

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2018

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approval for the August 15, 2018 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to approve the August 15, 2018, Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from June 20, 2018 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to approve the June 20th meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

WHS Regional Operations Program Update – Presentation given by Associate Director Tim Larney.

- Associate Director Larney provided a summary of the WHS Regional Operations Program in a Power Point Presentation. [ATTACHMENT A]

WHS Information and Education Program Update – Presentation given by Information and Education Manager Nancy Doran.

- Information and Education Program Manager Doran provided a summary of the Information and Education Program Update in a Power Point Presentation. [ATTACHMENT B]
- The Commission received a copy of the Professional Development for Educators Summary 2017-2018.[ATTACHMENT C]
- The Commission also received a copy of the educational projects that Wildlife Education Assistant Clare Walker is working. [ATTACHMENT D]
- R3 Coordinator Chris Markin talked to the Commission about hunting recruitment, retention and reactivation in Maryland.
- Videographer James “Jimmy” Mackey played a video of one of the Southern Region Wildlife Management Areas. A complete series of videos featuring each region’s WMA system is now available.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation given by Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson.

- MFB hosted the deer cooperator meeting. Approximately 50 people attended, most were farmers and landowners that were interested in this deer ‘sharpshooting’ program. MFB was appreciative of the Administration and DNR support for this effort.
- MFB Director Ferguson expressed that MFB is no longer focused on a goal to kill all the deer. The direction to go in is to locate methods to prevent the deer and other wildlife species from getting into the cash crops.
- MFB Director Ferguson explained that the Wye Research Station are working on different methods, such as forage base soybeans on the outside of corn fields to allow the deer to forage on outside to see if it works as a deterrent. It seems promising.
- There was a MFB and WHS meeting scheduled on the lower Eastern Shore to discuss deer management.

Natural Resources Police Update – Presentation given by Lieutenant Charles D. Fawley.

- Lieutenant Fawley is the new NRP representative for the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Lieutenant Fawley mentioned that the current NRP class includes 26 cadets.

Old Business:

- Maryland Black Bear Hunt Discussion will be added to the November meeting agenda for WAC with Commissioner Stephanie Boyles Griffin taking the lead.
 1. Discussion ensued about black bear management with the expansion of the number of days and territory. To expand the black bear hunt territory a regulation change was required. There is no regulation change needed for the number of permits allocated.

New Business

- Wildlife Response Data Discussion:
 2. The Commission recognized that the non-hunters are getting a service that is being paid by the hunters.
 3. Chairman Compton summarized the request from Commissioner Michael about trying to obtain information about the number of hunters in each county with the number of wildlife responses in each county to create a product that could be used later as leverage to get more general funds that could be used for matching funds.
 4. Commissioner Schroyer expressed that he does not see a time where WHS will be getting more general funds; however, Commissioner Schroyer indicated that he would support a license increase.
 5. The Commission will review the non-hunting/nuisance wildlife response expenditures; expenditures for other federally ineligible expenditures (crop damage permits) and options for increasing revenues and/or decreasing expenditures in other aspects of WHS' budget and operations. This meeting will occur after the first of the new year in order to allow the Governor's budget to be compiled and presented as part of the discussion.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	S. Boyles Griffin and M. Goetze
Guest:	
Staff:	N. Doran, T. Larney, C. Markin, E. Muriel, P. Peditto, K. Stonesifer, and C. Fawley

Regional Operations Program

Wildlife and Heritage Service

WMA Mission

To conserve and enhance diverse wildlife populations and associated habitats while providing public enjoyment of the State's wildlife resources through hunting and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Staff and Responsibilities



54 staff members working in 15 offices across the State.

- Land Management
- Wildlife Response
- Technical Support to Other Programs

Land Management

- 62 Wildlife Management Areas in total
- Cover more than 123,000 acres
- Located in 18 of 23 counties
- 70% East, 20% West
- 5% South, 5% Central



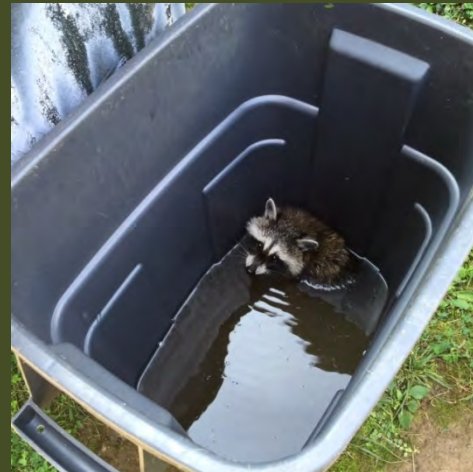
Land Management

- Plant trees and wildlife food plots
- Enhance habitat with burning
- Remove invasive species
- Mow fields and meadows
- Boundary marking work
- Maintain roads and trails
- Repair and install hunting blinds



Wildlife Response

- Injured and trapped animals
 - Nuisance animals
 - Information and assistance
-
- Over 1,182 responses in total
 - Approximately 188 were after hours



Black Bear Response Team

- 24/7 emergency response for:
- Aggressive bears
- Bears in homes
- Road kills
- Livestock kills
- Crop damage



- In 2017
- Over 111 bear responses in the field
- Approximately 40 of those after hours

Support to Other Programs



What's New

- Pole barn and workshop
- 176 acres of timber harvested
- New properties



Recent Additions to WMA's

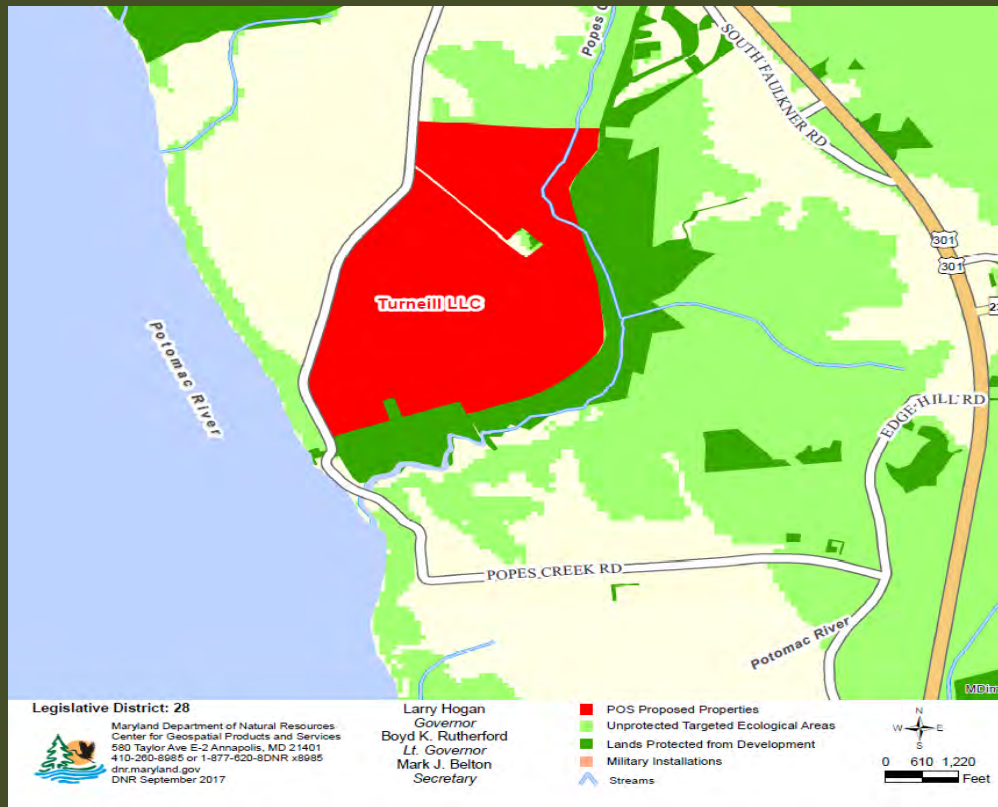


- 360 acres to Fishing Bay (Dorchester)
- 150 acres to LeCompte (Dorchester)
- 122 acres to Dans Mountain (Allegany)
- 73 acres to Cunningham Swamp (Garrett)
- 58 acres to Sideling Hill Creek (Washington)
- 12 acres to Islands of the Potomac (WA)
 - **775 Acres Total**

New Wildlife Management Area

Popes Creek WMA, Charles County

522 acres



Questions?



Wildlife & Heritage Service Information & Education Program



I & E Programs and Projects

- Project WILD/Growing Up Wild
- Envirothon
- Wild Acres/Habichat
- Video production projects – R3
- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)
- Social media presence
- National Hunting and Fishing Day
- National Archery in the Schools (NASP) Program
- Mentored Hunt Program (NEW)
- Pheasant Hunts (NEW)
- R3 initiatives – new ideas

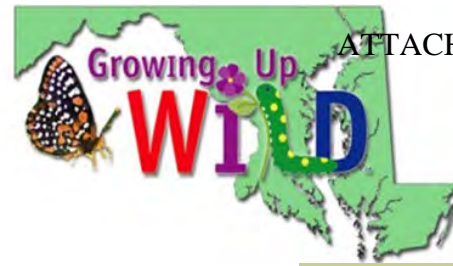
Who and what makes up the I & E Program?

- Outreach/Education Specialist – Kerry Wixted
- Wildlife Education Assistant (seasonal) – Clare Walker
- Graphics/Design Specialist – Wade Henry
- R3 Coordinator (LTC) – Chris Markin
- Videographer (seasonal) – Jimmy Mackey
- Program Manager – Nancy Doran

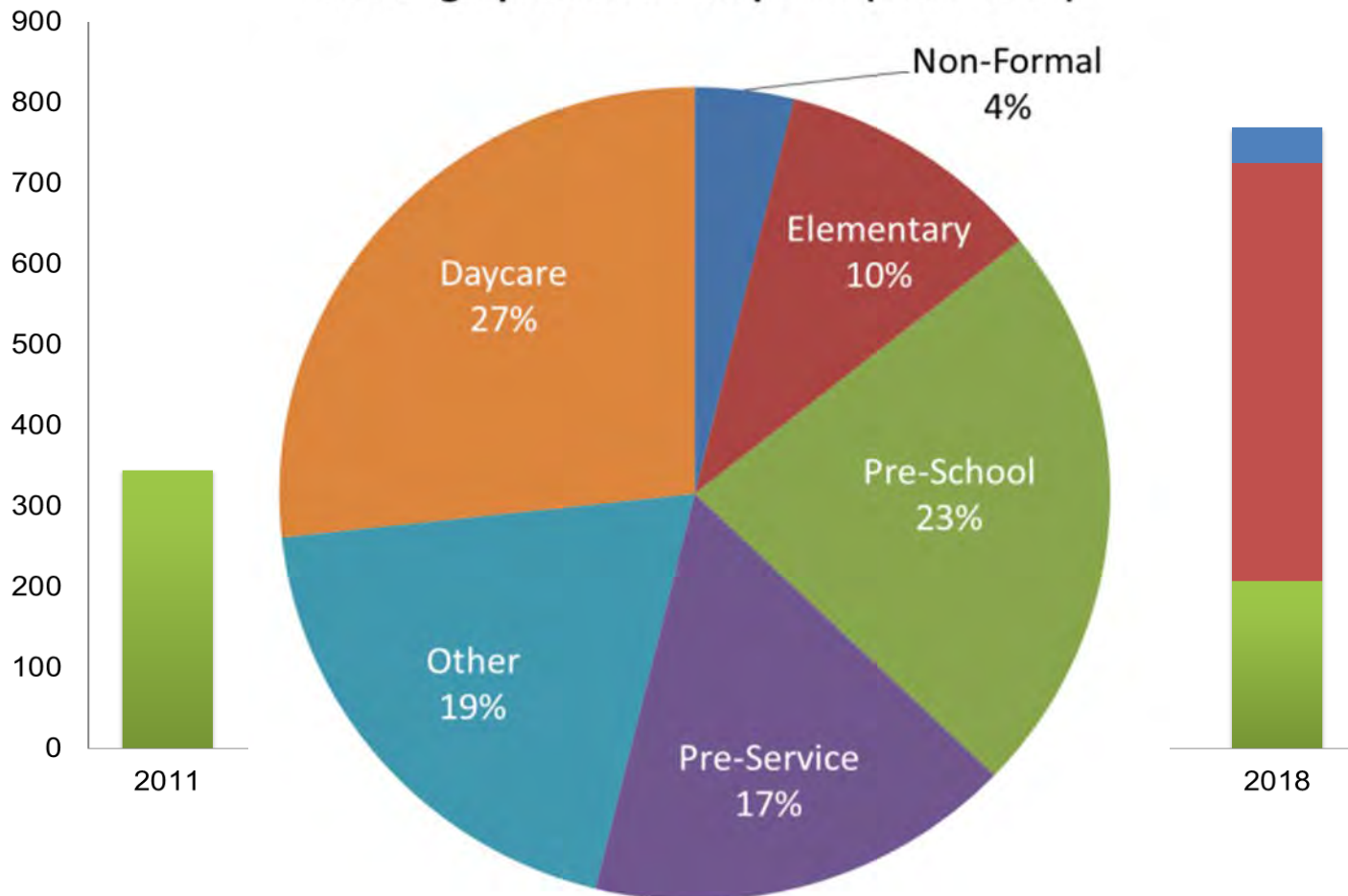
Wildlife Education Specialist

Kerry Wixted

Project WILD



Growing Up WILD Participants (2017-2018)





Envirothon

- The Maryland Envirothon program is an exciting and fun way for high school students to learn about the environment.



Education Trunks

- Black bear
- White-tailed deer
- Furbearers
- Turkey
- Growing Up WILD
- Bats

Can be borrowed from locations throughout Maryland





- Maryland's Wild Acres is a voluntary program which encourages Maryland citizens to create backyard wildlife habitat.



Provide wildlife fact sheets

Information about landscaping for wildlife



Plans for building nest boxes and feeders

HabiChat

- A Quarterly Newsletter (free online) for stewards of Maryland's backyard wildlife.
- Topics have included:
 - Bird safe windows
 - Deer resistant plants for pollinators
 - Native plant profiles



Wildlife Education Assistant

Clare Walker

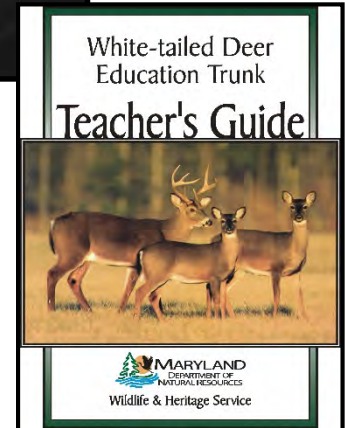
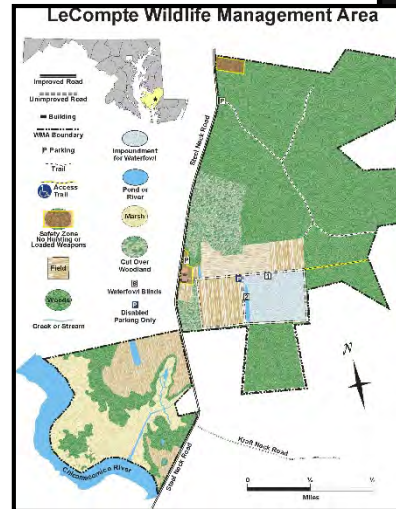
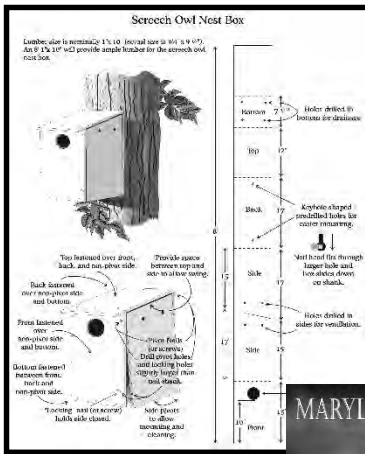
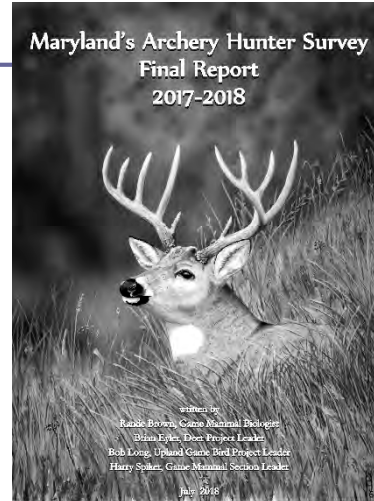
Developed five programs aligned to Next Generation Science Standards:

- Eat like a Bear
- Bees at Home
- Busy Bees
- Build the Best Nest
- Turtle Troubles



Graphics and Design

Wade Henry



Videographer

Jimmy Mackey



Video Projects

- Wildlife management area videos
- Promotional piece for BOW
- Promotional piece for NHFD
- Sighting in a scoped firearm
- Special projects – forestry
- Promotional piece for mentored hunt program
- Drone operator's license

I & E Program Manager

Nancy Doran

- These workshops introduce women to a variety of activities equally balanced between hunting and shooting, fishing and non-harvest activities, such as kayaking and GPS.





- One three-day weekend workshop
- Beyond BOW workshops
- Maryland began offering BOW in 1995



Black Bear Conservation Program

Since its inception, in 1996, approximately \$130,000 has been paid out to farmers experiencing damage from black bears.



Social Media

- In July 2017, we had 20,657 followers on FB; as of July 31, 2018, WHS has 25,064 followers.
- In December 2017, we deactivated the WHS Twitter account; DNR still has Twitter account.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

News Releases

- WHS has written and released approximately 40 press releases this past year.



Webpage Updates

- WHS Internet Content Managers have updated web pages 309 times the past year.



Customer Service Calls and Emails

- WHS personnel have responded to nearly 1000 customer service requests this past year.



R3

Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

Chris Markin



NATIONAL
HUNTING AND FISHING
DAY[®]

- Annually, 4th Saturday of September.
- This year it will be September 22 at Izaak Walton League of America in Clear Spring – Wash. Co.



National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)



19,320 students reached during 2017-18 school year, representing 192 schools and organizations.



60 new basic archery instructors certified in 2018 so far. Nineteen schools added during 2017-18 school year - 10 of those benefitted directly from USFWS grant facilitated by MD WHS.



According to NASP student surveys, roughly 18% of NASP student archers have already hunted while ~ 30% say they want to hunt.

Special Event Pheasant Hunts

- December 15-16, 2018
- Five WMAs:
 - Indian Springs (Washington County)
 - Belle Grove (Allegany County)
 - Warrior Mountain (Allegany County)
 - Mount Nebo (Garrett County)
 - Cunningham Swamp (Garrett County)
- Focused towards apprentice and youth license holders



Mentored Hunt Program

- Designed to target new and lapsed hunters
- All about partnerships (USFWS, NWTf, U.S.A., Young Life, Muddy Marsh Outfitters)
- Participants fall into at least one of three categories
 - Mentee
 - Mentor
 - Landowner



Mentored Hunt Program

- First event was a turkey hunt
 - Fourteen participants
 - Four turkeys harvested
- Dove and deer hunts scheduled
- Moving forward...
 - Build mentor and landowner database
 - Mentor training
 - Bigger picture versus “events”



Questions?



Professional Development for Educators Summary 2017-2018

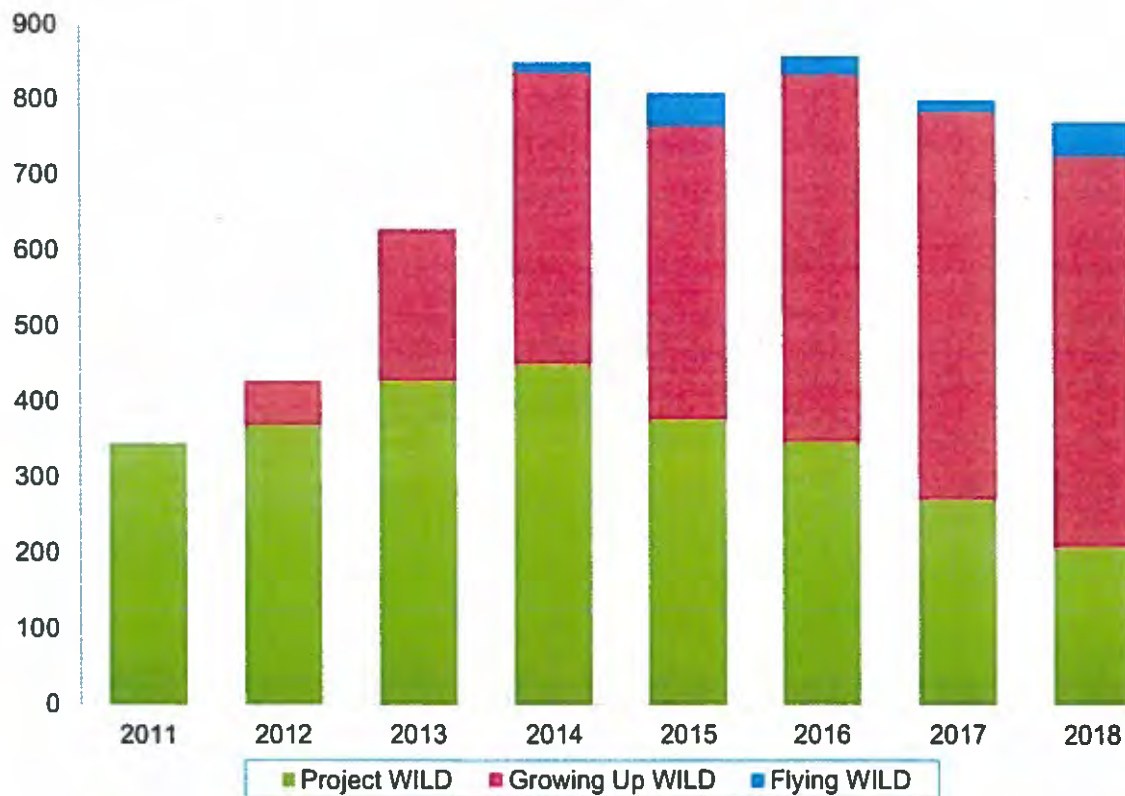
Kerry Wixted, Wildlife and Heritage Service

Information and Education staff and volunteer facilitators provide 3-15 hour professional development workshops for educators throughout the state. These workshops include: Growing Up WILD which targets PreK-2nd grade educators, Project WILD which targets K-12 educators, and Flying WILD which targets non-formal educators. Staff work closely with the national Project WILD office and assisted with updates to the terrestrial Project WILD curriculum.

In 2017-2018, overall training numbers were down, but this was likely due to two factors. In February 2018, the Project WILD coordinator, Kerry Wixted, was invited to teach Project WILD workshops for educators in Japan. During this time, Kerry spent 2 weeks providing professional development to over 150 Japanese educators over the course of 6 workshops held in Tokyo. In addition to international travel, the new Project WILD terrestrial guide was distributed in March 2018. Therefore, Spring of 2018 was focused on developing new resources aligned with the expanded guide as well as providing training to volunteer facilitators throughout the State.

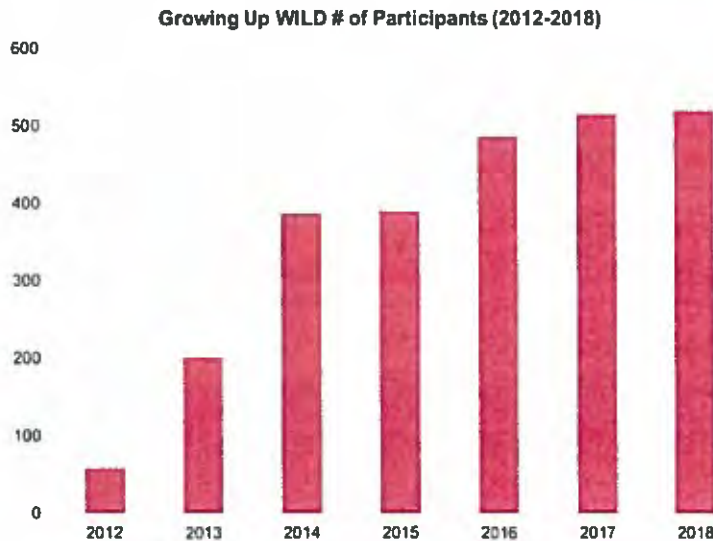
Future direction for the programs includes promoting the expanded terrestrial guide, particularly among formal (classroom) educators. In addition, a new program, WILD in the schools, is currently being piloted at schools, camps, and daycares. The program incorporates WILD lesson plans and will be presented as 1 hour, free programs in schools and camps.

Project WILD Training Numbers 2011-present

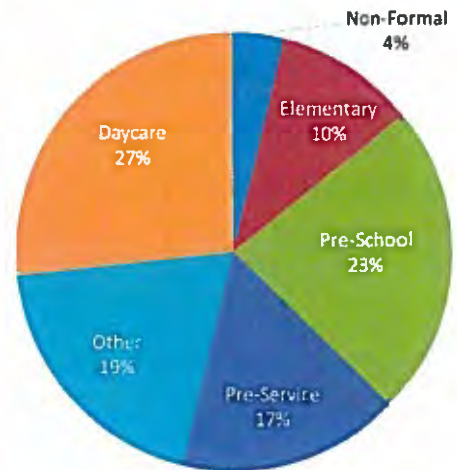


Growing Up WILD

Growing Up WILD is an award-winning early childhood education program designed to teach PreK-2nd grade students about wildlife and nature. Childcare providers are eligible to receive 3-3.5 continuing education credit hours from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for participating in the program. Maryland began offering the program in 2012 and program demand has been steadily growing. Since its inception, over 2,500 educators have taken the professional development training.



Growing Up WILD Participants (2017-2018)



Meeting Curriculum Needs

Growing Up WILD has been aligned with Head Start Learning domains, Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards (MELS), Common Core Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Participants were asked if Growing Up WILD would help them address and meet curriculum requirements. Out of 460 responses:

- 89% felt that the program fit their curriculum needs perfectly
- 8% felt that it was a good fit
- 2% felt that it was an average fit
- <1% felt that there was little to no fit with the standards



Summary and Future Directions

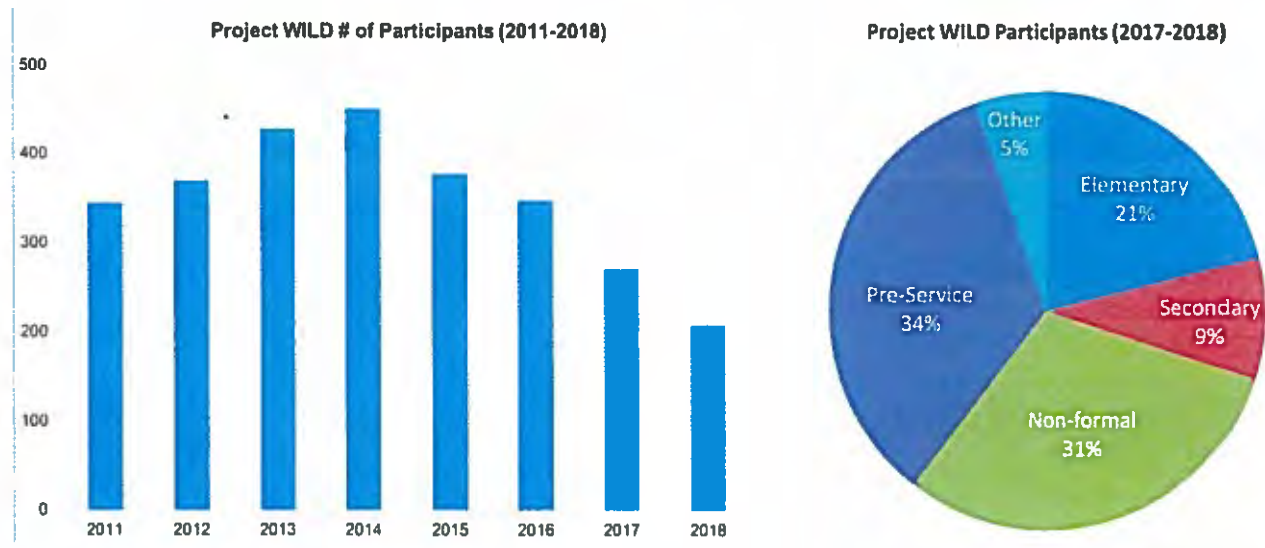
Out of 429 respondents, 99% indicated that they were likely or very likely to recommend the training to other early childhood educators. Overall, 92% of 478 participants felt prepared to use materials with their students following the workshop, and over 90% of participants rated the workshop as excellent. Collectively, the 443 respondents estimated they will reach 12,200-21,700 students over the course of the next year with WILD materials. Interestingly enough, many participants indicated they enjoyed learning about spiders and worms the most!

In the future, the surveys will be redesigned to capture different user data, and a comprehensive follow-up survey will be conducted with previous participants to evaluate use of materials following workshops.



Project WILD

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary curriculum designed to teach K-12 students about wildlife and conservation. The program consists of 2 guides, one which focuses on aquatic wildlife (waterfowl, fish, etc.) and one that focuses on terrestrial wildlife (land mammals, birds, etc.). In 2018, the Project WILD terrestrial guide was revised and expanded. Overall, interest in Project WILD has declined over the last 5 years, and Maryland trends are similar to national trends for Project WILD.



Meeting Curriculum Needs

Both Project WILD guides have been aligned with Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards (MELS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Additionally, the Aquatic WILD guide has been aligned with Common Core Standards for English Language Arts. Participants were asked if Project WILD would help them address and meet curriculum requirements. Out of 134 responses:

- 86% felt that the program fit their curriculum needs perfectly
- 13% felt that it was a good fit
- 1% felt that it was an average fit

Summary and Future Directions

Out of 140 respondents, 99% indicated that they were likely or very likely to recommend the training to other educators. Overall, 96% of 141 respondents rated the workshop as excellent. Based on responses from 137 participants, estimated 7,000-10,100 students will be reached with WILD activities over a one year period!

In the future, we will continue to roll out new materials related to the revised terrestrial guide. We hope to advertise the program at the upcoming National Science Teachers Association/ Maryland Association of Science Teachers joint conference in November.

Summary 2017-2018 Achievements

Clare Walker

Developed 5 programs aligned to Next Generation Science Standards for use in elementary schools including materials, student assessments and follow up activity guides:

- Eat like a Bear
- Bees at Home
- Busy Bees
- Build the Best Nest
- Turtle Troubles

Carried out testing of programs at 8 different schools involving 36 different classes and over 800 students. Developed flier, website and forms for teachers to book programs.

Also:

- Taught school program to 3 classes of 5th graders on the water cycle at Pott Spring Elementary.
- Assisted teaching 7 Project WILD, Flying WILD and Growing Up WILD workshops with Kerry Wixted.
- Taught 2 Project WILD workshops to 21 participants, 1 Growing Up WILD Workshop to 55 participants and 1 Getting Little Feet Wet workshop to 48 participants.
- Taught 22 senior rangers about botany at Patapsco State Park.
- Presented talks on Maryland Birds to Baltimore County and Howard County Master Gardener groups to approximately 70 participants.
- Presented a talk on Misunderstood Wildlife to 150 Marines at Fort Meade.
- Ran a table about misunderstood wildlife at Maryland Zoo Bop and interacted with over 700 children and their families.
- Ran a table on black bears and marine pollution impacts at the Six Flags Math and Science Day attracting over 600 students.
- Tested high school students at the Carol and Montgomery Counties Envirothon on Maryland Wildlife.
- Attended the Made Clear and NOAA Climate Change Academy and the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR training.

