

Saturday, September 9 to Saturday, September 16, 2017

Mite-A-Thon is a national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. All beekeepers will be asked to participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to www.mitecheck.com.

Coming Together to Find the Destructors

For the first time, a group of accomplished bee protectors are planning to measure the *Varroa destructor* across North America. To make this happen will require the participation of all kinds of beekeepers...backyard practitioners, side-liners, commercial owners, and research universities.

The purpose of the Mite-A-Thon (MAT) is to educate all of us to the scourge that the mite has created since its introduction 30-years ago! It's up to each beekeeper to decide how they wish to "manage" their hives; from one of the many treatments available to no treatment at all. That decision is a very personal one and can only be made by each of us individually. The MAT doesn't take a point-of-view on management practices...it's up to you.

We ask that you participate and teach others, if it's within your experience and desire to do so.

Who are the people and groups that have asked you to join us?

1. The University of Maryland and the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), under the leadership of Dennis vanEnglesdorp that has created MiteCheck with their colleagues Meghan Milbrath at Michigan State and Rebecca Masterman at the University of Minnesota. MiteCheck will be receiving your limited information and mapping it (only down to the county level) so we can all learn about the distribution and concentrations of this parasite. The software to accomplish this has been created by Jim Wilkes through MiteCheck, and underwritten by donations through NAPPC with special support from Valmont Cosmetics
2. NAPPC is the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, a collaboration of over 150 organizations that work together under an independent steering committee to pursue practical ways to protect all pollinators.
3. Pollinator Partnership (P2) (www.pollinator.org) is a founding member of NAPPC (www.NAPPC.org), and works as its administrator – for 17 years since NAPPC's inception. The team at P2 has been working since the beginning of the year to make the MAT a reality.
4. The NAPPC committee who has asked you to participate in the MAT include:
 - a. Jay Evans, USDA Beltsville Laboratory
 - b. Gene Brandi, American Beekeepers Federation
 - c. Chris Hiatt, American Honey Producers Association
 - d. Zack Browning, Browning's Honey
 - e. Julie Shapiro & Matt Mulica of The Honey Bee Health Coalition
 - f. Gabrielle Ludwig, The Almond Board
 - g. Danielle Downey & Billy Synk, Project Apis m.
 - h. Rod Scarlett, Canadian Honey Council

NOW...to make this a huge success, we all should participate and contribute our data confidentially to www.MiteCheck.com September 9 – 16, 2017.

Visit <http://pollinator.org/miteathon> to stay informed until then. Thank you in advance for your valued contribution.

Thank you,

The Mite-A-Thon Partners

In 2015, the University of Minnesota Bee Squad, in collaboration with Michigan State University, the University of Maryland, College Park and the Bee Informed Partnership initiated a national beekeeper citizen science project called [MiteCheck](http://www.MiteCheck.com), a platform for educating about monitoring for varroa, as well as collecting and displaying mite monitoring data.

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign ([NAPPC](http://www.NAPPC.org)) is a growing, collaborative body of more than 160 diverse partners, including respected scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials and dedicated volunteers. Its mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America.