POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

2020 YEAR END REPORT

Hope for Pollinators and Plants

Our report for 2020 is an exciting compendium of activities. This year is unlike any other year for pollinators, plants, people and the planet. Here is one solid piece of intelligence we gathered in 2020: Pollinator Partnership (P2) may be the world's largest nonprofit devoted exclusively to helping vital threatened pollinators survive and thrive, but its mission involves a lot more than bees, butterflies, bats and birds. It is a nonprofit based on science, balanced in its approach, practical in its solutions, and providing an invaluable benefit . . . **hope**.

The situation for pollinators has never been more dire—your help is their hope! In 2020, we built P2's reach and impact as never before. We proved that working together, across ideologies, borders, perspectives and positions is the pathway to success. A direct result of that engagement is **hope**. We also made clear that to help pollinators we must support plants, and nothing is more a sign of **hope** than seeds, the promise of new life.

You will see in these pages how **hope** has played out. It is powerful, rare, and inspiring. Thank you for making P2 so successful. **Please give generously to keep hope growing for a sustainable planet and for the pollinators that keep our world thriving. Thank you!**

Jamii Davis Alams

Kellygo

Laurie Davies Adams, President and CEO

Kelly Rourke, Director of Programs and Operations

On the cover: Thousands of New England Aster plants become an Aster seed "factory" ready to populate pollinator habitat in nine states in support of monarch butterflies, Rusty-patched bumble bees, and other pollinators. (Below: In our Illinois grow-out nurse-ry, seeds of Cephalanthus occidentalis, also known as Buttonbush, are cared for and nurtured with surgical precision. (Photos by Holly Frainer).



Hope for Science and Strategy

Pollinator Partnership leadership spent months preparing the first ever EPA/USDA Honey Bee State of Knowledge Meeting for over 200 scientists from the U.S., Canada and Europe. As a critical step in fulfilling Farm Bill mandates to prioritize research in the coming year, this meeting was an exemplary effort to bring the best information to bear on research decisions. **Pollinator Partnership** and Keystone Policy Center's Honey Bee Health Coalition were charged with facilitating the meeting and the breakout sessions. It was a superb effort to gather the best ideas for examining and improving the fate of honey bees and native pollinators—a world-class gathering that **Pollinator Partnership** helped shape.

Pollinator Partnership's signature initiative The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) again this year awarded grants to honey bee researchers through the NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force. The 5 following grants bring the total to 74 grants funded by USDA APHIS, J. M Smucker Co., and YOU!

Dr. Kirsten Traynor: Smart Tracking: How varroa mites impact the social cohesion and longevity of a colony

Dr. James Nieh: The Understudied Honey Bee: Exploring the Role of Feral Honey Bees in Pathogen Dynamics in Pollinator Communities of Southern California

Dr. Mauricio Quesada: Effects of landscape and floral resources on population density, honey composition, nutritional stress and prevalence of parasites and pathogens in Apis mellifera in Mexico

Dr. Juliana Rangel: Altering macronutrient ratios of artificial diets to boost honey bee pathogen defense.

Dr. Meghan Bennett: Using nutrition to combat the biggest threat to honey bee survival, Varroa destructor

A major planning initiative began this year—The **Pollinator Partnership** Strategic Plan engaged all of the P2 Board and key leadership staff to plan strategic growth over the next three years. It's a productive exercise brought to P2 through volunteer Strategic Planning expert John Miller of New York City. Thank you to all!

NAPPC partners participated in a group planning exercise at the NAPPC 20th Anniversary to brainstorm the NEXT 20 years of efforts on behalf of pollinators everywhere. **Pollinator Partnership** will work to develop a process by which North American Leaders can work on this plan to strategize the efforts of NAPPC and other organizations going forward. To benefit pollinators most effectively. It's called Vision 20—stay tuned for more!



Hope for People

Your support for our 30+ programs changes the landscape and influences over 50,000 interactions with the public every month. But what it does for people, how it makes them FEEL, is an incalculable benefit of being a part of programs for pollinators. It feels like **hope**.

Take Project Wingspan. In 2020 alone, we've remotely trained over 180 new volunteers in proper seed collection practices – bringing us to over 470 trained volunteers for our initiative. This season, our volunteer collection teams have already contributed over 1,000 hours of their time to harvest over 100 collections of seed from our species list, and in the bargain, the volunteers, often Master Gardeners, made a real difference!

At the same time, we're engaging land owners and managers through our online habitat survey (with over 2,500 people reached to date) to get a better understanding of what kind of habitat is on the landscape. We also provide resources and trainings in pollinator habitat planning, creation, and management, and we secure as many acres as we can through voluntary letters of agreement to maintain and enhance habitat using Best Management Practices. All of this takes place in 9 states!

Another great example is Pollinator Partnership Canada's Youth Pollinator Leadership Team, a select group of youth 16-24 years old whom Lora Morandin trained in pollinator issues and tasked them with monitoring pollinators in the City of Victoria, B.C. The Leadership Team created a monitoring program to compare the value of ornamental vs. native plants in the city. They conducted outreach and created habitat including the enhancement of pollinator plantings in local greenspaces. They helped educate the community on why pollinators are important and how to help.

And this year, **Pollinator Partnership** renewed federal level Memoranda of Understanding with the **Environmental Protection Agency**, the **U.S. Forest Service** and the **National Park Service**.

Bottom line—help for pollinators brings a great feeling of accomplishment, connection, and validation for people; it's called doing good and feeling great (aka: **hope**).

At right, volunteers from 18 to 80 carefully sort seed, observe and monitor, plant habitat, identify and verify seed and take a Halloween spooky seed collection (a volunteer dresses as a sunflower) to have a hopeful and fun, hopeful adventure in seed gathering, habitat creation and helping others join in supporting pollinators. (Photos by Lora Morandin and Holly Frainer).



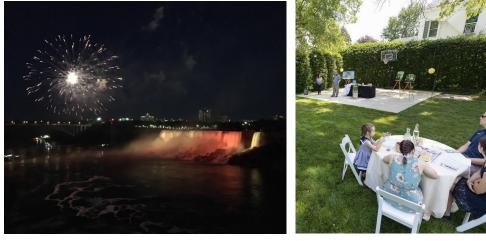
Hope for Communities

Pollinator Week 2020 was a great opportunity to try something new. So we made personal, local, virtual, and small Pollinator Week activities universal, intimate, and connected. We knew that governors were preoccupied with fighting a pandemic, so we gave them a pass on Pollinator Week Proclamations, but somehow 35 of them did it anyway! And for the first time, the Administrator of EPA Andrew R. Wheeler joined the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and the Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt in making Pollinator Week a priority. Communities across the globe joined in—and rang out a cry to light the



skies for pollinators, a beacon of hope.





Order your own copy of the 2020 pollinator poster (seen above) at www.pollinator.org/posters



Above, lighting happened in 26 communities (including Niagara Falls, above left), and 176 events registered at Pollinator.org Communities found a way; we salute their tenacity, vision and perseverance. Pollinators matter to people even in a pandemic ;telling their story is a priority. P2 has worked with every administration since George W. Bush. This year, Second Lady Karen Pence gave a small Pollinator Week event at the Vice Presidential mansion for local school children (photo above middle) and featured the 2020 Pollinator Poster, with art by Fiorella Ikeue.

Hope for Families and Schools

Because **Pollinator Partnership** understands the isolation and loneliness of the Covid-19 lockdown, we started one of our most popular initiatives—**My Pollinator, My Story.** We asked the 1,057,338 participants in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge to tell us about their personal experiences in their pollinator gardens. We asked for photographs and stories, and the outpouring overwhelmed and inspired us. Here is just a sampling:

How is your garden doing?

My early blooming perennials put on a magnificent show. My later blooming perennials and my annuals are really just getting estab-



lished. My milkweed has already hosted a batch of Monarchs, and the bees have been busy.

What pollinators have visited? Honey bees, bumble bees, many species of small bees I can't identify, wasps, flies,

hummingbirds, Monarch butterflies, Eastern Tiger

Swallowtails, Pipevine Swallowtails, Skippers, American Lady butterflies, Sulfurs, so far!

What do your garden and pollinators mean to you? It brings me great joy to help the pollinators, and I get beautiful flowers as a side benefit!







Many of P2's most memorable outreach efforts are through schools, scout troops, after-school programs, and families staying at home. P2's BeeSmart School Garden Kit supports them; it teaches the all-important connection between pollinators, plants, food, and life.





Hope for Food and Ecosystems



Consider USDA Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCS) - In 2020 Pollinator Partnership launched a new partnership with NRCS in 7 states, where part-time Pollinator Partnership staff are assisting the Natural Resource Conservation Service to help land owners conserve pollina-tors and reach their habitat goals. It's a hopeful collaboration for pollinators and growers.

Pollinator Partnership's Bee Friendly Farming Certified (BFF) program added over 60,000 acres this year - an incredible accomplishment for pollinators and healthy landscapes, especially during Covid-19. Our partnerships with the Almond Board of California and with the Seeds for Bees program of Project Apis m will result in more gains for pollinators in almond orchards. We're in conversation with major growers and food processors, manufacturers and global retail outlets; the partnerships for BFF are growing exponentially, a hope for every grower and landscape.

Hope for Honey Bees

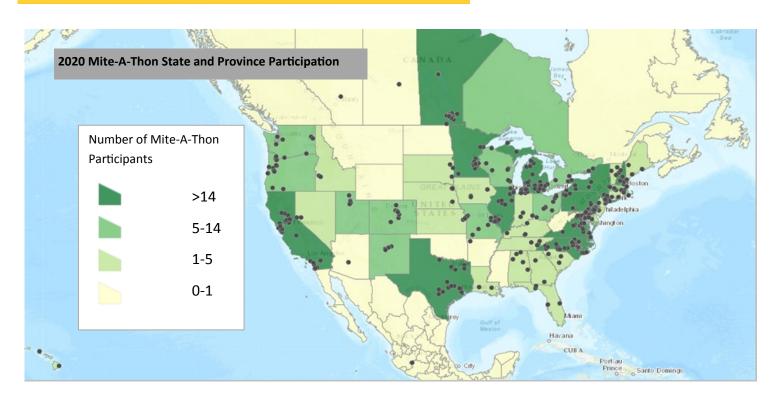
NORTH AMERICAN MITE-A-THON

Sign-up and join the count to support honey bee health!

May 2nd-17th & August 15th-30th



Pollinator Partnership started the annual Mite-A-Thon (MAT) four years ago to help beekeepers understand the scientific protocol needed to accurately assess the level of Varroa mite infestation in their hives – this is the pernicious mite that plagues honey bees and threatens their ability to reproduce, to avoid disease, and to overwinter more effectively. This year, MAT took a bold step and doubled its reporting parameters one in the spring, one in the fall. The result was to significantly increase in the understanding of the temporal changes in infestation throughout the year and better provide data for beekeepers to develop management strategies.



Hope for Collaboration

For 20 years, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) has been managed by the Pollinator Partnership. Started by P2 Founder Paul Growald and Dr. Gaby Chavarria, NAPPC brings together all stakeholders, from 3 countries, representing all points of view on pollinator issues. Across North America, NAPPC makes a difference thanks to support from YOU!









Above, over 200 attending the opening day of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) 20th Anniversary International Meeting in Washington, DC. Originally scheduled to be at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the P2 Team and the Smithsonian pivoted to make it the "Best Zoom meeting I have ever attended" - a quote from the great feedback on the meeting. From presentations to awards (upper right Canadian Pollinator Farmer Rancher Award recipient Steppler Farms) to the Task Force breakouts, NAPPC did it all. Above, Dr. Steve Buchmann, P2 Founder Paul Growald, P2 Pres. Laurie Adams, P2 Program Dir. Kelly Rourke reminisced about the 20 years of NAPPC's pollinator efforts led by Pollinator Partnership.

YOUR Help is Our Hope

Give generously to support Pollinator Partnership's 30+ programs and to help us increase our impact—YOU make the difference in our success. Real change for pollinators, plants, people, and the planet is in your hands. **Can we count on your support?**

By contributing to **Pollinator Partnership** you are making a real and measurable difference - your steadfast support is changing the world. And bringing **HOPE** to the world. **THANK YOU!**

Give through the return envelope enclosed in this mailing or visit www.pollinator.org:

- A donation of any size is greatly appreciated and will build pollinator habitat everywhere, disseminate BeeSmart School Garden Kits, sponsor NAPPC, enroll farmers in Bee Friendly Farming, and support all of P2's work.
- Recurring monthly donation of any size (we are grateful every month!)
- Planned giving from your estate
- Gift of stock and securities
- Gift of real property

For a gift of \$200 or more (or a recurring monthly gift of \$17) we will send you the beautiful NAPPC Scarf/Bandana—designed with the same beautiful art created by Fiorella Ikeue for the 2020 Pollinator Poster. Thank you!

Together we make great things happen!

SPECIAL MATCH

Gifts of \$50 or more will be matched by a generous donor DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT BY GIVING NOW!



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Back cover: Illinois' Mason State Nursery grow-out field. (Photo of by Holly Frainer)