

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## ***International Award Given to Jimmy Brown and Energy United***

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

Jimmy Brown has always worked to incorporate wildlife conservation into the management practices of Energy United utility holdings in North Carolina. More recently Brown turned his attention to promoting pollinator species along all of Energy United's holdings, creating a network of habitat spanning more than 1000 miles. The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign is honoring Brown for this work with the 2011 Pollinator Advocate Award for the United States.

Energy United and Brown have set the bar for habitat protection in their industry. He and his staff have hosted and facilitated conferences with other utility co-ops stressing the importance of protecting and promoting the natural habitats for pollinators that run underneath overhead transmission wires. Together they are providing the community with an essential service and providing pollinators with essential habitat.

The work that Brown supports benefits not only local wildland systems, but also agricultural production near to their utility holdings. If all local and national utilities followed the lead of Brown and others that have decided to consider pollinators in their management regimes there could be significant changes and improvements in the status of pollinator populations across the continent.

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.

Pollinator Advocates sharing the honor with Brown include Dr. Clement Kent from Toronto, Canada in recognition of his work to develop local pollinator gardens; 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 NAPPCC Conference, an annual meeting that brings together some of the country's most prominent scientists and pollinator experts. NAPPCC consists of 120-plus organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that work to promote public awareness of the importance of pollinators. NAPPCC is managed by the non profit Pollinator Partnership. The NAPPCC 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](http://www.pollinator.org).

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