

Maryland Biodiversity Project Highlights

May 2017



Introduction

Thanks for another great month at Maryland Biodiversity Project. We are excited to review all the work that we completed together. As always, thanks to our amazing community of [contributors](#) and [editors](#).

If you're in a position to make a donation, please do - we will put it to good use making the project even better!

Highlights

- We held our fourth MBP Facebook Blitz and gathered a ton of new distribution data for Black Locust.
- The Maryland Plant Atlas now features **Explore > View Quad Checklists** (<http://www.marylandplantatlas.org/viewQuadList.php>). Select the USGS quad of interest and it will load all the species recorded in that quad, excluding the vulnerable list. The taxa are listed alphabetically by genus/species.
- We completed a major software overhaul to support our Flickr photo processing process and saw an immediate drastic improvement in speed! We processed over 60% more images than last month and our Flickr queue grew only slightly during peak field season.
- We are testing a new web service to export all records of invasive species for sharing with partners hoping to fight the spread of those species (e.g., National Invasive Species Council, EDDMapS).
- We continued adding status information to all Maryland butterfly species pages.
- We processed 7,500 Howard Co. fungi records from the Solem Database.
- We processed over 1,800 wildflower records from Elizabeth Miller.
- We processed Hal White's 2016 dragonfly and damselfly records data and began mining a treasure trove of 10,000+ records. Thank you, Hal!
- We began mining scientific papers from Brent Steury, starting with surveys of rare plants found at Cove Point Marsh.
- Bill participated in another fun and productive IBA Birdathon. We promoted social media posts to help raise thousands of dollars for their important work conserving Maryland's Important Bird Areas (IBAs). There's still time to [support their work!](#)

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- We led a productive MBP field trip to western Washington County, which documented 37 new Washington County records for MBP, as well as 122 new quad records and seven new month records.
 - Jim gave a MBP presentation to the Tred Avon Yacht Club
 - Jim and Jamie Pearson were interviewed by the Talbotspy ([see video](#)).
 - Jim and Liz Freedlander did a radio interview for 101.5 about MBP and the Chesapeake Champion.
 - We emphasized data collection associated with the early emergence of Periodical Cicadas in Maryland this season. Our posts on cicadas reached over 40,000 people. [ICYMI: Read more here!](#)
 - It's official! We are going to be on the kids TV show [Aqua Kids!](#) (Filming in early July.)
 - We welcomed long-time supporter and conservationist Dave Wilson to the MBP editor team.
 - Three new species are now documented for MBP in all 23 counties and Baltimore City: Glaucous Greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*), Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*).
 - We processed 14,508 records and 3,731 photos, of which 2,512 photos were taken during the May window. The photo total is a 65% increase over last month!
 - We wrote daily Maryland natural history posts on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MarylandBiodiversity>) and near daily posts on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MDBiodiversity>). Our Facebook posts reached nearly 60,000 people.

Stats

- Species/taxa featured: **17,317** (+39)
- Species with photos: **9,211** (+77)
- Total Records: **339,964** (+14,508)
- Total Photos: **77,231** (+3,731)

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- Contributors: **795** (+12)
 - Facebook Page Likes: **7,524** (+298)
 - Twitter Followers: **155** (+20) (still getting started)
 - Photos in the MBP Flickr queue: **1,599** (only +1,000 or so during peak field season)

Donations

Donations are greatly appreciated and help keep up project growth and momentum. Click "Donate" in the top-right corner of any MBP page.

Tags

#marylandbiodiversityproject | #marylandplantatlas | #spring | #may | #may2017 |
#marylandbirds | #citizenscience | #marylandinsects | #marylandbutterflies |
#ibabirdathon | #chesapeakechampion | #periodicalcicadas

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