

REC Members Round Up, Provide the Power of Change to a Local Apiary

What do our residential electricity bills and beekeeping have in common? The Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America, Inc recently received \$3000 from The Power of Change program to continue its program for providing pollinator's (bees) in the region near its Spotsylvania property on Herndon Road.



The Power of Change receives its funding from the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) members who volunteer to have their electric bill rounded up to the next highest whole dollar. If the REC provides your power, REC asks that you consider supporting The Power of Change to help others in need. Once enrolled, the extra change from your electric bill will be dedicated to charitable causes. Members can sign up by visiting REC's website (<http://www.thepowerofchange.org>) or by calling 800-552-3904 for more information.

The average member contribution is approximately \$6.00 per year and is tax deductible. An annual statement of your charitable contribution will be mailed to you.

For 10 years, the nation's beekeepers have had a concern about the declining health of the native honey bee population in our country. The local chapter of the Izaak Walton League acted in 2014 to establish an apiary on its property to help reverse the effects of the declining population of bees. Using an original grant from the National Izaak Walton League headquarters, the apiary was built, populated, and now flourishes within the Chapter's 123-acre property, that lies between the edges of the Civil War Chancellorsville and Wilderness battlefields.

The Chapter's volunteer Beeks (as beekeepers call themselves) look forward to expanding the local apiary in 2018. Although the early months of 2018 saw some unusually cold weather, which can cause damage to the hives, the Chapter's volunteers are cautiously hopeful for this season. As soon as the region experiences some warmer, spring-like temperatures, the bees will begin pollinating local flora including a bee garden planted on the property as well as some apple trees that accent the front property line. The bees, now occupying 11 active hives, will forage far and wide, beyond the confines of the Chapter, to pollinate plants and trees in the western region of Spotsylvania County.

The Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America is extremely appreciative of its selection as a recipient of a grant from the REC's Power of Change® and is also proud of its efforts in reversing the effects of the decade-long

decline of the bee population and pursuing the League's goals which are grounded in conservation of our natural resources. The grant is key to providing additional pollinators within the Spotsylvania region. As the Chapter's lead

Beek has recently said, "One of the hard lessons of beekeeping is that even if you've done everything you should: fed, medicated, split and provided more room for the hives, nothing is certain." The grant will reduce the risk inherent in managing the apiary and enable a positive change for the community.

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