



## **Section 4**

### **Task Force and Task Force Definitions**

# Task Force Assignments

As of October 16, 2008

\*Denotes Task Force C-Chairs

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## Task Force Descriptions

***Task Forces** are cross-discipline, short-term, project-oriented groupings designed to accomplish a single task (e.g., create a photo exhibit). NAPPC partners will have the opportunity to provide input into groups on which they do not serve. New Task Forces will be created as needed.*

### **Agricultural Programs**

This Task Force examines ways to increase farmer and rancher pollinator-friendly practices using the 2008 Farm Bill, which for the first time includes specific language about pollinators. USDA programs are a vehicle for pollinator conservation activities, including habitat development and restoration as outlined in Xerces publications “How to use the Farm Bill” and “Farming with Bees.” Utilizing the new NAPPC Ecoregional Planting Guides, incentive programs and other conservation initiatives already in place by federal agencies, this group will strategize how to best incorporate pollinator conservation into on the ground land use.

### **Collections and Databases**

This Task Force will focus on increasing pollinator contact and other information in the Pollinator Conservation Digital Library (PCDL) and in the IABIN Pollinators Thematic Network. It will also explore ideas and options for increasing pollinator data in the IABIN Pollinators Thematic Network, which will facilitate information sharing throughout the Americas and beyond. NAPPC now serves as the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) Coordinating Institute for the Pollinators Thematic Network (IABIN-PTN). The IABIN project will require expert input from NAPPC and its partners as scientists contribute and link their pollinator data throughout the Western hemisphere.

### **Gardens – Public and Private**

With the new Guelph Pollinator Garden project, and several others, and utilizing the new NAPPC Ecoregional Guides, this Task Force will strategize ways to encourage urban and rural gardens for pollinators in public and private spaces.

### **Honeybee Health Improvement Project**

The Honeybee Health Improvement Project will focus on ways to help honeybees and beekeepers. They will first take a look at the programs to date on existing grants. In light of that information, they will decide if the original focus on genetic stock improvements, best management practices for commercial beekeeping, nutrition and pesticides is the best course. They will then examine the next round of priorities for honey bee research (\$40K from Burt’s Bes) and will structure an RfP and schedule for proposal review and grant awards.

### **Monarch Monitoring**

The Monarch Task Force will assist in the implementation of the North American Monarch Conservation Plan in Canada, the United States, and Mexico and make recommendations on monitoring needs and priorities for a collaborative network of Monarch Butterfly Sister Protected Areas across the three countries, as well as expanding monarch habitat initiated in 2007 on US federal lands.

**Pesticides**

The Pesticide Task Force will focus on pesticide risk management issues. This Task Force will develop one priority project. Suggestions for the project include effective language for pesticide labeling, continuing education for pesticide applicator professional or the monitoring of sublethal effect either as part of registration or post-registration assessments.

**Public and Private Land Manager**

One of the most fertile opportunities to help pollinating species is through interface with public land managers. This Task Force will develop one strategy in support of pollinating species on publicly managed land and through the dissemination of the NAPPC Ecoregional Guides. They may develop a special information sheet for public land managers as a complement to the guides.

**Rights-of-Way**

This Task Force will strategize ways to maximize these contiguous landscapes' health and the cost benefits to utilities through management for pollinators. Their task will be to create a demonstration project (potential site at Baltimore Electric) and/or determine a nationwide approach to engaging utilities and other ROW managers.

**Youth Education**

The Youth Education Task Force finished a pollinator-focused curriculum in 2006 and has created an online pollinator curriculum. This year they will focus on ways to distribute the curriculum to traditional and non-traditional learning environments, including to youth organizations like the Boys and Girls Scouts and to the Wildlife Habitat Councils' Corporate Land's for Learning Program.