

October 18, 2016

## **Dear NAPPC Partner:**

**Welcome to the 16th Annual NAPPC International Conference** hosted by USDA APHIS on October 18-20, 2015! This is a great time to be a part of the world's largest collaborative body working for pollinators. As many of you know, NAPPC has played a significant role in recent federal actions to bring land management in the federal government into the leadership model it is becoming. Truly, the *Federal Strategy in Support of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* is a masterwork of collaboration and smart governance.

Despite exemplary advances in pollinator awareness, there is abundance evidence that there is much more work to do to ensure the sustainable future for pollinators that we all want. For more than 17 years, we have worked together collaboratively across all disciplines – we have demonstrated cooperatively how to get real change on the ground.

Attending a NAPPC Conference is one of the most active and engaging ways to put your muscle behind an issue that is a cornerstone in the protection of biodiversity, food safety and healthy wild and working land.

## If you are new to NAPPC please note:

The emphasis is on the work of NAPPC Task Forces, each of which has a specific charge to accomplish some action or program activity that will advance the health and welfare of pollinators. Since the NAPPC Task Force format has been responsible for many of NAPPC's successful endeavors, the Steering Committee has suggested a Task Force activity as a starting priority to discuss when we meet as a group. It is a lot to accomplish in two days. That is why the Task Forces will meet on both Wednesday and on Thursday (see Agenda).

During the two Task Force sessions, your Task Force will envision your completed project and work through the steps to get there. You will be asked to commit to at least one aspect in the completion of this project. The idea is to diversify the input, mobilize maximum impact, and to spread the work over many participants. You will be encouraged to set realistic time frames and through consistent, collaborative communication and effort, the Task Force will achieve its mission.

Your personal contribution will make a difference to the future of our planet. We are nurturing a global, public constituency actively engaged in pollinator conservation to imbue the next generation with the principles of sustainable ecosystems.

The 2016 16th Annual NAPPC International Conference relies on your vision, energy and inspiration. **WELCOME**, and **THANK YOU** for building a positive future for pollinators, for people and for our world.

Sincerely,

Jamie Davis Alams

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On behalf of the NAPPC Steering Committee and the NAPPC Liaisons