

The support of our members and funders makes it possible for the Xerces Society to protect invertebrates like bumble bees, butterflies, dragonflies, freshwater mussels, and more. With more than 1 million species of invertebrates throughout the world, we have a lot of work to do—that's why we work to create the connections that lead to meaningful conservation. By working with farmers and public and private land managers, partnering with agencies and organizations, and collaborating with scientists and researchers, we're achieving meaningful outcomes for the life that sustains us all.

Highlights

In response to our comprehensive status review (formally called a petition), **the rusty patched bumble bee is now protected by the Endangered Species Act—the first bee in the continental United States to gain this protected status.** We are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies to plan and implement protection for this species in terms of pesticide use and habitat conservation throughout the Midwest and Northeast. This effort has led to the protection of over 570,000 acres for the rusty patched bumble bee and may lead to improved management on another 2.5 million acres.

We launched **Bee Better Certified, a first-of-its-kind certification program** that incentivizes the large-scale adoption of pollinator conservation methods—and in late 2017, Sran Family Orchards became the first grower to achieve Bee Better Certification.

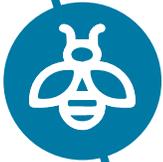
The Xerces Society worked with conservation partners and Dr. Lincoln Brower to develop and submit a **scientific petition to list the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act.** This petition has motivated a diverse array of people to restore habitat for monarch butterflies across the U.S. In early 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documented that **over 1 million acres of habitat has been restored for monarch butterflies since this ESA petition was filed in 2015.**



Making Connections for Conservation



Through a wide variety of educational events, **we've reached more than 101,000 people since 2009—including 19,000 in 2017!**



More than 16,500 people have submitted 23,000 observations of bumble bees to Bumble Bee Watch (bumblebeewatch.org) since 2014. These sightings include rare species like the rusty patched bumble bee.



The Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count (westernmonarchcount.org), our longest-running citizen science program, once again provided a snapshot of the number of monarchs at overwintering sites in California in the fall—and **Xerces Society and Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count volunteers launched a second count, the New Year's Count, in January 2017.** Comparing data from the two count periods will help us begin to answer questions about winter mortality, differences among sites, and site management.



In the spring of 2017, we began recruiting volunteers to participate in our newest citizen science project, the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper (monarchmilkweedmapper.org). So far, community members, staff at public agencies, and Xerces Society staff have collected **5,457 milkweed and monarch observations in western states**, and we have used these data to identify a number of hot spots for monarch breeding habitat in the region.



Tens of thousands of people turn to our print and online publications when they want **practical, scientifically accurate information** on how to protect invertebrates, whether that's in their backyards, gardens, farm fields, forests, or streams.



Nearly 8,000 people have signed our Bring Back the Pollinators pledge. They've committed to reducing pesticide use, planting flowers, providing egg-laying sites for bees and butterflies, and talking to their friends and families about pollinator conservation. They're also protecting more than 83,000 acres of habitat for these essential animals.



We speak up for invertebrates whenever possible, and thanks to growing interest in these animals, **more than 1.7 billion people in 41 countries have heard about our work in the last year**, through media stories online, in print, and on the radio or TV.





Thanks to the Xerces Society's efforts, the rusty patched bumble bee is now protected under the Endangered Species Act. (Photo: Xerces Society / Rich Hatfield)

Protecting Invertebrates Everywhere

- Since 2008, we've helped **restore or protect 697,000 acres of wildflowers, with more than 277,000 in the last year alone!** These plants that provide safe, healthy places for pollinators like bees and butterflies and other wildlife to live.
- With guidance and support from the Xerces Society, **five more communities have successfully banned neonicotinoid insecticides**, which have been linked to declines of pollinators like bumble bees and butterflies. With these five, our efforts have now helped 23 communities in 8 states since 2014.
- **During 2017, we worked in 25 states to install habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects** (ones that can help control crop pests naturally).
- We added **8 new staff** to expand our capacity to provide outreach, education, and technical expertise to farmers and other landowners in California, the Midwest, and the northeastern U.S.
- One of the Xerces Society's highest priorities is making sure that the latest conservation science is available in practical formats. **During 2017, we developed new guidance for restoration practitioners**, including:
 - *Protecting California's Butterfly Groves: Management Guidelines for Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Habitat.*
 - *Conserving the Gems of Our Waters: Best Management Practices for Protecting Native Western Freshwater Mussels During Aquatic and Riparian Restoration, Construction, and Land Management Projects and Activities.*
 - *Managing for Monarchs in the West: Best Management Practices for Conserving the Butterfly and Its Habitat.*



This Minnesota farmer partnered with the Xerces Society to plant wildflower strips in farm field borders, a quarter-acre of native wildflowers, and flowering cover crops. (Photo: Xerces Society / Sarah Foltz Jordan)

Xerces Society conservationists worked with students and researchers at North Carolina A&T State University to install a diverse native hedgerow. (Photo: Xerces Society / Nancy Lee Adamson)



2017 Financial Report

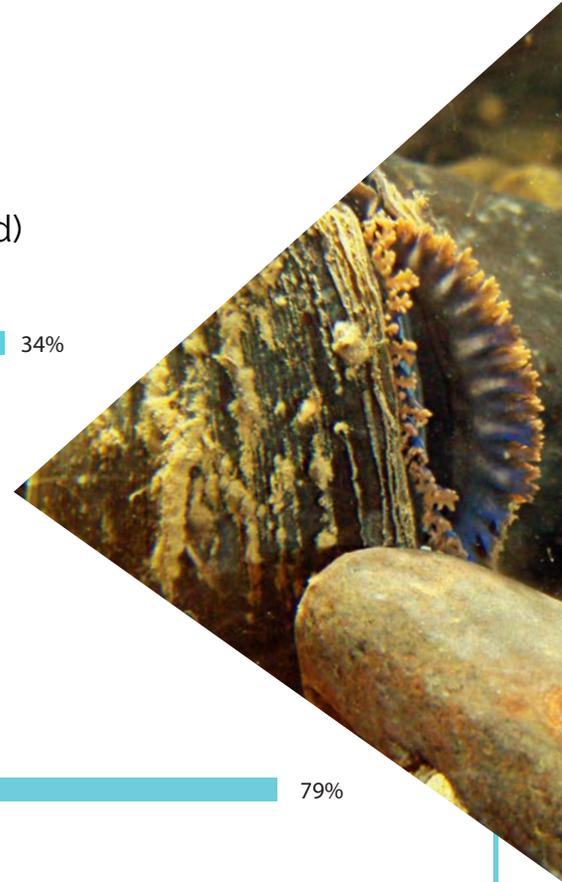
Financial Activities January to December 2017 (Audited)

REVENUE

Foundation & corporate giving	\$1,803,575		34%
Government contracts	1,312,701		25%
Individual donations	1,422,739		27%
Program revenue & publications	713,772		13%
Net other revenue & unrealized gain	47,012		1%
Total revenue	\$5,299,799		

EXPENSES

Programs			
Pollinator conservation	\$ 2,152,308		
Endangered species	727,267		
Aquatic conservation	53,364		
Other conservation	188,416		
Total programs	\$3,121,355		79%
Development & membership	478,969		12%
Management & general	331,859		8%
Total expenses	\$3,932,183		
Net income	\$1,367,616		



Western pearlshell mussel (Margaritifera falcata). (Photo: Marie Fernandez)

Thank you for all of your support!



Protecting the Life That Sustains Us

Please note our new mailing address for donations and membership renewals:

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www.xerces.org



(Photo: Flickr Creative Commons 2.0 / woodleywonderworks)

The Xerces Society is proud to be rated as a Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator



★★★★
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