

THE BUZZ

POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Pollinator Partnership Newsletter
Summer 2017

The newsletter for friends and supporters of the Pollinator Partnership



Photo right, and counter clockwise: Val and Dr. Vicki Wojcik at the lighting of the Empire State Building for Pollinator Week; entrepreneur and beekeeper Daymond John and Val; Val leads the Congressional Briefing for Pollinator Week in Washington, DC; and Val, Vicki and the crew from the Bumble app's pop-up hive in NYC.



Welcome Val Dolcini A message from the President

Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of The Buzz where we share updates on Pollinator Week 2017 (page 2), visit some of our ongoing field projects (pages 4 and 7), learn about some of the research we're doing throughout North America (page 7 and 8), explore our Bee Friendly Farming program (page 8) and the upcoming Mite-a-Thon (page 4), and much more. We are an organization that's on the move and these updates represent just a sample of the actions and issues we're engaged in all across North America to support and protect pollinators.

Before you dig into this summer's edition, allow me to introduce myself! I'm Val Dolcini, the new President and CEO of the **Pollinator Partnership**. I joined P2 on June 1, so while I'm still the "new guy" in the office, my prior work in government and the private sector, with state and federal policymakers, and volunteering with local conservation organizations, has prepared me well for the important

work of promoting the lives and health of all pollinators.



I'm a firm believer that when people of goodwill come together towards a common purpose, great things can – and do – happen. And that's the foundation upon which P2 has built its reputation of successful collaboration and policy achievements for over twenty years. Succeeding a leader like Laurie Davies Adams will be a challenge (see page 10). She leaves a legacy of real accomplishment and has cemented a well-deserved reputation as a strong advocate for all pollinators. But success comes from the hard work of many and she and others have built a committed, enthusiastic, and energetic team of scientists, policy advocates, 'friend raisers' and supporters. She leaves P2 in great shape and for that I am thankful.

The future of P2 and our work to support and protect pollinators is bright. This has

been a year of record accomplishment for the **Pollinator Partnership** and the projects we have in the planning and implementation stages are both innovative and exciting. They will continue to position P2 as a national leader in pollinator conservation. I look forward to the challenges ahead ... of doing well and of doing good ... and in building the partnerships that will continue to be the hallmark of the **Pollinator Partnership** and all of the many partners that work with us to support and protect all of the world's pollinators.

Val Dolcini

Pollinator Partnership's 10th Annual Pollinator Week Sets Pollinator Record for Support!

Pollinator Week 2017 (June 19-25), marked the tenth consecutive year of uniting the nation around the critically important issue of pollinator conservation. **Pollinator Partnership** (P2), which created and has administered Pollinator Week since its inception, secured proclamations in support of the observance from 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. Additionally, more than 200 events, a PW record, across North America were organized and registered through P2's Pollinator Week webpage.

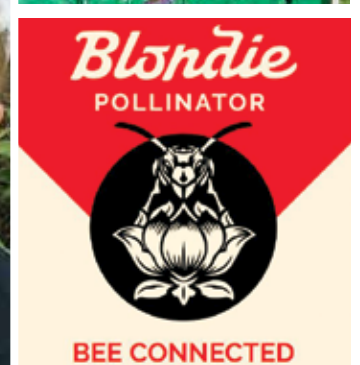
Cities across North America celebrated Pollinator Week through numerous local events, including in New York City, where the dating app Bumble erected a pop-up hive as a gathering place for their users. On June 22, with a flip of the switch from beekeeper and Shark Tank star, Daymond

John, the Empire State Building lit its cupola in yellow and black to represent the nearly 4000 bees found in the United States. It was a great collaboration between P2 and the National Wildlife Federation. The CN Tower in Toronto and Niagara Falls were also illuminated to show support for pollinators. In Washington, D.C., a Congressional briefing was held by the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus, and a reception sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects and **Pollinator Partnership** engaged policy makers in the Capitol.

In other exciting Pollinator Week news, **Pollinator Partnership** is joining forces with the iconic Debbie Harry and Blondie, who

have launched their own Bee Connected campaign to save pollinators, following the recent release of their aptly titled Pollinator album. These Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famers have shaped, and continue to influence, the worlds of music, fashion and art.

To find out about this year's events by state and to get ideas for next year visit <http://www.pollinator.org/pollinatorweek!>



Monarch Highway Poster Drives Home the Point

P2 is thrilled to showcase a new pollinator poster for the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), released in April and distributed widely for Pollinator Week in June. This 2017 poster, entitled *The Monarch Highway*, was designed by Stephanie Law, an Oakland-based artist. Featuring an eye-catching blend of aesthetic antiquity and natural detail, the poster highlights the vital role that roadside habitats like the I-35 corridor in the Midwest can play in supporting monarchs as they travel between overwintering grounds in Mexico and summer breeding habitat in the Northern Plains. The

poster was sponsored by over 30 organizations and government agencies and is available at www.pollinator.org/poster2017.

Since artist Stephanie Law lives in the Bay Area, **Pollinator Partnership** unveiled the poster at a small reception at the beautiful home of donors Cathy and Michael Podell in Hillsborough. The attendees were impressed greatly by Stephanie's explanation of her background research and artistic process, also available on the link above. Importantly, this event provided the opportunity to thank a few of our benefactors, and we plan to hold similar receptions in California, then across



the U.S. and Canada later in the year. Please let us know if you would like to host an event or attend one near you. Contact Jamie Sherman at js@pollinator.org.



Illustrations from the poster are scattered throughout this issue of The Buzz on pages 4, 9, and 10. Beautiful!



noosa Yoghurt Provides “Blooms for Bees”

On June 21st, in honor of National Pollinator Week, P2 helped noosa yoghurt host an employee day highlighting the importance of our pollinators and discussing the steps that noosa is taking with their Blooms for Bees program by creating pollinator forage and nesting habitat. The noosa employees learned about pollinators and the benefits of landscaping with native plants, planted their own Colorado native wildflower to take home, and helped to create bee condos which will be distributed throughout the noosa campus to provide nesting habitat to several species of Colorado native bees.

This was the first step of many in the new P2 partnership with noosa yoghurt. Come fall, P2 will be working with a group of employee volunteers to plant 200 native wildflowers and seed about an acre of land adjacent to the Morning Fresh Dairy and noosa Yoghurt with native wildflowers to create bee forage habitat through their Blooms for Bees project. Thank you, noosa, for your partnership (and for great food for humans, too!).





Mite-A-Thon is Ready to Roll!

The First Annual Mite-A-Thon is a collaborative citizen science effort lead by **Pollinator Partnership** to monitor the “mite loads” in honey bee hives across North America. From September 9 through the 16th, thousands of beekeepers will test their hives to measure the level of Varroa mite infestation.

The primary objective of the “First Annual Mite-A-Thon” is to raise awareness about the level of Varroa mites across the hives of North America and to teach consistent and effective methods to measure mite load. A secondary purpose is to educate beekeepers about mite management strategies through materials utilizing partner developed books and videos.



The “Mite-A-Thon” coincides with the 30th anniversary of the discovery of *Varroa destructor* in North America. The Mite-A-Thon’s major sponsor is Valmont Cosmetics in conjunction with sponsors The Almond Board of California, Project Apis m., The American Beekeeping Federation, The American Honey Producer’s Association, The Canadian Honey Council, Mite-Check from the

University of Maryland, The University of Michigan, The University of Minnesota Bee Lab, The Honey Bee Health Coalition, and **Pollinator Partnership**.

For more information, visit www.pollinator.org/miteathon.



Monarch Wings Across America

As part of the **Pollinator Partnership’s** monarch research initiative, Monarch Wings Across Ohio has begun its third year of data collection. Our Wildlife Biologist, Amber Barnes, is collecting plant-pollinator interaction data monthly from 17 research plots throughout Northeast Ohio. The P2 science team will then begin writing Ohio-specific monarch plantings guides to serve as a reference for how to install monarch habitat on a variety of landscapes.



P2 has made tremendous steps forward with the Monarch Wings Across the Eastern Broadleaf Forest (MWAEBF). P2 developed a dedicated team of partners throughout Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Arkansas who are working together to create a seed collection network throughout their states. This spring P2 trained over 100 volunteers in proper seed collection techniques and created an in-depth manual to guide volunteers through the seed collection protocol. Included were some fantastic Plant Profiles and an instructional webinar (developed with Holden Arboretum) to teach volunteers about the 20 target wildflower species. In order to make all of these resources readily available to the team of volunteer collectors throughout the Eastern Broadleaf Forest ecoregion, P2 launched a new webpage dedicated to the MWAEBF program. **Pollinator Partnership** is eager to find the funding to expand this program to include two more states.

Finally, while a lot of attention has focused on the eastern migration of the monarch butterfly, surprisingly little is known about the western migration. To address this data gap while bolstering habitat and outreach for the western monarchs, P2 is working with partners to build Monarch Wings Across the West. It’s still in the early stages of funding, but P2 has secured a \$6,000 grant from Monarch Joint Venture to begin and is confident that P2 expertise in both monarchs and partnership building will help these efforts grow exponentially to ensure that the western monarch won’t be forgotten.





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

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Wow! Your support is making a real difference. **THANK YOU!**

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P2 Canada update – 14 New EcoRegional Guides now available for Canada

An expanded toolbox for supporting pollinators is now available throughout Canada. In support of Pollinator Week 2017, P2C has released an updated set of planting guides for British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. Each guide includes information about local ecology and natural history, highlighting pollinator species at risk, and offering land management tips to gardeners, farmers, and other land managers. Cover art highlights common ecosystems and pollinators in each region, as featured on the Lake Manitoba Plan cover photo. Information about species at risk and their conservation strategies are presented for key species such as monarch butterflies, the rusty patched bumble bee, and the dusky dune moth. Over 100 native plant species are profiled throughout the guides. There are still a few gaps to fill and we are looking forward to completing planting guides for the Atlantic Provinces and Northern Regions. Visit our guides page, type your postal code, and get planting for pollinators today.



Research update: How much pollen is there?

P2 has been researching the benefits for USDA CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) lands to pollinators for five years, with positive trends showing that increasing the number of acres enrolled in CRP has significant benefits to honey bees and native bees. More acres of CRP mean more food for pollinators. But just how much food is there in a CRP field? Pollen is an essential food for bees. It provides the protein building blocks that bee larvae need to develop into pollinating adult bees. How much pollen is required to raise one bee? We know that, it's about 120-180 milligrams of pollen that is needed for a bee to develop from larvae to adult. But the question remains, how much pollen is available in a CRP field, and how many bees can we raise with this conservation program? This year P2 field researchers are investigating the total amount of pollen that is available to bees in CRP fields. The methodology is simple: first, set out a quadrat and estimate the percent cover of each plant you see; second, count all of the flowers that you see in the quadrat for each species; and finally, estimate the total number of flowers in each field from this data. The amount of pollen available is relatively standard in each flower, regardless of species. Our field data collection and some modelling will allow us to determine just how many bees can be supported by CRP.



Bee Friendly Farming Grows and Delivers!

Bee Friendly Farming was founded in Sebastopol, California in 2009 to help protect the Sonoma County pollinator population through improved habitat in the face of the growing monoculture of vineyards. **Pollinator Partnership** acquired Bee Friendly Farming from its founder, Kathy Kellison, in 2012. As a largely farmer-to-farmers market certification, it has grown steadily and continues to expand as growers show their customers that they are good stewards of the land and of the pollinators that help their bottom line.

In 2016, **Pollinator Partnership** recognized that commercial growers needed a more rigorous program to demonstrate to retailers, consumers, and others, that the Bee Friendly Farming membership was a meaningful certification of these sustainability practices. To fulfill this need, the program offers tailored certification that includes product and geographic-specific best practices, as well as various levels of third-party confirmation of adherence to agreed plans. Working with both growers and their customers, the Commercial Protocol of Bee Friendly Farming celebrates the careful work of member farmers and assists them in the constant process of responding to new innovations and market pressures.



Since not every person or organization owns their own land, but may want to sponsor the program, P2 also developed a commercial sponsorship. This is not a certification, but allows the sponsor to use the Bee Friendly Farming Sponsor logo as part of their personal or commercial marketing. If you are interested in learning more about certification or sponsorship, please contact bff@pollinator.org.



CDRC: Data-driven Protection for Honey Bees in Corn Country

It is not often that university research has been directly connected to solving a specific pollinator issue, but that is just what the 4 years of research sponsored by the Corn Dust Research Consortium has accomplished – in a unique and highly successful collaborative effort, **Pollinator Partnership** convened a remarkable coterie of stakeholders to examine the best practices needed to keep honey bees from harm during corn planting - a complicated multi-factorial problem to be sure, but one that P2 approached in an inclusive and transparent manner involving corn growers, beekeepers, seed producers, equipment manufacturers, government regulators, pesticide manufacturers and university researchers from two countries and four states or provinces.

The results have already influenced corn planting in the US and Canada. With the release of the final report this summer, P2 is embarking on a communication campaign to ensure that their data-driven recommendations are widely disseminated. Please visit www.pollinator.org/CDRC to learn more about this truly ground-breaking analysis and noteworthy problem-solving approach. Supporting healthy honey bees is the goal, and **Pollinator Partnership** strives for practical and productive on-the-ground results.



Support Pollinators through Amazon Smile

Make your online shopping really count – Did you know that Amazon will make a donation to P2 every time you shop Amazon! Simply order your goods by shopping on smile.amazon.com, select **Pollinator Partnership** as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the sales to support our programs. This simple task can turn your everyday purchases into support for pollinators - at no cost to you! Go to www.smile.amazon.com/about for the simple steps – and thank you!

When you shop on smile.amazon.com, select **Pollinator Partnership** as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the proceeds of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to support our programs!

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Your donations at work NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force Funds 6 Research Grants

With funding from USDA APHIS (Animal, Plant Health Inspection Service) as well as contributions from generous individuals (like yourselves!), new honey bee health research grants have the funding they need to conduct valuable investigations that will shed light on the plight of honey bees in North America.

The Honey Bee Health Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) solicits proposals each year from University researchers and graduate students who are pioneering new approaches to honey bee nutrition, genetics, pests and pathogens, diagnostics and pesticide issues. This year's distinguished review panel selected 6 outstanding research projects that support practical applications in honey bee management and conservation. This year's funded projects include:

- Dr. William R. Collins at Fort Lewis College is studying phytochemicals as varroacides.
- Briana D. Ezray at Penn State is investigating viral transmission in bee communities.
- Dr. Sandra Hope at Brigham Young University is testing phage binding to *Paenibacillus* larvae spores.

- Ph.D. Candidate Tyler Jones at Penn State is developing tools for selection and management of landscapes to promote healthy bee populations.
- Research on the predatory mite *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* as a biological control agent against *Varroa destructor* is being conducted by Sabrina Rondeau at Université Laval.
- Hailey Scofield at Cornell University is exploring the effects of periodic confinement of water stress on colony health and worker behavior.

Funding practical research is something every P2 donor can support through donations which are then pooled to award the grants. Follow the scientist's great work at www.pollinator.org/honeybee_health. THANK YOU for making this research possible!





Thank you, Laurie Davies Adams

Laurie Davies Adams' commitment to conservation, biodiversity, real science, sound public policy, as well as her unique ability to bring disparate parties together to create practical solutions have made a huge difference to **Pollinator Partnership**. Within this broad vision, no detail has been too small to not warrant her attention. Just ask the people she has mentored and lead for the last two decades, every word written, brochure published, or conference organized has reflected her thoughtful planning and high standards – and thanks to the diligent efforts of Marguerite Meyer, a graphic designer of uncommon talent and patience, her penchant for artistic approaches to communication have been realized.



During her tenure, **Pollinator Partnership** staff grew 10 fold and the budget quintupled; P2 expanded into multiple U.S. and Canadian cities; Pollinator Week had over 10 years of phenomenal growth engaging all stakeholders; and the *P2/NAPPC Ecoregional Planting Guides* grew to cover nearly 50 ecoregions of North America, translating those data into the *BeeSmart Pollinator Gardener App* with over 40,000 users. The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), for which she organized the first meeting 20 years ago, grew through time from 30 to 160 participating organizations and generated such projects as the *NAS NRC Study of the Status of the Pollinators of North America* and over 30 brochures, pamphlets, training videos, and books to help specific audiences get closer to the actions needed to protect pollinators. From the *BeeSmart School Garden Kit* to the *Bumble Bee Importation White Paper* to the book *Measuring Results*, her messages, both specific and effective, have supported the pollinator world.

The 2014 Farm Bill and the Transportation Act feature pollinators thanks to her collaboration with Tom Van Arsdall, the P2 Public Affairs Director, and with Tom, she shepherded the *Presidential Memorandum on Pollinators* to an expanded vision of good governance and wise conservation actions without extra dollars with the Obama Administration; with Dr. Vick Wojcik, Mary Galea, Dr. Lora Morandin, and Kathleen Law, she made research and monitoring across North America support the very best practices for pollinators and plants; with Kelly Rourke and Amber Barnes, she made monarch habitat support bloom across the Midwest, California and the Eastern seaboard; and thanks to Jamie Sherman and Kathy Kellison, she made Bee Friendly Farming a real priority in agriculture. As John Rowen, of the New York DOT put it “(She has) that excellent balance of pragmatism, the big picture, and believing in the causes for which (she) advocates.”

The legacy that Laurie has created now allows the people at **Pollinator Partnership**, and our partners, to grow our programs to carry on her good work. This is a huge responsibility, but one embraced by all whom she has touched so deeply. Thank you, Laurie, from all of the people and pollinators you have helped.

The Buzz is published by the **Pollinator Partnership** and mailed to all of our donors and interested friends of pollinators. This issue is also available at our website: www.pollinator.org.

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