



# National Pollinator Garden Network Co-founders

## Collin O'Mara, National Wildlife Federation

Collin O'Mara serves as President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, America's largest wildlife conservation organization with 51 state and territorial affiliates and nearly six million hunters, anglers, birders, gardeners, hikers, paddlers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Under O'Mara's leadership, the National Wildlife Federation is focused on recovering America's wildlife ranging from bison and bighorn sheep to pollinators like monarch butterflies and native bees, improving management of and access to public lands, restoring America's water bodies, advancing environmental education (including publishing *Ranger Rick*® magazines), and connecting every American child with the great outdoors.

O'Mara serves on the Wildlife Hunting and Heritage Conservation Council, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, and the Blue Ribbon Panel for Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources. He also represents the National Wildlife Federation as a member of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Policy Council, and the BlueGreen Alliance. In 2015, O'Mara was named Bass Pro Shop's Conservation Partner of the Year. He is regularly called before Congress to testify about wildlife, water, and sportsmen issues.

Prior to the National Wildlife Federation, O'Mara led the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control as Cabinet Secretary from 2009 through 2014. In that position, Secretary O'Mara served as the state's top natural resource official, and led the state's efforts to conserve and restore wildlife and fishery habitat, improve air quality and public health, ensure access to clean water, expand outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities, and enhance the state's resilience to extreme weather and other climate impacts.

## Mary Phillips, National Wildlife Federation

Mary Phillips initiated NWF's pollinator and monarch strategy in 2014, which included co-founding the National Pollinator Garden Network and co-launching the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge; managing NWF's three year MOU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to "Save the Monarch" ; and, is a member of the Monarch Joint Venture steering committee. Mary Phillips facilitates collaboration across the National Pollinator Garden Network, representing the National Wildlife Federation in its administrative leadership role for the NPGN co-founding executive committee and in kind host support of [www.millionpollinatorgardens.org](http://www.millionpollinatorgardens.org)

Ms. Phillips has led National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife™ program since 2014, helping people create habitat where they live, work, play, learn and worship. Since 1973, Garden for Wildlife's Backyard Habitat® program has registered over 225,000 Certified Wildlife Habitats® that have created or enhanced millions of acres across urban, suburban and rural landscapes in partnership with 18 NWF state affiliates. As a Senior Director in Conservation and Education, she also manages: Garden for Wildlife Native Plant tools and resources; NWF's partnership with the Disney Conservation Fund which secured 170,000 groups and families as Butterfly Heroes planting for monarchs; and, coordinated efforts with over 370 garden centers to support NWF's 2016 partnership with Subaru Loves the Earth. In addition, she facilitates an NWF internal pollinator team comprised of staff leading the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Community Wildlife Habitats, I-35 corridor rights of way and agricultural habitat work, Campus Pollinator Pledge, and NWF's affiliate led Habitat Networks Caucus.

Prior to NWF, she provided organizational development consultation to over 40 national and local nonprofits as principal of MDP Strategies serving environment and health and human service agencies for two decades. Ms. Phillips also operated The Abundant Backyard for five years providing conservation landscaping consultation in individuals, schools and community groups. Over the course of her career, she has worked with several public private sector partnerships, served on national and local boards and volunteered to provide disaster response training for faith based organizations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## Laurie Davies Adams, Pollinator Partnership

Laurie Davies Adams is the Executive Director Emeritus of the Pollinator Partnership, where for 21 years she directed the forward progress of the world's largest nonprofit organization that is devoted solely to the health of all pollinating animal species.

Ms. Adams presided over the growth of the Pollinator Partnership (P2) and its signature initiatives, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC is found at [www.napppc.org](http://www.napppc.org)), Global Pollinator Week, and Eco-regional specific planting guides for the continental U.S. The guides have been also converted into the free smart phone app, the BeeSmart™ Pollinator Gardener that gives zip code specific lists of planting guides to attract pollinators to gardens, farms, and corporate landscapes.

NAPPC has over 140 major organizations representing all pollinator stakeholders including the major figures in pollinator science, private industry, government agencies, conservation groups, and academia in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. She has signed agreements for Pollinator Partnership with U.S. federal agencies that influence over 1.5 billion acres of US land to encourage pollinator conservation.

## Val Dolcini, Pollinator Partnership

Val Dolcini is the President and CEO of the *Pollinator Partnership*, an organization dedicated to the support and protection of all pollinators throughout North America. *Pollinator Partnership* provides in-kind host support of the [Million Pollinator Garden Challenge map](#). He was formerly the Administrator of the USDA Farm Service Agency. Val is a fifth generation Californian, a passionate supporter of American farmers and ranchers, and a firm believer in the promise of our nation's rural places. Over the course of his career, he has worked at all levels of government and for Fortune 500 companies to develop successful political and business strategies. He has served on numerous boards and commissions and is currently a Director of the San Francisco State University Foundation, his alma mater. He lives in Washington, D.C.

## Craig J. Regelbrugge, AmericanHort

Craig Regelbrugge serves as AmericanHort's senior vice president, where he is responsible for industry advocacy and research programs. The mission of AmericanHort is to unite, promote, and advance our industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. AmericanHort also represents the federal advocacy interests of the National Christmas Tree Association.

Regelbrugge serves in national leadership positions representing the horticulture industry on matters relating to the labor force, plant health and production, and trade. He co-chairs the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform, a broad-based coalition seeking legislation to ensure a stable and legal agricultural workforce, and is chairman of the board of the National Immigration Forum Action Fund. He serves as chairman of the US Industry Advisory Group to the North American Plant Protection Organization.

## Casey Sclar, PhD, American Public Gardens Association

Appointed in 2012, Casey is the Executive Director of the American Public Gardens Association. He and his team serve and support over 585 gardens and their 9,000+ allied members located throughout America and 14 countries. Collectively, these gardens reach over 70 million people per year and help to realize American Public Gardens Association's vision – "A world where public gardens are indispensable".

Casey's work experience in horticulture spans almost three decades. Prior to American Public Gardens Association, he served over 15 years at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA as the Plant Health and Leader - directing the Soils and Compost, IPM, Land Stewardship, and other sustainability programs.

Casey has authored many publications and has presented widely on IPM and other topics in public horticulture. He holds a B.S. degree in horticulture from Cal Poly State Univ., San Luis Obispo, as well as M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in entomology from Colorado State University. In 2011, he received the American Public Gardens Association's Professional Citation Award for outstanding achievements in public horticulture.

## Sarah Beck, American Public Gardens Association

Sarah Beck is the Program Manager-Current and Future Initiatives for American Public Gardens. Sarah leads the Climate and Sustainability Alliance, which offers tools to help public gardens achieve leadership on sustainability goals and reduce climate impacts through education and outreach. She has a background in public garden education, as well as agriculture and natural resources. Sarah is devoted to making climate, science and plants an integral part of shared community dialogues.

## Marisol Mata, American Public Gardens Association

Marisol Mata began working as a Plant Protection Program Coordinator in October of 2017. Her work with the American Public Gardens Association includes developing and coordinating our Sentinel Plant Network training workshops, as well as creating outreach and education materials for our Plant Heroes® youth program and our forest health initiatives to increase public awareness on high consequence pests and pathogens. She also acts as the liaison for all the pollinator protection initiatives that the association supports.

## Jane DeMarchi, American Seed Trade Association

A native Ohioan, Jane DeMarchi has been working in Washington, DC on agriculture and food policy for more than a decade. As Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs for the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) she advocates on a wide range of issues on behalf of over 700 members in the seed industry with federal agencies and Congress. Over the course of her career in D.C., Ms. DeMarchi has worked on a wide range of issues including research, conservation and crop protection.

## Diane Blazek, National Garden Bureau

Diane Blazek, Executive Director of All-America Selections® and National Garden Bureau. For more than 20 years, Diane has been immersed in gardening both personally and professionally. She brings a passion to the subject based on a history in the field of horticulture publishing as well as a love for gardening and culinary exploration. Growing up on a small family farm in northern Missouri, Diane spent years helping her parent's plant, tend and harvest a large home vegetable garden. As president and publisher at Ball Publishing, she led the way in connecting the commercial side of the industry with the consumer via the live focus groups called Consumer Buzz Live! while also managing Ball Publishing's entry into consumer garden book publishing. Before joining All-America Selections® and National Garden

Bureau, Ms. Blazek managed a communications firm in Chicago that specialized in using digital communication tools to effectively connect with consumers. Since December of 2009, Diane has been leading both organizations through an exciting period of growth as they establish themselves as inspirational resources in the minds of garden communicators, public gardens, garden retailers and home gardeners.

## Dave Whiting, National Gardening Association

Dave Whiting is the Executive Director of the National Gardening Association. He was raised by a family of gardeners in a rural area, and his love for the land and the things that grow on it led him to create several highly popular and successful gardening websites.

Dave is a frequent lecturer on advanced gardening topics. He continues the development and operation of the Garden.org website, alongside his wife Trish, who serves as NGA's Chief Operating Officer. They live with their 8 children on a 90 acre cattle ranch in East Texas, where they tend extensive ornamental and edible gardens.

## Maree Gaetani, KidsGardening.org

Introduced to gardening and cooking at an early age by her Italian father and grandfather, Maree grew up with fresh local food and has seen firsthand how gardening can be a powerful agent for social and environmental change. She started her career in public relations at large advertising agencies in London and Boston, including Arnold Worldwide and BBDO/Boston. After twenty years of living and working in big cities, she moved back to her home state of Vermont where she became a champion for gardening in her sixteen-year role as Director of Public Relations and Good Works at Gardener's Supply Company, the largest online gardening retailer in the U.S.

Maree has served as Regional Director for the Garden Writers Association, was a Board Director of the American Community Gardening Association, and has served on the board of the Vermont-based Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS). She currently serves as co-chair of the Communications Committee of the Garden Writers Association and is on the University of Vermont Extension Advisory Board. She continues to volunteer with COTS and anti-poverty initiatives. Maree has received national recognition for her work in marketing and non-profit advocacy campaigns. She enjoys the outdoors in any season and lives with her family in Stowe, Vermont