

Pollinator Survey Volunteer

Program Description:

Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL), a program convened by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) located in Front Royal, Virginia, studies and encourages the sustainable use of Virginia's landscapes in order to promote native biodiversity. VWL uses community engagement and research to communicate the importance of restoring native habitats. The program utilizes citizen scientists to help collect data on grassland bird, plant, and pollinator species in order to further this effort.

Our goal is to:

- Create a community network to promote dissemination of information from neighbor to neighbor.

- Network landowners with state and federal agencies that can provide them with specific technical and financial assistance.

- Establish and highlight demonstration sites that showcase best practices for different land uses, including opportunities for landowners to visit and tour working farms that serve a dual purpose in agricultural production and biodiversity.

- Advance the science of land management and develop best management practices relevant both to working farmers and conservationists.

Survey Region:

The Piedmont region of Virginia.

Survey Time Period:

There are two survey periods; **June 1st-July 10th** for the General Pollinator Surveys and **June 15th- July 15th** for the Rare Bumble Bee Project. Volunteers can participate in one or both surveys.

Description of position:

General Pollinator Surveys: Volunteers will be required to survey at least one assigned site, possibly two. Most sites within the VWL network are either working farms or privately owned properties. Blue Vane traps will be set out at predetermined points and collected two weeks later and replaced with a fresh trap. This will occur three times for each site during the survey period.

Rare Bumble Bee Project: Volunteers will be required to survey at least one site, or possibly more, and will be paired with another volunteer. Volunteers will be trained on bumble bee identification, handling and sampling techniques.

Requirements:

- 1) Valid driver's license, access to vehicle, and willingness to drive long distances.
- 2) Attend required training sessions. **The first training session is scheduled for May 9th, from 9am-12pm at SCBI.** All volunteers must attend, regardless of survey assignment. A second training session will be held for volunteers that signed up for the Rare Bumble Bee Project on **June 20th, from 10am-2pm.** This session will be held in the field at a location TBA.
- 3) Ability and willingness to work outside exposed to the sun in hot temperatures that may reach over 90F, and in conditions that may expose you to biting insects (including ticks), poison ivy, livestock and wildlife. Some hiking over uneven ground should be expected.
- 4) Volunteers should be able to interact professionally with local landowners and other citizen scientists.

Please email Celia Vuocolo, MSc. Candidate, at VuocoloC@si.edu for more information.