

MEDIA RELEASE



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International Award Given to Dr. Clement Kent

Washington, D.C. (Tuesday, October 25, 2011)

Dr. Clement Kent recognizes the invaluable contribution that gardens in Canada's cities can make to pollinator species conservation. By working with a diverse set of cultural leaders and community stakeholders Dr. Kent is seeding awareness of pollinator issues and positive ways to support pollinators among people who are in positions to spread the news more widely and to different communities. For this reason he has been named the Pollinator Advocate winner for Canada by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC).

The Pollinator Advocate award is given each year as part of an international effort to promote public awareness about pollinators – birds, bees, bats, butterflies, beetles, and other animals that enable the reproduction of over 75 percent of flowering plants, accounting for as much as one-third of the nation's food supply. Previous recipients include Hummingbird conservationist Humberto Berlanga from Mexico; the Musée de l'abeille in Canada for over 40 years of public education about honey bee conservation; and US House Representative Alcee L. Hastings for his work to ensure pollinator conservation provisions in the Farm Bill.

Dr. Kent is a full time genetics post-doctoral fellow that finds the time to champion for pollinators. Dr. Kent founded the Pollinator Gardens Project to educate gardeners and the public about how they could help create and conserve habitat for these important species using native plants. His demonstration pollinator gardens have been seen by thousands of people and have sparked interest in garden and beekeeping groups in other cities that want to create their own pollinator gardens.

This past year Dr. Kent envisioned and designed an indoor pollinator garden that was on display at "Canada Blooms", the largest Garden Show in Canada, showing just how motivated he is for this cause. In addition to working with gardeners Clement is working on developing a teaching curriculum for pollinator education to integrate into the International Baccalaureate Program that is taught in high schools around the world.

Pollinator Advocates joining Dr. Kent in this honor include Jimmy Brown of Energy United, North Carolina, USA for initiating pollinator habitat management on rights-of-way; Dr. Isabel Ramirez from Mexico for her work with migratory monarch habitat conservation; and Peter and Laura Berthelsen of Elba Nebraska, USA for their work in the farming and ranching community.

The multi-colored, cut-glass award that is presented to the winners features a hummingbird, bees, and a butterfly and was designed by artist James Randolph whose previous work includes the Air and Space Museum's Challenger Tribute. The awards ceremony initiated the 10th Annual International NAPPC Conference, an annual meeting that brings together some of the country's most prominent scientists and pollinator experts. NAPPC consists of 120-plus organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that work to promote public awareness of the importance of pollinators. NAPPC is managed by the non profit Pollinator Partnership. The NAPPC Conference is being hosted this year by the Smithsonian Institution. To learn more about the Pollinator Partnership and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign visit www.pollinator.org.

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