

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pollinator Week 2016 Unites America in Conservation Action for Pollinators – All 50 Governors Sign State Proclamations

This year's Pollinator Week, June 20-26, has once again united the nation around the critical and pervasive issue of pollinator conservation. The **Pollinator Partnership (P2)**, which created and has administered Pollinator Week since its beginnings in 2007, announced today that they have received proclamations **from all 50 US Governors** supporting the national observance, in addition to proclamations from the **U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell** and **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack**. And, for the very first time, **Alejandro Javier García Padilla, the Governor of the Territory of Puerto Rico**, has added a proclamation of its own for Pollinator Week. Additionally, **more than 170 events across 42 states, Puerto Rico and Canada** have been organized and registered through P2's Pollinator Week webpage (a complete list is available at www.pollinator.org/pollinatorweek/).



Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, birds and other animals bring us one in every three bites of food, protect our environment. They form the underpinnings of a healthy and sustainable future. From a Pollinator Safari in Portland, Oregon to a pollinator-themed family program at a public library in Hilo, Hawaii, Americans have put their ingenuity, creativity and drive into supporting pollinator health, an issue that we can all do something about! "Americans value pollinators as an essential part of the national landscape,"

said the **Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA executive vice president and CEO of the American Society of Landscape Architects**. "We are thankful for the public's and policymakers' commitment to help reverse pollinator declines and ensure the vitality of our ecosystems."

Pollinator Week celebrates a new dawn of wise land management across the country, spearheaded by the announcement of a new **Pollinator Partnership Action Plan** released by the White House (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/06/22/bees-butterflies-and-you>) highlights case studies to this strategy, which focuses on improving the relationship between butterflies, bees, and you. **Laurie Davies Adams**, Executive Director of the non-profit [Pollinator Partnership](http://www.pollinator.org), said, "This new aspect to the federal strategy will encourage the public to plant for pollinators and use Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) or Integrated Pest Management (IPM), promoting common sense approaches to limit our impacts on local ecosystems." Whether you manage large parcels of land or simply maintain a small garden in your backyard, you can do your part for pollinators and help promote awareness by registering with the [Million Pollinator Garden Challenge](http://www.pollinator.org/million-pollinator-garden-challenge), an initiative of the **National Pollinator Garden Network**.



In celebration of its 20th Anniversary, P2 has launched the **Support the Bees™ Campaign** to expand its programs and guarantee its sustainability for the benefit of pollinators. With your help, the campaign hopes to raise \$5 million over three years. Visit www.pollinator.org/support-the-bees/ to learn more.

Pollinator Week showcases the brand new pollinator poster of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), *Trees for Bees*. This 2016 poster was carefully crafted by

artist **Natalya Zahn**, a Boston-based natural illustrator and designer. The poster (left) is available at www.pollinator.org/poster2016 where a new web feature illuminates the intricate interactions between native trees and their pollinators, and features photographs of the artist at work creating the poster.



A new initiative, **Show Us Your Poster**, asks you to share a photo of you and your *Trees for Bees* poster wherever you have it! Post it on the Pollinator Partnership Facebook page just like 6 year old Edward, a NY kindergartener, has done at right.



Rob Mies, of the Organization for Bat Conservation shown below, is a Steering Committee member of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, a multi-stakeholder initiative that supports the annual pollinator celebrations. Efforts during Pollinator Week, and indeed



year-round, are working to reverse and prevent pollinator declines caused by loss of habitat, disease, pesticides, parasites and other interconnected assaults on pollinator populations. Now is the time to begin planning your own event for next year's Pollinator Week, which will take place June 19-25, 2017. Visit www.pollinator.org or send an email to info@pollinator.org for help coordinating efforts.

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ABOUT THE POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2)

Established in 1997, the Pollinator Partnership is the largest 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. P2'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. P2's 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.