

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



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NAPPC Awards Research Grants to Promote Lepidoptera Conservation



The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), managed by **Pollinator Partnership (P2)**, has awarded three new research grants related to lepidoptera conservation. The **NAPPC Lepidoptera Task Force** has established a new grant program that has been funded by a generous donation. Each project will explore one or more identified priority areas that will investigate the stressors impacting Lepidoptera species in North America.

2023 marks the first year that the NAPPC Lepidoptera Task Force has offered this grant program to support habitat actions that include research and monitoring of Lepidoptera. NAPPC solicited proposals in the Fall of 2022 from University professors, researchers, and graduate students who are at the forefront of butterfly and moth issues including pesticide exposure, pests and disease, and climate effects, among other areas. Research topics are diverse and aim to support butterflies and moths, and to educate policymakers and land managers.

This Winter, the NAPPC Lepidoptera Task Force convened a panel of experts to review the proposals, which included **Junaid Khan, Todd Gilligan, Ralph Grundell, Mary Jamieson, Steve Sass, and Amanda Smith**. The panel funded 3 outstanding proposals that will strengthen the science supporting Lepidoptera management and conservation. The following projects have been chosen from many incredible submissions and will report their progress at the annual NAPPC International Conference, hosted October 17-19, 2023:

- **Lauren Agnew, Lindsay Kemmerling, Ph.D,** and **Emilie Snell-Rood, Ph.D.** at the **University of Minnesota** are *Partnering with community gardens to assess the role of heavy metal pollution in butterfly decline*
- **Shiran Hershovich** with **Elise Willcox** and **Richard P. Reading, Ph.D.** at **Butterfly Pavillion** are investigating the *Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network (CBMN)*
- **Devon Lang Pryor, Amanda Lyons, Celia Liptak, Jessica VenJohn, Saori Kawasumi Lewis, Collen Hinken, Kristen & Zachary Herrmann,** and **Kenny West** at **Académie Lafayette Public Charter School** are developing a *Butterfly Garden*

Thanks to the donors, we were able to fully fund three distinct research initiatives that provide tangible results advancing Lepidoptera conservation. The Request For Proposals for 2024 research projects will be distributed in Fall 2023. Visit www.pollinator.org/lepidoptera for more information.

You may contact **Reed Lievers** of Pollinator Partnership at reed@pollinator.org or at 415.362.1137 to learn more about the programs

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ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)

For over 22 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 www.napppc.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 www.pollinator.org.