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**Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-0923**

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June 19, 2007

**Celebrate National Pollinator Week
June 24-30, 2007**



Dear Colleague:

I would like to call your attention to several events being held in Washington, D.C. commemorating National Pollinator Week, from June 24-30, 2007. The week was established to help raise public awareness about pollinators and the importance of taking action to protect pollinators and their habitat. I am pleased to be a member of the Honorary Host Committee for National Pollinator Week events.

Pollinating partners include bees, butterflies, bats, hummingbirds and thousands of other pollinator species that play a vital role in producing the food we eat. By helping to produce much of our food, natural fiber, medicine and beverages, pollinating partners help generate an estimated \$40 billion in income for American farmers and ranchers. Pollinators also play a vital role in sustaining wildlife and ecosystem health, both as part of the complex food chain and in the reproduction of plants.

The following events are open to Members, staff and the public:

- **Monday, June 25, 12:30-1:25 PM, 1302 LHOB.** *“The Birds & the Bees & the GNP,”* Dr. May Berenbaum, University of Illinois—Lunch~N~Learn Hill Seminar hosted by the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research. To register or for more information, e-mail tom@vanarsdall.com.
- **Wednesday, June 27, 10:00-11:00 AM, Kaiser Foundation, 1330 G Street, NW.** *“Pollinators: An In-Depth Look,”* Dr. E. O. Wilson, world-renowned biologist. To register, e-mail to rsvp@nappc.org.
- **Wednesday, June 27, 6:00-8:00 PM, USDA Whitten Patio.** *“A Celebration of Pollinators and Professor E.O. Wilson”*—VIP Reception. To register, e-mail to rsvp@nappc.org.
- **Friday, June 29, 10:00-11:00 AM, USDA Whitten Patio.** *“First Day of Issuance Ceremony, US Postal Service Pollination Stamp Series”*—USDA Secretary Mike Johanns Presiding. To rsvp, call 866-268-3243 by June 25. Please arrive before 9:30.

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), facilitated by the Coevolution Institute (CoE), is facilitating National Pollinator Week events in Washington, D.C. and across the country. Other events are being held across the country. Additional information about National Pollinator Week and pollinators can be found at www.pollinator.org.

In honor of this wonderful educational opportunity, I also encourage you to co-sponsor my legislation, **the Pollinator Protection Act (H.R. 1709)**. This bill, supported by a bipartisan coalition of nearly 40 cosponsors, authorizes \$75 million in critical U.S. Department of Agriculture funding for pollinator and Colony Collapse Disorder research to protect American food security.

If you have any questions or would like to be cosponsor of this important legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Alex Johnson in my office at alex.johnson@mail.house.gov or 5-1313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings".

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress