

“Strengthening Youth Involvement
Through Conservation”

C E T Y

Annual Report

🍂 2015 🍂



Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth



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P.O. Box 3348 • 489 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth is to provide a financial mechanism whereby projects that have positive influence on youth and/or the environment can be adequately funded through a local entity.

VISION STATEMENT:

The vision of Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth is to see an increase and improvement in quality-based youth and environmental activities throughout the region.

In 1996 the Environmental Trust for Youth was formed to provide a funding mechanism that would support environmental and youth activities in Calvert County. Over \$100,000 was raised from local contributors within our first year. An additional \$340,600 has been contributed since then. The interest earned from these funds is used to support environmental projects throughout the county. Since its inception, the Trust has awarded \$166,200 in grants. This year, we had requests for over \$18,164 in grants. The Trust appreciates all funding received from local contributors and is now in the process of applying for major foundation funding to match local support.



Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth has 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit organization.

All Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth Projects Fiscal Year 2015

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| 2015 Calvert County Envirothon | \$6,217 |
| Eagle Scout Boardwalk Project | \$1,000 |
| Huntingtown Elementary: A Bird's Eye View of Ecology | \$1,200 |
| Calvert Farm Bureau National Agriculture Week Breakfast | \$450 |
| Children's Maritime Garden for Calvert Marine Museum | \$550 |
| 4-H Livestock Auction at the Calvert County Fair | \$5,647 |
| Calvert Marine Museum Invasive Plant Removal | \$1,000 |
| Calvert Future Farmers of America | \$500 |
| Calvert Nature Society A-Maze-ing Meadow | \$1,000 |
| Lorax Club of Northern High Wonders of the Earth Day | \$600 |

TOTAL

\$18,164

2015 Envirothon

Each year Calvert Soil Conservation District helps sponsor the County Envirothon. The Envirothon is a competition designed for high school students that focuses on the importance of natural resources and uses the outdoors as an alternative to classroom learning. This environmental competition for high school students cultivates a passion for environmental science. An outdoor training session is held at Kings Landing Park several months before the competition. Thanks to Susan Davis, USDA-NRCS Resource Conservationist, who provided training to county students in the soil pits at Kings Landing, the students earned the highest scores in soils ever. Calvert High School students took first place in the Calvert County Envirothon. Congratulations!



The winning team from Calvert High School, from left: Calvert SCD District Manager Bill Clark, CETY board member Linda Subda, students Tristan Heibel, Audrey Evans, Jason Lopynski, Sabrina Tolbert and teacher Chuck Gustin.

Eagle Scout Boardwalk Project at the Calvert County Community Resources Building

The Eagle Scout Boardwalk Project consisted of the design and construction of a 72' boardwalk made mostly of 4x4s and composite decking. It was built in the demonstration gardens of the Community Resource Building in Prince Frederick, in



A view of the Community Resources Building prior to construction of the boardwalk.

between two informational panels in the lowest area of the garden. The boardwalk allows people to access the wetter areas of the demonstration gardens without destroying the grass, and draws more attention to the site as a whole. It is comprised of six 10' sections creating a gentle S-curve, and has a 6'x6' platform at each end. It is low to the ground and decked with beach-house gray colored boards.



Eagle Scout Matthew Koelbel and the finished boardwalk.

Construction began on April 2, 2015 and was completed ten days later on April 12. Overall, 12 volunteers physically contributed to the project's construction, nine of whom were youths.

Huntingtown Elementary - A Bird's Eye view of Ecology



Nesting House Sparrows in Huntingtown Elementary's bluebird box. This photo was taken by the webcam.



Installing the box.

winter refuges when the temperatures begin to drop. It is likely that students will be able to make observations of animals in the box during the “off season” for bluebirds. This will be a way for students to be able to see, in real time, ways in which animals adapt to the winter weather.

The bluebird box and webcam are a great addition to our toolbox for teaching students about the natural world. It is a wonderful way to integrate technology and environmental education.

Thank you Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth for giving us this opportunity!

The webcam for Huntingtown Elementary has been installed and the video streaming is operational on any CCPS computer. To date we have yet to attract a family of bluebirds, but according to the CHESPAX staff, it is not uncommon for a new nestbox to remain unused for the first season that it is installed.

There were some minor project setbacks that delayed the installation. There was a long delay in the processing of the order, which resulted in the box being installed in mid-May. This may have also contributed to the lack of a nest for this season. There was also a family of non-native, house sparrows that made several attempts to nest in the box. These birds are quite aggressive and their nests were removed from the box. An advantage of the webcam was that it allowed us to observe the type of birds that were attempting to nest and take appropriate action as needed to keep the invasive species out

of the box. CHESPAX staff members are working on a solution to reduce the number of house sparrows on the school property to increase the chances for bluebirds to nest successfully.

The box and webcam were installed as a part of a Scout service project completed by Noah Pockey. Noah and some other Scouts worked with Marvin Buckmaster, a CCPS network engineer, to install the box, solar panel, battery, and camera. They also connected the camera to the CCPS network. We are looking to expand the connection to the internet to allow a wider audience to view the birds next season.

Although the bluebirds won't resume nesting until March, the boxes are frequently used by bluebirds and other species as



The finished product.

Calvert Marine Museum-Invasive Plant Identification, Removal and Replacement

October 2, 2015: Calvert Marine Museum is pleased to announce a successful launch to a two-year project geared toward removing invasive plants in and around its exhibit called the Marsh Walk and restoring the habitat by planting native species in their place. This effort has been made possible in large part due to the generous grant of \$1,000 provided by Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth. This funding served as seed money to get the project off the ground and we could not have done it without this support.

The Marsh Walk Restoration, as it has come to be known, has two objectives: 1) Restore a 12,000 square foot critical habitat buffer on property owned by Calvert County to a native condition with respect to flora, with the intended result of attracting native fauna and to be interpreted as part of the museum's exhibitions; and 2) Engage area youth in this effort, teaching them about the importance of native species, how to identify and safely extract invasive species, and to foster appreciation of natural spaces in Calvert County. Given the large area we are working with, the restoration was broken into 3,000 square foot plots. Phase I was funded to 68% by the CETY grant (the remaining 32% being derived from Museum/Calvert County operating funds) and is now complete.



Picture of invasive plants piling up.



By the end of the second day, the blue tarp edge near the shack can barely be seen. The pile of invasive plants seen here is a dump truck load.

We are thrilled to have the following successes: We managed close to 4,000 square feet of the project area during the first phase, exceeding our expectations. We removed 15 cubic yards (wet) of invasive plant material. We trained eight youngsters on the proper identification and extraction of invasive plants common to the project area. We had six youngsters support the actual restoration effort, and we recruited an Eagle Scout candidate who is now working on Phase II. This Scout learned the ins/outs of project management and development during Phase I and is using his experience to guide him in executing Phase II. Upon completion, he will have met the youth leadership requirement to earn his Eagle Scout merit.

It is anticipated that Phase II will engage 10-plus Boy Scouts from this Scout's troop – this would not be possible if it were not for the CETY seed grant!

We planted over 400 native plants, most of which are thriving in their new home and included articles in the Museum's publication Bugeye Times.

Our efforts will be an ongoing community engagement opportunity. We will see this through until fall 2016 when we expect to have completely restored the Marsh Walk exhibit with Phases III and IV happening in spring and fall of next year respectively. We will continue to engage area youth groups to solicit support for these later phases and we would welcome the continued support of Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth.



Pictured are most of the members of the Phase I team.



Youth at work removing English ivy and clematis vine.

Calvert Future Farmers of America

Thank you for the generous grant to purchase Future Farmers of America (FFA) jackets for our Calvert FFA chapter. We were able to purchase 10 individualized jackets with the student name on the front and Calvert FFA and Maryland on the back. Of course the ever present FFA emblem was also on each jacket.

Having FFA jackets allows us to be seen at various events where we volunteer such as the inaugural Farm Bureau breakfast. It also helps when we are recruiting at our feeder middle schools, Southern and Calvert. We visit eighth grade students every year in their science classes. We wear our jackets and the students are immediately interested in knowing “what is FFA?”

This year we will be holding a play day for local rodeo contestants and continue our presence at local agricultural events. We have planned several fundraisers and hope to continue to grow. Having our jackets is a great way to proudly show that the Calvert FFA is back after an almost 40 year hiatus. Thank you!



Calvert Farm Bureau National Agriculture Week Breakfast

In celebration of National Agriculture Week, Calvert County Farm Bureau and Calvert County Young Farmers hosted a Farm-to-Table Breakfast. The event was held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Calvert County Fairgrounds. More than 300 people were served at the breakfast, which featured locally-sourced meats, eggs, and other breakfast foods. The breakfast was prepared and served by Calvert County Farm Bureau members along with the End Hunger in Calvert Culinary School.



Our primary objective, which was to generate funds for the Calvert County Farm Bureau Scholarship, far exceeded our expectations. The goal was to raise \$1,000 for the scholarship fund and we were able to raise much more than that, earmarking \$4,000 for agricultural youth. In May, the Calvert County Farm Bureau Board of Directors awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to college students.



An additional \$1,000 was designated for young farmer leadership programs. Additional objectives met include outreach to the public by serving 300 individuals, connections with other agricultural organizations including SMADC, Calvert High FFA and CASE programs, the University of Maryland Extension, and connections with local businesses through sponsorships, and interaction with agricultural youth through the 4-H, and FFA.



In addition, the breakfast helped support local agriculture by serving locally-sourced meats and eggs as well as other value-added products such as honey, jam, and maple syrup (sourced from Maryland farms). The tables for the event were set up family style to encourage interaction among neighbors and each table featured several “Ag Facts” with information about Calvert County and Maryland agriculture.

Children's Maritime Garden for the Calvert Marine Museum

The Children's Maritime Garden, designed, installed, and maintained by the CMM Yard Arms, celebrates the connections between land and water. Boat-shaped planting beds reflect the museum's themes and commitment to the environment: Bay and Seashore; Paleo Plants; Animals and Birds; Bees and Butterflies; and a Sense-Sational garden. The focal point of the garden is a solar operated lighthouse. Interpretive signage explains the purpose and provides an interactive element, as does the scavenger hunt opportunity. There is also a sign recognizing the organizations that provided funding.



The students filled cardboard forms with Sakrete and then used colored stones and shells to decorate them. Yard Arms members designed and sewed the small flags that designate each garden. Garden stones were used to fill in around the stepping stones.

The solar powered 8' lighthouse that centers the garden was constructed by Amish craftsmen through Alan's Amish Outlet in Hughesville. It was painted to resemble the Cove Point Lighthouse. Beautiful interpretive panels were designed by the museum's exhibit department.



Judy spearheaded the project and coordinated the other Yard Arms and CMM Maintenance Staff. The Children's Garden was dedicated during PRAD, on Saturday, October 10. It is being incorporated into the museum's environmental educational programming and events. The museum's website provides information about the garden, the plants in each bed, and photographs of the garden being built at calvertmarinemuseum.com/359/Childrens-Maritime-Garden.

This project has been very rewarding and provides another highly visible and educational example of how the museum works with the community to be good stewards of the environment. Thank you for your support.

Calvert Nature Society A-Maze-ing Meadow

In 2015 the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth sponsored the A-maze-ing Maze project, which developed a native plant “maze” in a field at Kings Landing Park in Huntingtown. The project included activities for youths, including the Junior Rangers and Calvert Stewards volunteer crews.

The Calvert Stewards program was developed to encourage the local community to volunteer for a variety of projects in Calvert County nature parks. Our long-term goal is to create a pipeline of engaged youth that will continue their stewardship of the parks into adulthood. This will benefit the participants, the parks, and the community.

On May 9, 2015, the Calvert Stewards team met to upgrade the grass maze in the meadow behind Wisner Hall at Kings Landing Park. The bed is approximately 28,000 square feet of grass. The new planting plan includes native plants and mulch paths.

The maze offers a desination point for park visitors who will then experience, in an adventurous way, the beauty and benefits of native plants. It provides a fun opportunity for people of all ages to engage nature and learn more about the importance of native plants and pollinators.



A-Maze-ing Meadow Project “Before”



A-Maze-ing Meadow Project “After”

Girl Scouts and Junior Rangers participated in the project, assisting with many of the activities around the maze, including preparing the plot and making and planting the “seed bombs.” The volunteers had a great day outdoors and learned about native plants, animals that live in the meadow, and the value of community service.



Northern High School Lorax Club Wonders of the Earth Day

“Learn outside!” is one of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s mottos, stressing that the best way to develop an appreciation for the environment is to get out in it. This is exactly what 100-plus third-graders from Sunderland Elementary School were able to do on April 22, 2015. This breezy spring day was WOE (Wonders of the Earth) Day, sponsored by the Lorax environmental club at NHS, and paid for with a generous grant from CETY. During the day outdoor lessons in stream health, the importance of forests, the fun in recycling, and in biodiversity were taught by high school students who had planned and prepared for weeks ahead of this event. The Lorax club has run this event annually for 12 years, delivering great lessons and a good time to the young visitors.



The day was well organized and was divided into five teaching sessions with elementary classes rotating through them. A short period was reserved for lunch and time was scheduled for face-painting and crafts. Sunderland students boarded the bus back to their home school in the afternoon - tired but happy and carrying a goodie bag to commemorate the day. Northern students were left to clean up the school grounds and board their buses - also tired but happy and proud of the inspiration they may have been to younger learners.

Both groups plan to participate next spring.





4-H Club at the Calvert County Fair

The 4-H Youth Livestock Auction is held each year during the Calvert County Fair. This is the time when animals that 4-H youth have cared for are sold to the public. It is the final step in their livestock project where the educational marketing aspects are put into action. Each year Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth supports the 4-H Club by purchasing animals and donating them back to the club at the 4-H Livestock Auction. 4-H is an excellent way to learn about agriculture, the value and reward of work, and the importance of good land and livestock management.

