

THE BUZZ

POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Pollinator Partnership Newsletter
Summer 2018

The newsletter for friends and supporters of the Pollinator Partnership



A message from President *Val Dolcini*



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

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Plants for Pollinators!

In conjunction with Ohio Prairie Nursery,
we've designed a wildflowers only packet that
will thrive and attract pollinators all season long:
<http://pollinator.org/shop/seeds>

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

—Albert Einstein

Greetings and welcome to the summer edition of *The Buzz*! As you'll see, *Pollinator Partnership (P2)* has been very busy since the year began working on many important initiatives and projects designed to promote and protect all pollinators throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. We are the organization making sustainable pollinator health a reality and I want to thank you for the support you've provided us this year.

With your help, encouragement, and financial support, we will continue to demonstrate the leadership you've come to expect from *Pollinator Partnership* as we work with private citizens, public agencies, land-grant universities, businesses, and others, to tackle these critically important conservation issues. In this issue, you'll read about Pollinator Week 2018, the successful efforts of our team in Canada, and our efforts to restore Monarch Butterfly habitat in the American Midwest and elsewhere. We've also included updates on our popular Bee Friendly Farming program, and our relief campaign for Caribbean beekeepers. Finally, we're happy to introduce several new *P2* staff members and board members to our friends and supporters. Success is a team sport and we couldn't do it without these new faces ... or without you!

We're an organization that 'rolls up our sleeves' to get the job done and these practical examples of meaningful conservation from California to Canada demonstrates our commitment to results that work for pollinators, landowners, and the communities we all call home. When I last wrote you, I said that this newsletter represents some of our recent successes. But it's also a window into the promise of a dynamic and productive future for *Pollinator Partnership* and its mission, and I invite you to contact me with ideas to help make our organization stronger and more effective. I look forward to working with all of our friends and supporters as we continue to support and protect North America's pollinators.

Enjoy this edition of **The Buzz** and the balance of summer. Your generous support of our mission salutes our past achievements and prepares *Pollinator Partnership* for continued success in the future.

Val Dolcini, President and CEO
vdolcini@pollinator.org





International Celebrations Mark *POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP'S* 11th Annual Pollinator Week

Pollinator Week 2018 (June 18-24) marks the eleventh consecutive year of bringing greater awareness to the critically important issue of pollinator conservation. *Pollinator Partnership (P2)*, which founded *Pollinator Week* in 2007, is proud to announce that ALL 50 state governors (and many mayors), as well as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, have signed proclamations supporting the observance of *National Pollinator Week*. In addition, more than 270 events across North America have been organized and registered through *P2's Pollinator Week* web page.

Communities throughout North America and beyond celebrate *Pollinator Week* by organizing local events such as native plants sales, beekeeping classes, pollinator themed meals or mixers, and more! As a result of *P2's* coordination, seven major landmarks were lit up in pollinator colors this week including Niagara Falls, San Francisco City Hall, and the British Columbia Legislature building. In addition, *P2* co-hosted a variety of events in Washington, D.C., including a Congressional briefing held by the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus, a Bureau of Land Management film screening of *The Guardians*, and a reception hosted at the Smithsonian Gardens' Enid A. Haupt Garden, all of which engage pollinator friends in the United States Capitol. Lastly, the *Million Pollinator Garden Challenge*, whose goal is to register 1 million pollinator gardens on a virtual map, has gained momentum during *Pollinator Week*, with only 300K to go! Get more information and resources at <http://www.pollinator.org/pollinatorweek>.



Above:

- 1) Pollinator Week Congressional Briefing panel
- 2) P2 Staff and volunteers at the USDA Pollinator Festival

Left:

- 1) Beekeepers in Puerto Rico
- 2) Volunteer organizers in Puerto Rico
- 3) Val delivering new bee hives in Puerto Rico

P2-Led Rescue Campaign Aids Caribbean Beekeepers

Deadly hurricanes struck the Caribbean last fall, causing catastrophic damage and triggering a major humanitarian crisis. Beekeepers also suffered devastating losses. Most of the Langstroth wooden hives used by beekeepers were destroyed, with no replacements available. Bees that survived swarmed, taking up residence in people's homes, schools, and other structures—creating safety issues. With flowering plants stripped from the islands, surviving bees were starving.

Pollinator Partnership (P2) quickly responded to desperate appeals for help, launching a rescue campaign to provide emergency assistance to beekeepers on Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) and neighboring islands. Fellow beekeepers and private citizens from throughout the United States, industry groups, companies, and non-profit groups responded, generously donating funds, products, and transportation. *P2* coordinated closely with dedicated local leaders on the islands.

Action was taken on an expedited basis to ship and distribute thousands of pounds of supplemental nutrition to beekeepers on the islands to help keep bees alive until flowering plants could recover. The campaign then pivoted to providing replacement hives and other assistance. Almost 1,000 new hives were shipped to Puerto Rico and assembled by volunteers and distributed to beekeepers, with some then forwarded to Dominica. 250+ hives and other supplies are now being shipped to the USVI, with a few to be forwarded to the British Virgin Islands.

With the caring help of many, the *P2*-led campaign is helping them as they work hard to recover. *Thank you, as we couldn't do it without you!*

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

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Bee Friendly Farming Expands in the US, Canada, and Beyond

Bee Friendly Farming, a certification program that celebrates farmers who are good stewards of the land, has grown significantly in 2018. Today we have 680 members across North America, the Caribbean, and a new member in Kenya!

Earlier in the year, we were approached by a group of young professionals in Nairobi who are creating an organic farm on the East coast. They are motivated to provide meaningful work in the local villages, which suffer from a flight of young people to the cities, and develop quality produce for the farmers market where the farmers can earn a premium for organic food.

While **Bee Friendly Farming** grows in the United States and Canada, we are now actively expanding into Mexico and identifying opportunities elsewhere in South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. We will continue to offer the inexpensive, self-certified membership, and are piloting the program with a few production agriculture farmers in California.

Bee Friendly Farming was adopted by **Pollinator Partnership** six years ago; our focus on this financially incentivizing way to create pollinator habitat has been reborn and expanded in the last two years. The platform is sound, and the future bright!



Above and left:
1) Bee Friendly Farmers in Kenya
2) BFF Map at <http://pollinator.org/bff>

Below:
1) Plant propagation at Mason State Nursery
2) MWAEBF seed collection team



Monarch Wings Across America Takes Flight

We are pleased to announce that we've completed the data collection for **Monarch Wings Across Ohio**, the plant-pollinator interactions have been analyzed, and we're working on finishing up the Ohio-specific monarch habitat planting guides. These guides will soon be available to serve as a reference for how to install monarch habitat across a variety of landscapes.

Monarch Wings Across the Eastern Broadleaf Forest, our 5-state monarch seed collection and habitat enhancement project, is now entering its second year. We have made great headway since we began working on this with our wonderful group of collaborating partners in fall 2016. Here are a few of our accomplishments to date:

- Set up temporary seed collection networks in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio
- Trained over 250 volunteers in proper seed collection protocol for our project
- Volunteers collected over 24 lbs of seed in our first year
- Using seed collected in 2017, propagated over 15,000 seedlings
- Hired a Monarch Habitat Coordinator to carry out 5 technical trainings on monarch habitat development and maintenance (summer 2018), conduct 90+ site reviews, and work with partners and landowners to secure and enhance 4,688 acres of habitat for monarchs with the help of our collected material by spring 2019.

In order to help address the data gap regarding the status and landscape use of the western population of the monarch butterfly, **P2** is in the process of establishing our **Monarch Wings Across California** initiative. Stay tuned for details as this project develops!





2018 North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Poster

The new NAPPC poster, *Pollinators and Seeds*, has been released! This year's poster focuses on the interactions between pollinators, ecosystem restoration, and common crop species, highlighting the importance of pollinators to our daily life as well as to the environment. Healthy pollinator populations ensure productive crops and the food security necessary in the 21st century. A diversity of managed and native pollinators supports healthy wildlands and a nutritious food supply in North America. In turn, native plant communities that sustain pollinators are an essential foundation for ecosystem integrity and diversity.

An Update from Pollinator Partnership Canada

2018 has been an exciting year of growth and new additions at *Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C)*. In Toronto, we participated in an exciting monarch butterfly outreach event at the Royal Ontario Museum, where we spoke with over 5,000 individuals about providing habitat for monarch butterflies. Across Ontario, our Monarch Meadow project is underway with six new habitat gardens planted, three of which with the help of some amazing kids ranging in ages from kindergarten to grade 7.

On the other side of the country, we developed and piloted the *P2 Pollinator Steward Certification program*, with 25 land managers in the inaugural workshop. And, we've provided over 20 outreach events, talks, booths, and workshops, teaching people about the importance of pollinators and how to help them. A highlight in Victoria, BC this spring was our collaboration with the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design to create an original, native bee pop-up apiary and interpretive art installation. It's been a hit with the gardeners, the public, and the bees in downtown Victoria!

On a national level, we completed a resource detailing Canadian crop and ornamental plant requirements and attractiveness to bee pollinators. And, we are in the final stages of creating a guide for Canadian farmers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators on reducing bee poisoning from agricultural use of pesticides.

We've added 2 new staff, Anthony Colangelo and Jenny Lotz, to our ranks this year as well as a summer intern. And speaking of new people, a big congratulations to Vicki Wojcik, our Research and Program Director, on the birth of her son, Titan! We are so happy for the growing family and look forward to Vicki's return to *P2C* in the fall. As we move into the second half of 2018, we'll be filling in Canadian gaps in our Ecoregional Guides and creating a Canadian Pollinator School Garden Kit. Stay tuned for more fantastic programs and resources at *P2C*! <http://pollinator.org/canada>



1) School planting day in Ontario
2) Pop-up native bee apiary in British Columbia



New Staff and Board Members Strengthen P2's Reach and Expertise

Elizbeth Kaufman joined Pollinator Partnership in March 2018 as our Monarch Habitat Coordinator. Earning her BA in Human Ecology from Prescott College, and MS in Plant Biology and Conservation from Northwestern University and Chicago Botanic Garden, she has since worked with the Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Science Center and with the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. Elizbeth is thrilled to be with P2, enabling her to focus her efforts on pollinator habitat conservation.



Tess Wynn joined the team in April 2018 as the Office Administrator and Development Associate with experience in accounting and business administration, and brings enthusiasm for creating new friends for P2. She studied Graphic Design at the State College of Florida and moved to San Francisco in 2013 from Southwest Florida. As an avid hiker, and always exploring the local Bay Area trails, she loves learning about native plants and local natural history.



Our new Board Member, **Megan Denver**, began beekeeping as a young child. After graduating from Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles she moved to Woodstock, NY where her commitment to beekeeping grew when she opened Hudson Valley Bee Supply with her partner Jorik Phillips. She recently worked with Dr. Thomas Seeley on his book *Following the Wild Bees*. Patent Wall Organic Farm in East Durham, NY is now her passion project, and their motto is "Bees First".



Our newest Board Member, **Steven P. Quarles**, is a partner in Nossaman LLP's Washington, DC office. He is a veteran attorney who focuses his practice on addressing issues concerning wildlife, federal lands, and water. Mr. Quarles has a varied legislative practice. He has served as general counsel to a coalition of numerous trade associations, companies, and labor unions seeking to reform wildlife laws.

