

# The Mite-A-Thon

*A citizen science project*

September 9-16, 2017



July 27, 2017

Dear Honey Bee Friend:

**The first annual [Mite-A-Thon](#) will take place Saturday, September 9 to Saturday, September 16, 2017 and we invite you to participate!**

FORWARD THIS EMAIL - Local beekeeping clubs and associations are key to making Mite-A-Thon a success!

The 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](http://www.mitecheck.com).

**OBJECTIVE:** 1) Raise awareness about honey bee colony varroa infestations in North America through effective monitoring methods. 2) Management strategies will be made available for discussion within bee organizations utilizing Mite-A-Thon partner developed information and outreach materials.

**PARTICIPANTS:** All beekeepers are welcome to participate – we need bee associations to help lead this effort!

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

1. Encourage your members to participate in September, through meetings, newsletters, emails, social media etc. - <http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>
2. Teach new beekeepers how to monitor for mites in August. <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>
3. Help your members prepare their monitoring materials.
4. Support your members in making sure they are able to monitor mites effectively and report their data.

**DATA COLLECTION:** Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of *varroa* mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

**COST:** There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online. Some scholarships are available ([js@pollinator.org](mailto:js@pollinator.org)).

CONTACT: [Miteathon@pollinator.org](mailto:Miteathon@pollinator.org) or 415-362-1137

Learn more and stay up to date at [www.pollinator.org/miteathon!](http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon!)

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](#), a platform for educating about monitoring for varroa, as well as collecting and displaying mite monitoring data.

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign ([NAPPC](#)) 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.

Get Social with Us!



**POLLINATOR  
PARTNERSHIP**

The Pollinator Partnership (P2) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in San Francisco, California. P2 works to protect the health of managed and native pollinating animals vital to our North American ecosystems and agriculture. Please visit [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) to learn more.



[Make a donation online today for pollinators, people and our ecosystems.](#)

Pollinator Partnership - 423 Washington St, 5th Floor - San Francisco, CA 94111-2339 - (415) 362-1137

[info@pollinator.org](mailto:info@pollinator.org)

[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

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