

The Virtual 2020 Wildflower Show was a huge success! Report by Gail Baker & Susie Holmes
Lane County Wildflower Festival Bioblitz 2020 iNaturalist Project
 curated by Gail Baker and Bruce Newhouse

Project Summary

From May 13 to 17, close to 400 species were observed from all over Lane County by 120 individuals who made 1235 observations (Table 1).

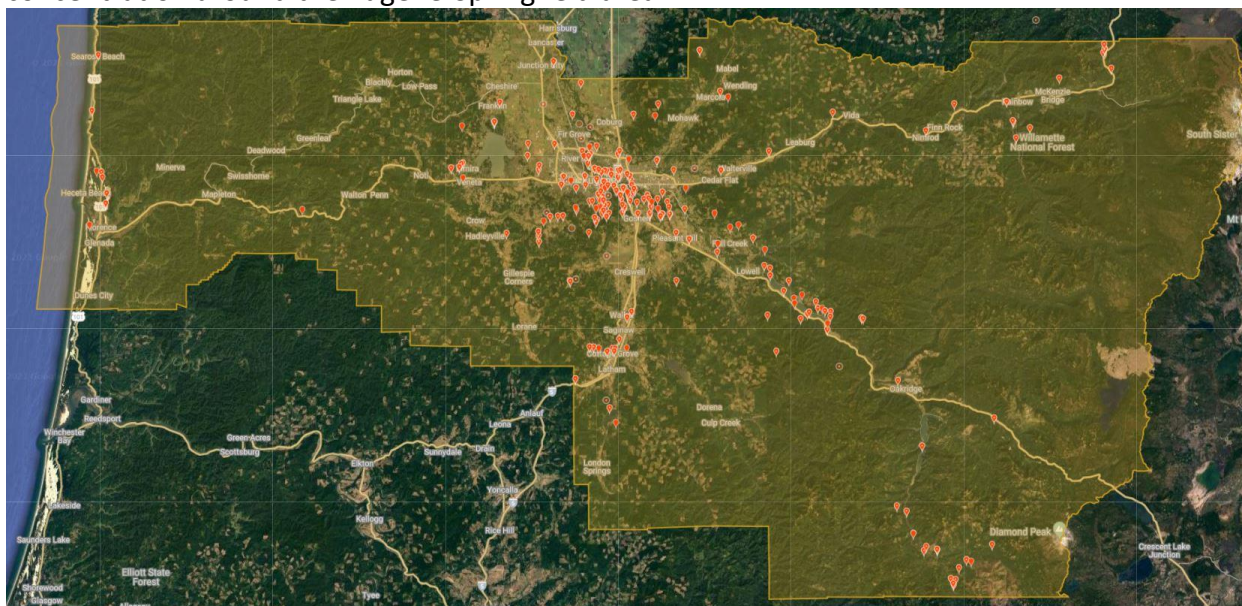
Table 1: Observations made from 5/13 through 5/17 2020 were posted and identified during and following the event.

	2020
Total Posted Observations	1235
# of Species	396
# of Observers	120
Identifiers	92

Where plants were observed and how many times

Plants growing in habitats the width and breadth of Lane County were well represented in this Bioblitz. Although many of the observations were concentrated in Eugene-Springfield. Less frequently explored were ecosystems to the west; the Coast, Coast Range and Western Cascades, refer to map of observations (Fig 1) . At the northern border of our County observations of *Ceanothus velutinus* (Snowbrush) and the orchid *Neottia cordata* (Heartleaf Twayblade) were posted from Marcola and Willamette NF respectively. Toward Diamond Peak to the south a very special plant, *Asclepias cordifolia* (Heart-leaf Milkweed), was observed in bloom.

Figure 1: Map of all observations made and posted for the 2020 Lane Co. Bioblitz. Note the concentration around the Eugene-Springfield area.



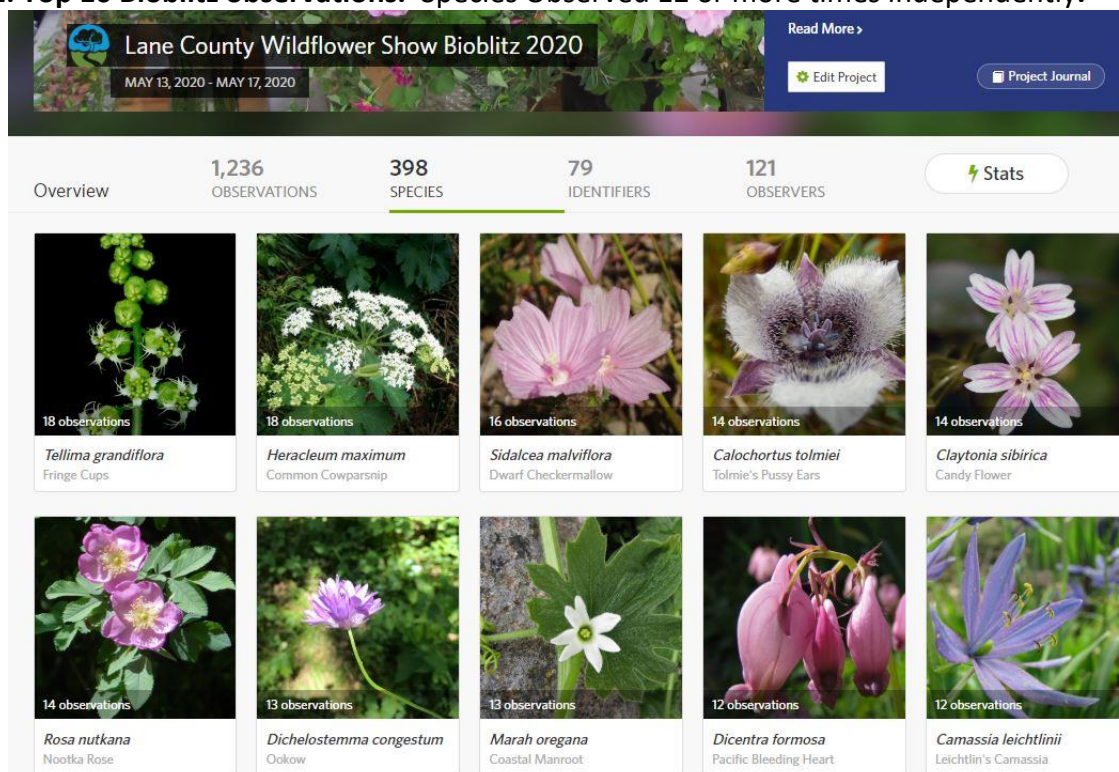
The frequency of observations posted throughout the County show the abundance of *Tellima grandiflora* (Fringe cups) and *Heracleum maximum* (cowparsnip) in bloom at this time and in a variety of locations. These species were in the top 2 of the 10 most observed species observed (Table 2 and Fig. 2) and are displayed yearly at the in-person Festival. The observations from this virtual event provided data about our more sensitive species, not collected for the in-person Festivals, and allowed observers to experience wildflowers in their native habitats.

Table 2: Top 10 Bioblitz observations. Species Observed 12 or more times independently.

* These species are usually only displayed in photographs at the in-person Festival due to their sensitive nature they are not collected and displayed live.

# of times observed	Scientific name	Common name
18	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Fringe Cups
18	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Cowparsnip
16	* <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>	Dwarf Checkermallow
14	* <i>Calochortus tolmiei</i>	Cat's Ears or Pussy Ears
14	<i>Claytonia sibirica</i>	Candy Flower
14	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Nootka Rose
13	* <i>Dichelostemma congestum</i>	Ookow
13	<i>Marah oregana</i>	Coastal Manroot
12	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>	Bleeding Heart
12	* <i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	Camas

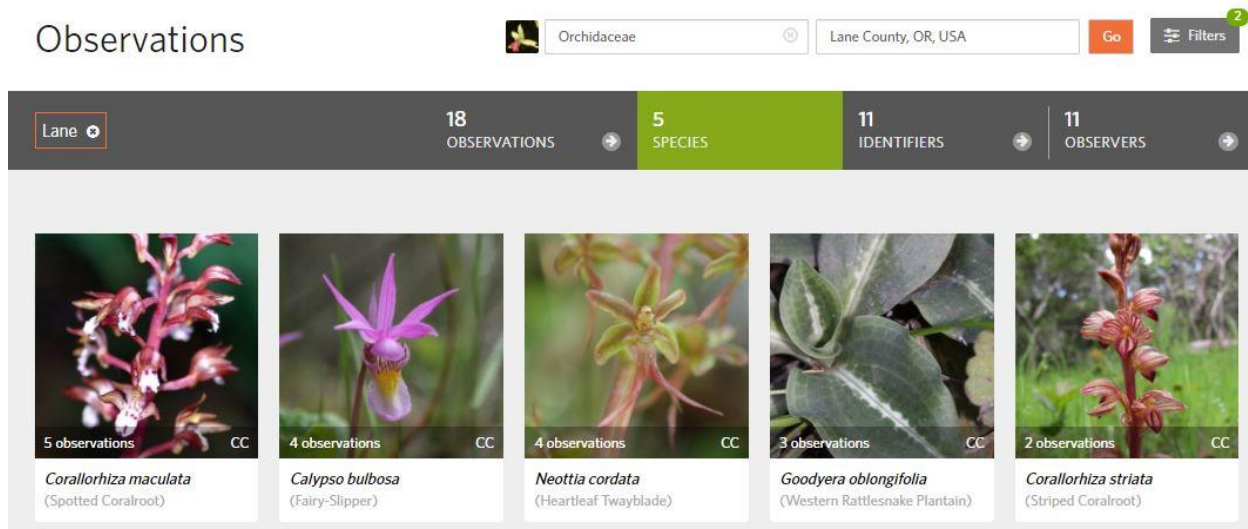
Figure 2: Top 10 Bioblitz observations. Species Observed 12 or more times independently.



Comparison with 40 Years of Wildflower Festival Plants on Display

The number of different live plants on display at the festival over the years range between 200 and 400 specimens. All dependent on the number of collectors, where they go, what is in bloom and the weather. In 2019, our last in-person Festival, there were 267 live species on display, this does not include the 30 or so sensitive species that are always displayed in photographs. Sensitive species include orchids, lilies and species like *Darlingtonia californica* (Pitcher-Plant) that would be harmed by collecting. This year 18 observations were made of 5 different species of orchids (Fig. 3)

Figure 3: Orchid species observed during the 2020 Lane Co Bioblitz. These species are never displayed live at the in-person Festival. We are excited that they were observed in the wild, in their native habitats.



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for plant observations. At the top, the word "Observations" is displayed on the left. To its right are search filters: "Orchidaceae" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Lane County, OR, USA" (with a location pin icon), a "Go" button, and a "Filters" button with a notification badge showing the number "2". Below the search bar is a navigation bar with four tabs: "Lane" (selected), "18 OBSERVATIONS", "5 SPECIES" (highlighted in green), "11 IDENTIFIERS", and "11 OBSERVERS". The main content area displays five plant species cards, each with a photograph, the number of observations, a Creative Commons (CC) license icon, and the species name with its common name in parentheses:

- Corallorhiza maculata* (Spotted Coralroot) - 5 observations
- Calypso bulbosa* (Fairy-Slipper) - 4 observations
- Neottia cordata* (Heartleaf Twayblade) - 4 observations
- Goodyera oblongifolia* (Western Rattlesnake Plantain) - 3 observations
- Corallorhiza striata* (Striped Coralroot) - 2 observations

A species list of plants observed during the 2020 Lane Co. Bioblitz will be available at a separate link on the Mt Pisgah Arboretum 2021 virtual Wildflower Festival web site.

We invite and encourage your participation in the [2021 Bioblitz: Restoration, Recovery, Resilience](#)

The Wildflower BioBlitz 2020 exceeded our expectations! A big THANK YOU to Emerald Chapter/Native Plant Society of Oregon, Lane Community College, University of Oregon and everyone who participated and made the 2020 Bioblitz a reality and we look forward to observations made this year.

Check out this stunning [photo gallery of the 2020 species](#).