

MEDIA ADVISORY

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2018 North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Award Winners

2018 Pollinator Advocate and Farmer-Rancher Award winners from the United States, Canada and Mexico will be honored by Pollinator Partnership and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) on October 16 at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC, which features a diverse collection of flora benefiting multiple pollinator species.

NAPPC is a collaborative body of diverse partners, including respected scientists, researchers, private sector stakeholders, conservationists and government officials working to find common ground on innovative initiatives that benefit pollinators. NAPPC's 18th annual conference will be held October 16-18 in Washington, DC.

“We are pleased to be able to recognize the outstanding efforts of these special individuals, who are leading by example and taking innovative actions that help make the North American landscape a better place for our pollinating partners ... the bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other species that we all rely upon” says Val Dolcini, President and CEO of the Pollinator Partnership, which facilitates NAPPC.

A brief description of award winners and their actions follows:

2018 NAPPC Pollinator Advocate – United States



Dr. Andony Melathopoulos of **Oregon State University** is an entomologist with a passion for promoting bee health and educating growers, forest landowners, landscapers, the general public, and pesticide users. He has worked with various stakeholders to make tremendous strides in helping develop a strategic plan to promote the health of both wild and managed bees in the State of Oregon. In early 2017, he **was instrumental in the creation of the Oregon Bee Project**, a multi-agency initiative aimed at protecting bees from pesticide exposure, increasing habitat, reducing impacts of diseases and pests on bees, and expanding understanding of the bees of Oregon. As part of this initiative, Dr. Melathopoulos has trained 163 individuals and formed 10 regional volunteer groups to collect and pin bees for the **Oregon Bee Atlas**. For **Pollinator Week 2018**, he coordinated 20 events across the state. He has also

produced 50 episodes of PolliNation Podcast, which feature special guests and highlight issues bees face. Since September 2016, Dr. Melathopoulos has personally **presented to more than 2,500 pesticide applicators on practices to minimize pesticide exposure risk to bees**.

2018 NAPPC-NACD Farmer-Rancher - United States



John and Nancy Hayden have been proprietors of **The Farm Between** in Jeffersonville, Vermont for 26 years. The Farm Between is a **20-acre certified organic nursery and fruit farm** specializing in production and sale of pollinator-dependent fruit and berry crops, shrubs, and trees, and more than half of the farm's area is devoted to pollinator habitat enhancement. John, a trained entomologist, has made a number of significant contributions in the area of pollinator conservation and management, including the **establishment of a 14-acre pollinator sanctuary** at a former dairy farm, where he conducts

long-term bee species diversity monitoring and demonstrates effective pollinator land management practices. In 2007, John and Nancy **founded Seeds of Self-Reliance**, a nonprofit organization with international scope working to promote biological diversity of pollinators and other organisms in the context of sustainable agriculture. A related program, **Pollinator Pathways**, provides outreach and education in Vermont on the importance of pollinators to our food systems. In 2016, John was **appointed by Vermont's governor to serve on the state's Pollinator Protection Committee, and he is frequently asked to testify before legislative committees** on pending legislation related to pesticide use, pollinator conservation, and sustainable agriculture.

2018 NAPPC Pollinator Advocate – Canada



The Farmlands Trust Society (FLT) is a charitable not-for-profit organization located in Saanichton, British Columbia. The FLT works to enhance farming capacity in the Greater Victoria area by protecting local farmland, protecting eco-sensitive and culturally special areas, producing food for those in need, providing relevant educational opportunities, promoting the economic viability of farmland, and providing community access and public awareness programs. Since 2012, the society has been gradually **returning the 100-year-old historic Newman Farm in Saanichton to active agricultural uses.**

FLT leads the “field to plate” initiative at Newman Farm where FLT volunteers grow, harvest, and **donate local fruits and vegetables to those in need at Our Place Society** in Victoria to aid in relieving poverty and mitigating food insecurity for marginalized populations in society. They are also important, active members of the **Island Pollinator Initiative.**

2018 NAPPC Farmer-Rancher – Canada



Cody Straza and Allison Squires are co-owners and operators of **Upland Organics**, a 2000 acre certified organic grain farm near Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan. Their vision is to create a family orientated, environmentally and economically sustainable organic farming operation, which contributes in a positive and significant way to both the local community and the greater organic agricultural community. To this end, they are working towards **converting their entire farm to no-till.** Cody serves as the **Vice President of SaskOrganics**, allowing him to promote the organic industry across the prairie provinces. He also joined

the **Organic Value Chain Round Table**, bringing the prairie farmer's perspective and input to national level discussions. Allison promotes involving organic producers at the individual farm level and believes that it will contribute to the overall applicability of research in this sector. She has helped implement several **on-farm research projects at Upland Organics**, and serves as **director on the Canadian Organic Growers board.** Upland Organics is a **certified Bee Friendly Farm through Pollinator Partnership.** They are one of the few large-acre farms in Canada to hold this certification.

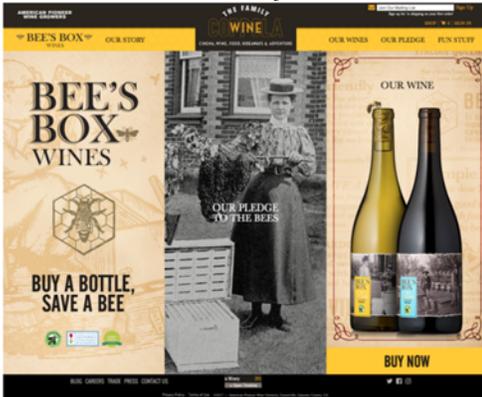
2018 NAPPC Pollinator Advocate – Mexico



César Damian and Elena Barba are co-founders and directors of **FRONDA**, a non-profit organization whose objective is to promote artistic disciplines in rural and urban spaces outside of Mexico City, through the creation of projects aimed at the creation, exploration, training, exchange and dissemination of interdisciplinary and intercultural art. In February, FRONDA **developed the culture event “Symbiosis, Encounters between Bees, Artists and Scientists” in Mexico.** FRONDA is **adapting Border Free Bees’ methods of community-based art practice and collaborations** to the Mexican context where students are often

afraid to speak out about environmental issues. FRONDA intends to weave ties between artists, educators, scientists, physical places, and memory, through activities of interaction with the community, giving pollinator projects an emphasis that favors the Mexican identity and local values.

2018 NAPPC Business for Bees



Francis Ford Coppola Winery (FFCW) farms **75 acres of Bee Friendly Certified vineyards** at its Geyserville, California winery. FFCW and the surrounding estate are also certified by the **California Sustainable Winegrowers Alliance**, a program that provides third-party verification of a winery’s commitment to sustainability and covers all aspects of operations including vineyards, wine production, worker safety, environmental impacts and continuous improvement. In addition to the vineyards, FFCW has **extensive gardens that provide 6,000 lbs. of produce annually** for the restaurants and flowers for decoration. Through the **integrated pest management** program, they **promote the biodiversity** of the vineyard with beneficial insects, soil fauna,

bluebird boxes, and owls that combat pests of grapevines. **Soil erosion is prevented** using three-season cover crops that also replenish essential nutrients back into the soil. As a wider initiative, FFCW is part of Sonoma County Winegrower’s three-phase commitment to **become the nation’s first 100% sustainable wine region by 2019.**

2018 NAPPC Roadside Managers



The **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)** has demonstrated their long-term commitment to pollinator habitat in multiple ways, including new mowing policies that will **create an estimated 100,000 additional acres of pollinator habitat and the dedication of \$500,000 of their annual budget for new pollinator habitat and restoration projects.** They have also updated the statewide seeding specifications and standards to include monarch butterfly and pollinator friendly seed mixes, with multiple species of milkweed. Additionally, they place a large emphasis on pollinator friendly rights-of-way (ROW) management, partnering with companies to **provide habitat along ROWs**, engaging in multiple ROW working groups, serving on the ROW Sector Technical Team in 2017 and 2018, and **drafting the Transportation ROW strategies** for the sector. IDOT regularly engages the public with by staffing fair booths, registering existing habitat, and **distributing over 7,000 seed packets.** They are working towards **restoring 200 acres of pollinator habitat** since August 2016.

The NAPPCC conference, hosted by the US Department of Agriculture, took place October 17-18 and topics included the effects of climate change on pollinators; pathogens, pesticides and pollinators; the current state of the monarch butterfly; the native bee diversity of prairies; the importance of pollinators for agriculture; the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge; an update on the beekeeping industry; and reports from honey bee health researchers on projects funded through NAPPCC. Task forces worked to select consensus-based projects and desired outcomes for the coming year.

Additional information about pollinator award winners from 2018 and previous years is available at <http://pollinator.org/awards>.

ABOUT THE POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2) AND THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPCC)

Established in 1997, P2, a 501(c)3 headquartered in San Francisco, California, was incorporated in 1997. P2's mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research. Visit www.pollinator.org for more information. Interviews with P2 President and CEO Val Dolcini are available by request.

P2 facilitates NAPPCC, a tri-national collaboration working to promote awareness and scientific understanding of pollinators; to gather, organize and disseminate information about pollinators; to provide a forum to identify and discuss pollinator issues; and to promote projects, initiatives and activities that enhance pollinators. NAPPCC's mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America. NAPPCC partners gather from throughout the North American continent to raise public awareness and education and promote constructive dialogue about pollinators' importance to agriculture, ecosystem health, and food supplies. NAPPCC encourages collaborative, working partnerships among participants and with federal, state and local government entities. The annual conference strengthens the network of associated organizations working on behalf of pollinators to promote conservation, protection and restoration of habitat, and to document and support scientific, economic and policy research. Information about NAPPCC, including past accomplishments and highlights of past NAPPCC conferences, is available at <http://pollinator.org/nappcc>.