



# NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 18, 2006

## **POLLINATORS AT RISK: NATION UNITES FOR THE BIRDS AND BEES**

*International meeting sees major thrust for action:*

- NAS Releases Study on Status of North American Pollinators;
- USDA Proclamation Designates National Pollinator Week (June 24-30, 2007);
- U. S. Postal Service Unveils 2007 Pollination Stamp Series

WASHINGTON, DC – In an unprecedented move to advance a vital conservation cause, three U. S. entities today collaborated to increase attention to the importance, and potential peril, of pollinating insects and other animals and the plants which depend on them for reproduction. Taking advantage of a daylong Pollinator Symposium—jointly hosted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)—the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), USDA and U. S. Postal Service each made major announcements to focus public attention on often unseen and yet vitally important interactions between plants and the pollinating animals that help them reproduce.

“The work of protecting pollinators begins in each of our homes, farms, forests, parks and communities,” said NAPPC Co-Chair and founder Paul Growald. “It is in our own interest to see that pollinators are with us for food and flowers far into the future.”

The goal of the October 18 Symposium was to raise awareness and to underscore the critical need for forethought and research to prevent a crisis in the pollinator world. As part of the NAPPC Pollinator Partnership, scientific, environmental and agricultural organizations are working together to avert a global calamity by focusing on sustaining and enhancing pollinators, who in turn play a vital role in a healthy, stable food supply and natural ecosystems.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner opened the Symposium by announcing the signing of a proclamation by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns in recognition of pollinators and designating June 24-30, 2007 as **National Pollinator Week**. This action, building on a recent Senate resolution about pollinators (S. Res. 580), is part of a growing effort by USDA to address pollinator conservation challenges, and lays the groundwork for a national outreach campaign in 2007.

Dr. Gene Robinson introduced the **Status of Pollinators: Monitoring and Prevention of their Decline in North America**, a nearly 400 page report completed by the Academies' National Research Council (NRC). The NAS is widely regarded as the nation's top scientific authority.

“This study is the foundation on which all our science and policy for pollinators can be built from now on,” said Robinson, University of Illinois professor of entomology, Academy member and member of the NRC committee formed to conduct the pollinator study. “This thorough compendium shows us not only what we know about pollinators, but also what we need to know.” The report can be found at <http://www.nationalacademies.org>.

In a third major development, the **United States Postal Service** (USPS), represented by Washington, DC Postmaster Yverne Pat Moore, unveiled the intricate design for a commemorative stamp series highlighting the interconnectedness of nature and the process of pollination.

“Farmers see the connection between plants and pollinators every day,” said USDA Deputy Secretary Conner. “Thanks to these beautiful stamps, that same point is illustrated for everyone.”

The pollination stamps will be issued during National Pollinator Week in 2007 as part of NAPPC's planned national pollinator awareness campaign. The USPS press release is available on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 11:40 AM at: <http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/welcome.htm>.

The Pollinator Symposium was created by the partners of the **North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, or NAPPC**, a tri-national, public-private collaboration of scientific researchers, managers and other employees of state and federal agencies, private industry and conservation and environmental groups dedicated to ensuring sustainable populations of pollinating invertebrates, birds and mammals. Information can be found at [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org).

"We hear the same story over and over – the beauty and the vital role of pollinating animals cannot be taken for granted," said Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director of the Coevolution Institute, the nonprofit group managing NAPPC. "NAPPC partners are working to make sure that the plant-pollinator connection is appreciated and protected."

NAPPC's participants, from nearly 140 entities, are working together to promote awareness and scientific understanding of pollinators; gather, organize and disseminate information about pollinators; provide a forum to identify and discuss pollinator issues; and promote projects, initiatives and activities that enhance pollinators. For more information about the **Pollinator Partnership**, go to <http://www.pollinator.org>. For more information about **NAPPC**, go to <http://www.napcc.org>.

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