

# MARYLAND Waltonian



Vol. 45, No. 4

March 2022

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## President's Message

Happy 100th Birthday to Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA). January 14, 1922, a group of 54 hunters and anglers came together concerning the need to protect and preserve the environment. The goal was to establish a national organization serving as a voice to promote conservation and to advocate state and national policies through legislation.

In 1924 IWLA achieved their first major victory – advocating Congress to establish the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. This Refuge protects 240,000 acres and spans 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River.

The determination of the IWLA members has been instrumental in using their voices in protecting “our nation’s woods, waters and wildlife” during their first century. IWLA will continue advocating and promoting conservation to ensure future generations will enjoy a healthy, safe, and protected environment.

National IWLA has begun a Second Century campaign promoting accomplishments, plans to expand current programs, and create new ideas that support IWLA’s vision. Take a moment to view the video created to outline “important milestones, profiles of iconic Ikes and examples of media coverage” at [iwla.org/100years](http://iwla.org/100years)

The 2022 National Convention is scheduled for July 19-22, in East Peoria, Illinois. The theme of the convention will focus on IWLA’s history and future plans. Come join the anniversary celebration and learn more about what you can do to ensure a safe environment for future generations.

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter (WAC) is now offering a “Stop the Bleed Safety” course. This course provides instruction on recognizing life-threatening bleeding emergency and how to control bleeding quickly and effectively. I think it is an important class to take – whether you are on the range or involved/witness an accident – you could save a person’s life. The class is scheduled at WAC on three Saturdays (April 9, June 25, and July 23) from 8 am to Noon. If you are interested in this life-saving course please re-register by email: [wac.stopthebleed@gmail.com](mailto:wac.stopthebleed@gmail.com). Attendance is limited.

Our next Maryland State Division meeting is scheduled Saturday March 26th 9 am to 3 pm at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter – Upper Hall. WAC’s address: 26430 Mullinix Mill Road, Maryland.

Take Care and Stay Safe!  
Cherie Aker



# Lois Green-Sligo Chapter Looks Back

Anita Stonebraker, Lois Green Sligo

The Lois Green-Sligo (LG-S) Chapter of the IWLA has provided conservation and outdoor recreation activities for local residents since it was founded in 1949.

Having started as the Women's Auxiliary for the Wildlife Achievement Chapter, LG-S became co-ed in the 1980's, always remembering its mission for conservation education and outreach. Since moving to Gaithersburg in the 1970's from the Takoma Park area (thus the "Sligo" portion of our historical name), the chapter has been successful in maintaining 63 beautiful acres of woodlands, offering outdoor recreation opportunities for the community, and holding events to raise awareness. Our grounds were donated by conservation farmer Lois Green.



*Crafts under LG-S pavillion.*

One of the most popular annual events is Family Nature Fun Day, held the Saturday before Mother's Day. With crafts, archery, fishing and a light lunch-all offered for free - this event has been a huge success; we look forward to hosting this each year. We also hold a Wild Game Dinner and Silent Auction annually and have member social events including crab feasts and dinners.

LG-S' robust Save Our Streams Program has earned the reputation of "Defenders of the Cabin Branch Watershed". Stewardship of this Chesapeake Bay feeder has allowed us to encourage neighbors to share in and understand the necessity of keeping our water clean. Community partnerships have spread this awareness far beyond our membership. And our Forest Management Team maintains a year-round bow hunting permit to increase forest health.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Izaak Walton League's chapters have served as the place where kids caught their first fish, tried their hand at shooting sports or found their own way to appreciate nature. We have strong relationships with area youth groups like scouts and Youth Civil



*Youth archery on chapter grounds.*

Air Patrol, and offer these groups a place to hold camping, picnic and other events.

Nationally, the Izaak Walton League has more than 200 chapters and thousands of members and supporters who champion community-based conservation, outdoor traditions and protection of the nation's natural resources.

The chapters have provided the backbone for many conservation achievements over the past century, whether restoring bass populations in streams during the 1920's, promoting ethical hunting in the 1950's or serving as recycling hubs in the 1970's. The chapters also advanced some of the most effective conservation ideas in the nation's history, like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, shaping the laws and policies that protect natural resources now and for generations to come. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/view/iwla-loisgreensligochapter/home>.

## **HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

In January 1922, a group of concerned anglers and hunters gathered in Illinois to create an organization to stop the degradation of America's waterways and natural areas. They named the organization after Izaak Walton, conservationist and author of "The Compleat Angler."



During the 1920's, industrial pollution, raw sewage and soil erosion threatened many of the nation's rivers. Forests and other wild areas were also suffering as road building, development, and commercial hunting and fishing took an immense toll.

For 100 years, the IWLA has been at the forefront of local and national efforts to safeguard water resources and our drinking water across the U.S. - from a push for sewage treatment in the 1930's, to the landmark Ocean Water Act of 1972, which tackled pollution and protected wetlands.

The IWLA has also created thriving volunteer citizen science programs like Save Our Streams and Salt Watch to monitor stream health and collect data about water quality. By collecting and reporting data in dozens of states, these programs now provide a wealth of information for scientists and policymakers and a basis for taking action to protect water quality.

For many decades, the ILA has also served as a leader in conserving the natural resources on the hundreds of millions of acres of agricultural land in the U.S. Beginning in 1937, the IWLA began a push for a national program to conserve soil.

In short, no other organization has done more to shape the nation's bedrock laws that protect our environment and natural resources. The IWLA has a unique role in promoting conservation and citizen science locally while advocating for strong state and national policies to protect our air, water and wildlife.

For millions of people, the IWLA has provided a pathway to outdoor recreation and traditions. Looking to the future, the IWLA has ambitious goals to get more Americans involved in local conservation, citizen science and advocacy.

*[Editors note: this story was previously published in the Montgomery Village News.]*

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## Bethesda-Chevy Chase Report

*Diane Seward, Bethesda-Chevy Chase*

### Black Bear Visiting

A black bear has been visiting around the chapterhouse and has been spotted in the woods! The bear pulled down the bird feeders for food, so the wildlife committee has decided to leave them down for at least a week to encourage any bear(s) to move on to other food sources. The bear also got into the chapter's bees. Members should be extra aware of their surroundings for the time being. Bears are protected, and the chapter abides by those MD DNR regulations. We do not condone harassment of or interference with bears.

## Christmas Bird Count

On Sunday, December 19, members of the Montgomery Bird Club met at the conservation farm at dawn to count birds under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is an annual national event, divided into sectors. The Montgomery Bird Club covers sector 7 of the Seneca CBC, and the Conservation Farm occupies a portion of the sector. Two teams were formed, escorted by Larry Anderson and Scott Harmon. Jim Nelson of the Bird Club organized the sector seven count. Separately, Bob Plumb took note of birds frequenting our feeder station behind the chapter house. His results were submitted to Jim Nelson for inclusion in the CBC report as well as to Cornell's FeederWatch project in which we participate.

The teams surveying the conservation farm counted 31 species and 395 total birds. This total was on a par with the 2018 CBC when 365 birds were tallied, but less than the 500 individual birds observed last year and far below the 1,055 birds counted in 2018. Among the species observed were two Northern Harriers. No other team in the sector saw a Northern Harrier, so this was a significant addition to the overall count, according to Nelson. Among the species counted were American Robins (41), White-throated Sparrows (44), Northern Cardinals (19), Cedar Waxwings (8) and several woodpeckers: red-bellied (9), downy (5) and hairy (2), plus a couple Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

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## Harford Report

*Curt Howard, Harford*

For years, the Harford County chapter's sole fundraiser has been the very popular Bel Air Gun Show. Sadly, because of COVID, for the second straight year that event had to be cancelled. That decision made in the height of the Omicron variant outbreak was done in the interest of our older members, vendors and guests. While we miss getting together with what has become a core group of vendors who have become extended family, it was the right thing to do. We are already scheduled for next year and have our fingers crossed.

Our February newsletter started with the simple message "We're back!" While we continue to work on the site planning for the new chapter house, we have been able to resume meetings at an alternate location, the Abingdon Elks Club. The Elks Club has been very welcoming and we are discussing resuming some of our programs including wood duck boxes, and the Spring Marsh clean up. One of the programs we will be addressing soon is the a survey of the trees we planted with a grant from Maryland

American Water. In November we had what has become our annual monofilament line recovery at the Conowingo Dam with our partners at Trail 4 Life. There is also preliminary discussions at the chapter level on how to best expand our archery program.

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## Rockville Report

*Todd Anderson, Rockville*

### IWLA Winter Salt Watch

At the January member meeting Sam Biggs from the IWLA National Office gave a presentation on the “Winter Salt Watch.” The amount of road salt that gets into our water supply is surprisingly high, even into our ostensibly clean drinking water.

The IWLA is joining with a number of other Conservation organizations to monitor salt content in our local waterways. Members are encourage to take the Salt Watch Pledge, and the League will send a free kit with everything they need to find out whether road salt pollution is a problem in their local stream. More information, including kit contents and how to acquire a kit, is available at <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>.

### Power at the Lake

We now have a power inverter installed at the Lake Pavilion. Many thanks to Pete Vlantis and his friend for their help with the installation. The inverter converts the 12v battery power to 115v AC current for users of our solar system. Members should evaluate the type of appliances that they wish to use with the inverter to make sure that it does not overload the system. The inverter can sustain a maximum of 700 watts of continuous power draw total with a 1400 watts surge.

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## Rockville Wood Duck Program

*Joe Walther, Rockville*

Just a few weeks ago the Rockville Chapter wrapped up another successful season of its Wood Duck Conservation Program. For those unfamiliar with the program the goal is to provide artificial nesting habitat for cavity-nesting ducks, including wood ducks and hooded mergansers. These ducks typically nest and hatch their young in natural holes in trees, perhaps where a big limb broke off or a hole left by woodpeckers, usually in hardwood swamps. The problem facing wood ducks today is the lack of big trees providing suitable cavities to establish their nests. Since the 1950’s the Chapter has helped maintain wood duck nesting boxes at several public land sites, most of

which are located at the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area along the Potomac River in Poolesville, MD. Nesting data is recorded annually and is provided to the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative (MWDI) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR).

Thanks to a great group of volunteers, the Chapter’s 73 wood duck nesting boxes are ready for this spring’s upcoming nesting season. Twenty-two volunteers logged over 120 hours in January and early February as they braved the frozen swamps to monitor last year’s nesting activity, make repairs, prepare the boxes for this spring, and even clear a few problem trees.

The 2021 nesting season, for which activity was recorded



*Chapter members Todd Hayton and Jose Marone tending to a wood duck nesting box at the “Big Ponds” site at McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area.*

during outings this winter in 2022, was a successful year. There was nesting activity in 45 of the 73 boxes (62%), which is within the historical average of 60-65% and an improvement over the past five-year average of 56%. The wood duck team recorded evidence of 193 hatchlings out of 309 total eggs. This hatching success rate (%) is an improvement over the past five-year average of 57%. The nesting data will be sent to MWDI and MD DNR to be compiled with data from similar wood duck activities located around the state to track the health of the wood duck populations.

The Wood Duck Program is a long-standing conservation success story that provides benefit to the migratory waterfowl and offers hours of outdoor fun for all who participate. Thank you to all of the volunteers that make this effort possible, and we look forward to the continued success of this project for years to come.



# Field Target

*Mark Mayer, Wildlife Achievement*

A few weeks ago, in a Board meeting someone asked the question that serves as this article's title — What is Field Target?

Field Target (FT) is a challenging outdoor precision shooting sport in which competitors use airguns to shoot reactive targets that fall down when the bullseye is hit. The targets have kill zones ranging from 3/8" to 2" and are set out at distances from 10 to 55 yards. The challenge arises from two factors, range finders are not allowed so distances must be estimated by the shooter, and rifle power is limited to a maximum of 20 ft/lbs or in some cases 12 ft/lbs. As a result, for the longer distance targets pellets can drop inches from the aim point, and even modest winds can push pellets off target. So, the challenge is to accurately estimate distance, and judge how much to hold off for wind.

To put this in perspective, under the International Field Target rules, which has a 12 ft/lb limit, a pellet will travel 50 yards in about 1/4 of a second and drop about 3.6 inches. In the same amount of time, a 7.62 x 51mm NATO round travels about 350 yards and drops the same amount. Ask any center fire shooter if they feel confident to hit a cantaloupe on their first shot at 350 yards, no rangefinder, no wind-flags, and you get an idea of what makes field target challenging. But with practice and experience shooters learn to adapt to this challenge and, for a typical 72 shot match the top shooters frequently score in the high 60s, while some novices can drop more than 20 targets on their first try. Field target is a sport in which men, women and youths can compete on an even setting so it's a great family activity for shooters of all ages.

The Damascus IWLA Field Target Association (DIFTA) was formed in 1996 by chapter members Tom Gaylord, Edith Gaylord, and Phil Dean. The first "exploratory" match was hosted later that year and the first DIFTA Maryland State championship was hosted in 1997.

There are FT clubs across the US and they all follow a set of rules established by the American Airgun Field Target Association (AAFTA). In the AAFTA register of clubs DIFTA is listed as the Damascus Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. Some of the most dedicated shooters will travel long distances to shoot at other clubs, and at DIFTA it is not uncommon that we host shooters coming from VA, PA, and even NY or NC to compete in our matches!

Reviewing the WAC's newsletters from November 1996 we see an announcement by Phil Dean that a new airgun

range has been set up in the woods beyond the trap/skeet field. In 1998 Tom Gaylord appears as competitor and then as Match Director for the FT shoots that took place every Saturday morning (weather permitting). More formal FT shoots started in April to May 1998 after 27 shooters showed up for the March 14th match in that year.

Tom Gaylord went on to publish the "Airgun Letter", then host the Airgun Letter forum, before becoming the "Godfather of American Airgunning" and is well recognized by almost any airgunner worldwide through his blog entries, his "Airgun University" hosted by Pyramid Air, and his common appearances in the American Airgunner TV show.

For a while DIFTA was one of the main locomotives in the sport in the US. By 2010, under Match Director Joe McDaniel, the AAFTA Nationals were hosted by DIFTA. It was a superb event with two great courses, shooters from USA, Canada, and Wales; and very challenging winds. In the November 2010 issue of the Gazette Phil Dean reported that there were 85 participants representing 21 different states, Canada, and Wales who competed in this air rifle field target competition. In 2014, we managed to stage a dual venue Grand Prix between the Falls Township Rifle and Pistol Association (PA) that also attracted attendance of international visitors.



*Examples of DIFTA's targets with 2" and 1/2" bullseyes which in Field Target are called kill zones.*

**Contributors to this issue:** Diane Seward (Bethesda-Chevy Chase); Curt Howard (Harford); Todd Anderson and Joe Walther (Rockville); Meo Curtis and Mark Mayer (Wildlife Achievement); Heather Holm

*To highlight your chapter's activities in our newsletter, send your Chapter's news and notes or other submissions to Jeff Deschamps, 221 Sweetbay Lane, Laurel, MD 20724 or via email to [jeff.deschamps@verizon.net](mailto:jeff.deschamps@verizon.net).*

## Camaraderie of Hunters



*Curt Howard, Chair, Conservation Education*

*“Many outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the solitude offered by hunting and guard their limited time and secret beloved wild places, but there is an incredible fulfillment to have someone to share in the successes...”*

*Colby R. Kerber of Pheasants Forever*

One of my hunting rituals is at the end of every hunt I find something to be thankful for, whether it's a harvest, a wildlife sighting or opportunity, nice weather, a sunset, or even just a warm pair of boots. I believe that we should extend the practice of gratitude to our daily life. As hunting season wrapped up this year and I was reflecting on what I had to be thankful for this year. As always there was much, but this year it was really the community and camaraderie that outdoorsmen experience.

Anyone that hunts knows how strong the bond of hunting buddies is. That shared passion and experiences recounted around a fire with a cup of coffee is a simple pleasure of life that few non hunters ever grasp. It is forged in walks through the dark woods before sunrise, or the excitement of seeing fresh sign in an area you scouted that makes your senses go into a hyper mode as you scan the woods for your quarry.

This season gave me many opportunities and experiences to be grateful for. One very exciting opportunity was when my close friend, Ryan, who just started hunting this year, texted me while I was at breakfast that he had shot his first deer. In his words “I called my buddy Curt for guidance on the next steps. Without hesitation he offered to come by and help me track it, and guide me through the cleaning process. He arrived soon after and it took but five minutes for him to find the blood trail and behold the buck! I am thankful to have friends who enjoy the outdoors, hunting and conservation.”

My harvest this year was a little on the “light” side, okay let's face it, I didn't get anything this year, not even those annoying tree weasels that are always there to keep me company when I'm deer hunting but disappear into the ether the very moment I step into the woods with a shotgun. Thanks to one of my hunting buddies (I was going to change his name to protect the innocent, but I'm not sure he's actually innocent so we will just call him Scott), I still got some venison for my freezer. Butchering a deer in his kitchen with another buddy who is new to hunting was great fun. He was able to see the hard work that goes into

hunting (I've been telling him that the shooting is the easy part, the rest is just hard work). He was really able to see how we connect to our food.

Hunting isn't just about the harvest, it's about sharing the experience, making and building friendships. This is the core of recruitment, retention and reactivation. How many hunters do we lose because they no longer have good friends to share the experience with?

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## 2022 Environmental Legislative Summit

*Meo Curtis, Wildlife Achievement*

Over 500 Marylanders from around the state virtually attended the 28th Annual Environmental Legislative Summit in Annapolis on Tuesday, January 25 in support of environmental legislation for the 2022 general assembly session. This year's event was sponsored by a broad coalition of Maryland environmental groups.

Speakers included Maggie McIntosh, Chair of House Appropriations Committee, Andrew Cassilly on behalf of Governor Hogan, Paul Pinsky, Chair of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, and Kumar Barve, Chair of the Environment and Transportation committee. They all spoke about the crucial importance of environmental progress this legislative session. The keynote speaker for the evening was Adam Ortiz, Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 Administrator, who outlined how Maryland's environmental initiatives contribute to the overall efforts in this region. Mr. Ortiz has direct experience with Maryland issues, having been the Director of environmental programs in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Priorities for this legislative session include:

Comprehensive climate legislation (Senate Bill 528 and House Bill 708) for: environmental building improvements (efficient, electric, energy diet); Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction requirements to 60% below 2006 levels by 2030 and net neutral by 2045; lowering methane emissions and standards for landfill emissions; and zero emission school buses and state vehicles.

Restricting the use and disposal of toxic PFAS, “forever chemicals,” that are contaminating our water and putting Maryland families at risk (The George “Walter” Taylor Act in Senate Bill 273 and House Bill 275).

Ensuring that the State Budget, including incoming federal dollars, prioritize the environment and environmental justice and address impacts on overburdened communities.



Amending the Maryland state constitution to protect each person's right to a healthful environment.

A summary, list of participating groups, and transcript can be found at: <https://www.mdclv.org/press/advocates-host-maryland-environmental-legislative-summit>.

The recorded session is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oV1n63VBBAU&list=WL&index=105&t=2421s>

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## Tending Nature: Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity

*Meo Curtis, Wildlife Achievement*

This is a great FREE Bee Short Course offered through the Ohio State University (OSU). The six sessions focus on the ecological roles of native plants and some of the beneficial insects that depend on them. Each presentation lasted approximately 60 minutes, followed by a question and answer session. You can find the website recordings, speaker links and other resources on this webpage:

<https://u.osu.edu/6plus/>



*Bumblebee on Spiderwort. Photo by Heather Holm*

If you only have time for one or two, I highly recommend the Doug Tallamy and Heather Holm sessions. Professor Tallamy is wonderfully entertaining while Heather Holm has some really incredible bumble bee and native plant photos.

The series was sponsored by the OSU Department of Entomology and The Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens. Funding in part was through an USDA/NIFA Integrated Pest Management Pollinator Health grant. For questions about the series, contact Denise Ellsworth, OSU Department of Entomology at [ellsworth.2@osu.edu](mailto:ellsworth.2@osu.edu).

1. Mary Gardiner: Beneficial Insect Biodiversity: What It Is and Why It Matter
2. Doug Tallamy: Bringing Nature Home: The Importance of Native Plants
3. Lisa Olsen: Cultivating a Community of Support for Native Plants
4. Bryan Danforth: Host-plant Specialist Bees – Biology, Biodiversity, and Conserving Them in Your Backyard
5. Heather Holm: Bumble Bee Banquet: Selecting Native Plants for Bumble Bees
6. Debra Knapke: Native Plants in My Garden? Absolutely!

## Ask A Bumblebee

*Meo Curtis, Wildlife Achievement*

Sam Droege and other researchers at the USGS/FWS Native Bee Lab have developed a simple Plant/Bumble Bee Survey that allows anyone to survey what plants Bumble Bees use anywhere. They call it “Ask a Bumble Bee.” Bumble bees are very important as pollinators of native plants, and also commonly pollinate over 25 crops worldwide, including cranberries, blueberries, strawberries, plums, zucchinis, melons, sweet peppers, tomatoes, as well as seed crops like alfalfa, red clover, cotton, and sunflower.

The survey goals are to quantify which flowering plants bumble bees use, rank the plants by that use, and also identify which plants are not used. When do things start? Once you see the first bumble bee, of course, because of the special interest in what plant species are used by emerging queens. The poor things have been sitting underground all winter and are vulnerable to starvation if there are no plants to feed on. No queens, no more bumble bees.

How can you get involved? Just email Jenan El-Hifnawi at [bumblebeecount@gmail.com](mailto:bumblebeecount@gmail.com) and she will sign you up and can answer detailed questions. To participate:

- You don't need to identify bumble bee species.
- You don't need to capture any bumble bees.
- You only need a cellphone (for taking pictures of plants), pencil, and paper.
- You can survey any location where bumble bees occur including your garden, any type of outdoor plantings, arboretums, parks, natural areas, refuges, urban, suburban, farm, wilderness, roadsides, and weedy patches. The richer the plant diversity, the more plants are competing for bumble bees and the clearer the preferences will be.
- You can survey a site repeatedly throughout the year.

Basic instructions are:

- You take a half-hour walk on whatever path you like.
- You take notes about all the blooming plants to 10 feet on either side of that path (yes, including invasives and garden flowering plants that are not native.)
- Count all the bees (and carpenter bees!) along this route and note what flowers are they on
- Take pictures of all the flowering species (so we can check ids).
- Take pictures of your field sheets and upload all the pictures using your phone (no apps to download!)
- Done for that survey.

How will this survey help with native bee research?

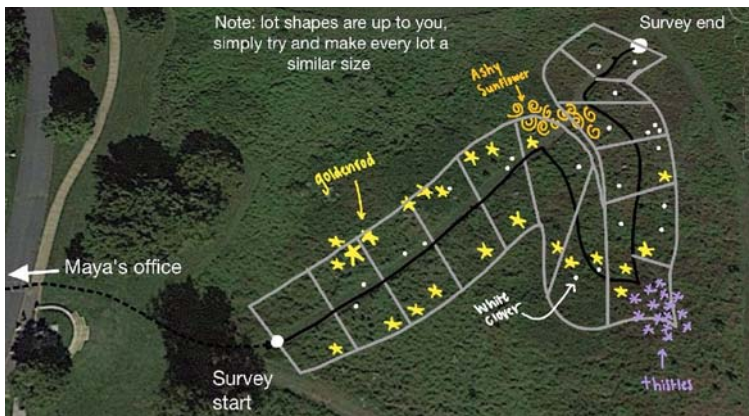
- It provides data to quantify what species bumble bees use and don't use for food.
- The resulting plant use information can be plugged into planting guides.
- You and other researchers can play with this data any way you like, including:
  - Create a unique project code for your area (for example, local IWLA Chapter) so that you can generate separate reports just for your data.
  - Identify differences in areas planted primarily as 'pollinator gardens' compared to those planted for other purposes.
  - Identify differences in plant species used among regions and plant combinations.
  - Identify overlooked native plants used by bumble bees.
  - Identify native plants currently used for plantings that are not really used by bumble bees.
  - Identify non-native plants being used by bumble bees.
  - Compare across states in the region and among land uses (urban/non-urban/parks, etc.).

Silphium perfoliatum	Cup Plant	26.4
Pycnanthemum muticum	Short - toothed Mtn Mint	25.2
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergemont	24.9
Solidago species	Goldenrod Sp.	23.9
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	23.1
Convolvulus species	Morning Glory Sp.	11.5
Eupatorium serotinum	Late Boneset	8.5
Verbesina alternifolia	Wingstem	8.3
Ampelopsis glandulosa	Porcelain Berry	7.1
Trifolium repens	White Clover	6.5
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	4.3
Symphyotrichum species	Frost Asters	3.9
Lantana species	Lantana sp.	3.7
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	3.5
Plantago lanceolata	Narrowleaf Plantain	2.0
Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan	1.6
Solanum carolinense	Carolina Horsenettle	1.5
Rudbeckia species	Rudbeckia sp	0.5
Cirsium arvense	Canada Thistle	0.3
Calystegia species	Bindweed Sp.	0.3
Verbena urticifolia	White Vervain	0.2
Phlox paniculata	Fall Phlox	0.1
Taraxacum officinale	Common Dandelion	0.1

Lace. If a plant species is not shown in the table it could in truth be a 'favorite' but was not reported in 10 surveys. (Hint: You could change that this year).

### Now for Some Pilot Results:

There were about 100 surveys completed during the pilot project (thanks participants!), most from the end of the bumble bee season. Data were used for each plant that occurred in at least 10 of those surveys to create a use index (results are shown in the table to the top right). The bigger the number, the "better" the plant for use by bumble bees. Keep in mind that this pilot study only included a subset of the region's plants.



Survey area example from pilot project.

Survey results showed that cup plant had the highest 'use index'. In the mid-Atlantic, cup plant occurs naturally only in Virginia, but these surveys came from across the region!. Interesting to see how low black-eyed and brown-eye Susans as well as non-native dandelions scored. Common flowering plants that had no bumble bee visits recorded included yarrow, fleabane, and QueenAnne's

## March Division Meeting

The next meeting of the Maryland is scheduled for Saturday March 26 at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter. We are planning for an in-person meeting and will follow all State and Country guidelines for public meetings during the pandemic. Note that if conditions change we may be required to limit the number of attendees but at this time no such restriction exists.

All Chapter Presidents, State Delegates, and National Directors will receive the meeting packet.

You can request a packet by contacting Jeff Deschamps ([jeff.deschamps@verizon.net](mailto:jeff.deschamps@verizon.net)).

### Maryland Division Logo License Plates

are available for a one-time fee of \$25. The plates show the standard bust logo and name of the League, the letters IWL, and a four-digit number.

People who see these plates could be inspired to research the organization and join the League. Request an application via email to [kurtiwla@aol.com](mailto:kurtiwla@aol.com) or to Kurt Feldmann, License Plate Committee, 20432 Watkins Meadow Drive, Germantown, MD 20876.