

2015 – 05 To Conserve, Restore, and Promote Pollinators and their Habitats

It is the mission of the Izaak Walton League “To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

Pollinators throughout the world have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of factors including habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave consequences for the future of our native flora and fauna and the food that we eat.

Pollinators are an important indicator species and make up a significant portion of the base of the food web, and providing habitat for pollinators and decreasing the use of pesticides will benefit multiple other species of animal, and will also improve water quality, decrease erosion, protect human health, and have other beneficial environmental consequences.

Therefore be it resolved, the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America in convention, April 26, 2015, calls for strict regulation and enforcement of regulations on the use of pesticides, particularly systemic pesticides and non-selective pesticides such as neonicotinoids and other chemicals that harm or destroy pollinators and their habitats.

Be it further resolved, that the Izaak Walton League of America and its Chapters support, promote, create, and maintain pollinator-friendly habitat in rural, suburban and urban areas that:

- Provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provide clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Are pesticide-free or have pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods are utilized in order to prevent the overuse of pesticides and herbicides.
- Are comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, grasses and other plants that many native pollinators prefer or depend on.
- Include public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness on the importance of pollinators and their habitats wherever possible.
- Leave un-mowed areas like marginal and odd parcels of farmland, buffer strips along drainage ways, lakes, streams and wetlands, utility rights-of-way, roadsides, the landscapes around homes and commercial properties.
- Provide undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators.

Submitted by the Bush Lake, Breckenridge, Jaques, and McCabe Chapters

Authors: Paul Erdmann, John Crampton, Jill Crafton, Gregg Thompson, Tim Johnson, Dick Brown, Howard Markus, and Rich Staffon