

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tom Van Arsdall tva@pollinator.org t: 703 509 4746
Lindsay Kwong bb@pollinator.org t: 415.362.1137

International Achievement for Mexico – 25 Year Career in Bat Conservation Honored

The Pollinator Advocate Award is an international honor that recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to pollinator protection, conservation, and issue outreach resulting in increased awareness of the importance of pollinators and pollination. Each year the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) – a tri-national organization that works to address problems of pollinator decline and ecosystem protection – selects outstanding individuals that have championed the cause of pollinator conservation in their communities. This year Dr. Rodrigo Medellin is the distinguished recipient of the Pollinator Advocate Award for Mexico.

Like the inaudible chirps and clicks of the bat, the desperate need to protect these animals often goes unnoticed. For more than 25 years Dr. Rodrigo Medellin has been working to change that. As we mark the International Year of the Bat we celebrate Dr. Medellin's career and commitment to the flying mammal that helps cactus fruit, controls insect populations, and fills cultural mythology.

During his career Dr. Medellin founded and today heads the Program for the Conservation of Migratory Bats, a partnership between the Institute of Ecology, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, BIOCONCIENCIA, and EcoHealth Alliance. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Bat Conservation International for ten years, and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Lubee Bat Conservancy, and the La Selva Biological Station of OTS in Costa Rica. He also represents Mexico before the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Animals Committee.



Dr. Medellin examines a bat during a migration survey.



The Pollinator Advocate Award designed by acclaimed artist James Randolf.

Dr. Medellin's achievements will be celebrated at a VIP reception held at the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC on October 17, 2012. He will share this evening with the other pollinator and farmer-rancher award winners, including Isabella Rossellini (USA) who is being recognized for her short film series that demystifies the lives of honey bees and advocates for the conservation of all pollinators; Carol Dunk (Canada) who is being recognized for her promotion of pollinator habitat along roadsides in Southern Ontario; Canadian Farmer-Rancher Award winners Don and Marie Ruzicka of Sunrise Farm in Killam, Alberta and USA Farmer-Rancher Award winner Mark Wagoner of Wagoner Touchet Farms in Touchet, WA.

Without pollinators we would lose one third of our diet, nearly all of our high-nutrient food, most terrestrial ecosystems would collapse, important plant species that provide the raw materials for medicines would die out, and the biosphere would stop filtering air and freshwater for us and other wildlife. The world as we know it depends on pollinators. Pollinators depend on healthy clean habitat and factors such as uncontrolled development, agricultural intensification, chemical misuse, and pathogen introduction are decimating their populations. Some species have seen a 90% decline in their populations over the last decade.

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NAPPC is a collaborative effort of over 120 organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico whose common goal is to promote awareness of the essential role that pollinators play in food systems and ecosystems, and to provide the public with simple, effective ways to engage in environmental stewardship.

The **Pollinator Partnership**, the largest organization in the world dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems, is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization headquartered in San Francisco. Pollinator Partnership has offices and activities in Washington D.C., Louisiana, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Ohio, Arizona, Washington, and Canada.

