of plants and insects** and was one of the first to ask questions about pollination conservation in the 1970s. He is a **founder of NAPPC** and has been instrumental in the many successes of this collaborative.



The **Almond Board of California** (ABC) and the over 7000 growers it represents are true leaders in pollinator conservation. For many years, they have worked to improve habitat in and around orchards, supported important research, and helped growers get credit for the practices they already execute to improve bee health. In 2020, ABC launched its **five-point Pollinator Protection Plan** aimed at protecting bees during the almond bloom and beyond,

reaffirming the industry's long-standing commitment. This plan includes: 1. **partnering with Pollinator Partnership's Bee Friendly Farming program** to integrate it with the California Almond Sustainability Program's bee health module, 2. implementing a series of **in-orchard workshops** covering its previously developed Honey Bee BMPs, 3. improving communication between beekeepers and farmers by **supporting the BeeWhere app**, 4. **increasing on-farm floral diversity** by working with Project Apis m. and others, and 5. **funding five new research studies** into honey bee health.

The NAPPC conference, hosted virtually by Pollinator Partnership and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, is taking place October 19 – 21 and topics included the intersection of sustainable food systems and pollinator health; predicting and managing bee health; creating resilient food systems by supporting communities and pollinators; rewarding farmers for the collective benefits of installing pollinator habitat; documenting native bee populations; indigenous land practices and pollinator health; communicating pollinator science to a wide audience; and reports from honey bee health researchers on projects funded through NAPPC. Task forces worked to select consensus-based projects and desired outcomes for the coming year.

Additional information about pollinator award winners from 2021 and previous years is available at <http://pollinator.org/awards>.

ABOUT THE POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2) AND THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)

Established in 1997, P2, a 501(c)3 headquartered in San Francisco, California, was incorporated in 1997. P2's mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research. Visit www.pollinator.org for more information.

P2 facilitates NAPPC, a tri-national collaboration working to promote awareness and scientific understanding of pollinators; to gather, organize and disseminate information about pollinators; to provide a forum to identify and discuss pollinator issues; and to promote projects, initiatives and activities that enhance pollinators. NAPPC's mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America. NAPPC partners gather from throughout the North American continent to raise public awareness and education and promote constructive dialogue about pollinators' importance to agriculture, ecosystem health, and food supplies. NAPPC encourages collaborative, working partnerships among participants and with federal, state and local government entities. The annual conference strengthens the network of associated organizations working on behalf of pollinators to promote conservation, protection and restoration of habitat, and to document and support scientific, economic and policy research. Information about NAPPC, including past accomplishments and highlights of past NAPPC conferences, is available at <http://pollinator.org/nappc>.