

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

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NAPPC Awards Grants to Promote Pollinator Conservation Across the Continent

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), managed by Pollinator Partnership (P2), has awarded 12 new research and habitat grants addressing issues related to pollinator conservation. NAPPC task forces have identified research and project priority areas that advance our understanding of complex pollinator issues and how they affect ecosystems, agriculture, and the economy. The grants have been funded by a combination of individual and corporate sponsors, with a total of \$84,554 being devoted to NAPPC's pollinator research grant programs in 2025. Thank you to our generous donors and sponsors for advancing the conservation and research of all pollinator species.

For the third consecutive year, The **NAPPC Imperiled Bombus Task Force** solicited proposals for research related to improving the recovery and persistence of imperiled Bombus species. Experts responsible for reviewing the proposals included **Pinar Barkan, Ana Cabrera, Morgan Christman, David Inouye, David Lehman, and Lora Morandin, PhD.** Funding for this year's grant program was provided by [Valmont Cosmetics](#). The following projects have been chosen and will report their progress to the NAPPC Imperiled Bombus Task Force in the spring of 2026.

- **Georgia Murray** with the *Appalachian Mountain Club* will be investigating alpine habitat for threatened bumblebees through the project "Mountain Pollinator Monitoring: Northeast Alpine Areas as Climate Change Refugia"
- **Dr. Nina Sokolov** at the *University of California, Berkeley* will be discerning the effects of bumblebee pathogens through the project "Quantifying the pathogen community of *Bombus occidentalis*"



In its seventeenth year, the **NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force** once again solicited research proposals related to improving the health of honey bees. Funding for this grant program was provided by **P2's** individual donors, a [USDA-APHIS](#) grant, and generous donation by [Valmont Cosmetics](#). This historic task force convened a panel of experts to review all proposals and included **Mohamed Alburaki, Gloria Degrandi-Hoffman, Ph.D., Dewey Caron, Ph.D., Mike Studer, and Elizabeth Walsh.** The committee awarded the following six projects that will report their progress to the NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force in the spring of 2026.

- **Dr. May Berenbaum** at the *University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana* will be investigating the "Effects of pollen phytochemistry and mycobiome composition on the health of western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in migratory beekeeping"
- **Angela Nava Bolaños** at the *National Autonomous University of Mexico* will be advancing our understanding of honeybee-parasite interactions through the project "Ecological and Spatial Overlap Between *Apis mellifera* and Parasites: A Tool for Predicting Disease Risk Under Climate Change"
- **Curtis Coleman** at *Mississippi State University* will be furthering research on honey bee pest interactions through the project "Catch My Drift: Investigations of varroa and nosema movement via drifting"
- **Cid M. Calderon Rodriguez** at the *University of Puerto Rico* will be continuing the investigation of the effects of disease on honey bee health through the project "Deformed Wing Virus (DWV) Dynamics in Puerto Rican Honeybees"
- **Olav Rueppell** at the *University of Alberta* will be advancing understanding of the effects of naturally occurring virus communities on honey bee immunity and survival, "Mortality effects of naturally occurring virus mixtures on honey bees"
- **Olav Rueppell and Chenoa Kaufman** at the *University of Alberta* will be improving our understanding of honey bee pathogens through the project "Towards Understanding the Conditional Pathogenicity of Black Queen Cell Virus"

This winter, the NAPPC **Lepidoptera Task Force** convened a panel of including **Todd Gilligan, Andy Grinstead, Ralph Grundel, Dolores Savignano, Steve Sass, and Amanda Smith** to review project proposals aimed at habitat enhancement, education and outreach, and research continuation as it relates to the conservation of Lepidoptera species. The 2025 NAPPC Lepidoptera Grant is sponsored by [Valmont Cosmetics](#), [Beesure](#), and [Butterfly Wonderland](#) in Scottsdale, AZ. The following projects have been chosen and will report their progress to the NAPPC Lepidoptera Task Force in the spring of 2026.

- **Sophia Mucciolo** at *Pennsylvania State University* will be advancing our understanding of home-grown habitat benefits through the project "Backyard monarch habitat: Designing gardens for conservation"
- **Sally Scalera** at the *University of Florida Brevard County Extension Office* will be executing a "Lepidoptera Garden Habitat Project at the Brevard Discovery Garden" for kids and families in Florida
- **Grace Rooker** at the *Catawba Lands Conservancy* will be engaging communities in North Carolina in moth and butterfly conservation through "The Catawba Grasslands Project: Protecting Lepidoptera Populations with Community Engagement"
- **Addison Copen** at *The Ohio State University* will be contributing to our understanding of urban pollinator habitat through the project "Assessing the Value of Urban Pollinator Habitats for Moth Larvae in Columbus, Ohio"
- **Nina Crawford** at the *University of Wyoming* will be investigating more sustainable land use practices in the project "Balancing Conservation and Management: The Effects of Herbicide and Prescribed Burns on Native Butterfly Communities"

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ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC) For 25 years, NAPPC has brought together stakeholders from all sectors of the pollinator issue in a collaborative partnership to support pollinator health across the North American continent. More than any other single organization, the collective effort of these 180 plus organizations has made pollinator health a feature in conservation landscape management. From its many Task Forces, NAPPC affects change and moves solid science into real progress on the ground. Managed by the Pollinator Partnership, more can be found about NAPPC at nappc.org.

ABOUT POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2)

Established in 1997, Pollinator Partnership is the largest 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. Pollinator Partnership's actions for pollinators include education, conservation, restoration, policy, and research. P2's financial support comes through grants, gifts, memberships, and donations from any interested party. Its policies are science-based, set by its board of directors, and never influenced by any donor. To make a donation or for information on events during Pollinator Week, visit pollinator.org.