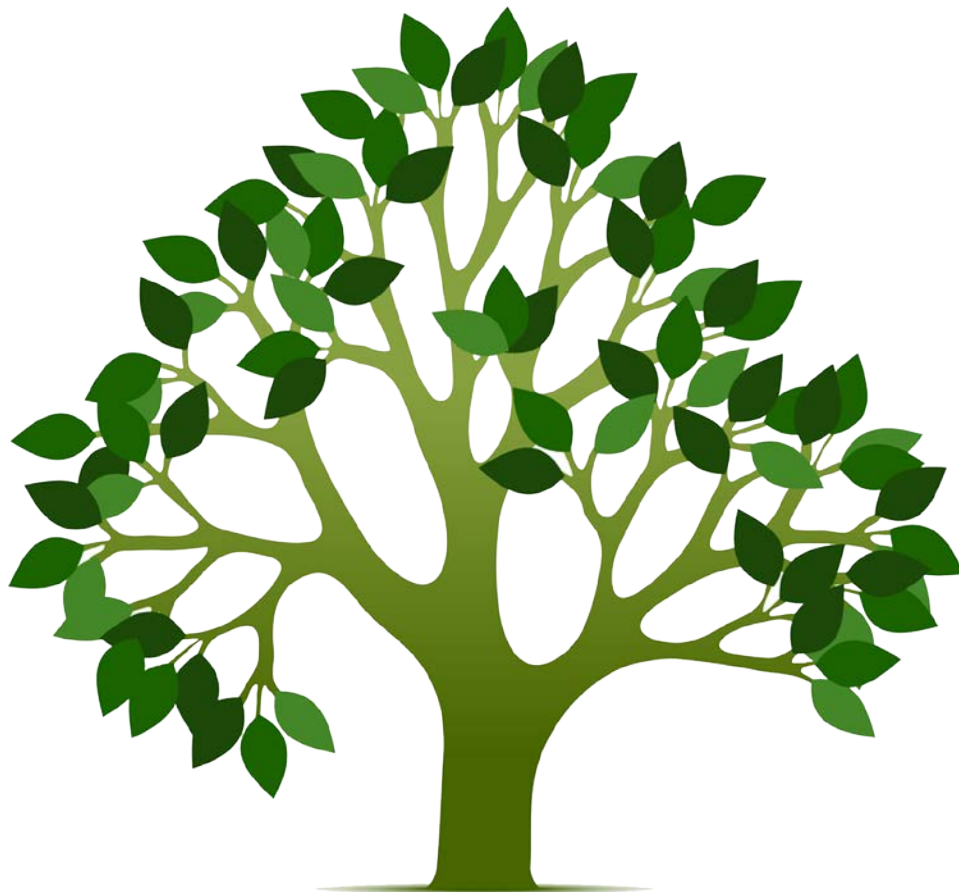


“Strengthening Youth Involvement
Through Conservation”

C E T Y

Annual Report

🍂 2016 🍂



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 \$192,126 in grants. This year, we had requests for over \$25,926 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 2016

| | |
|---|---------|
| 2016 Calvert County Envirothon | \$6,731 |
| Huntingtown Elementary: Promising Scientists | \$1,000 |
| CHESPAX: Third Grade Trees for Terrapins | \$986 |
| Spider Hall Little Hands on the Farm | \$4,000 |
| Friends of JPP - Reconstruction of Turtle Lodge | \$991 |
| Calvert Future Farmers of America | \$400 |
| Calvert Nature Society: Fly Like An Eagle Scout Project | \$1,000 |
| Calvert Young Farmers Agriculture Week Breakfast | \$500 |
| CHESPAX: Help Save the Earth | \$1,200 |
| Northern High School Lorax Club WOE Day | \$450 |
| 4-H Livestock Auction at the Calvert County Fair | \$6,868 |
| Sunderland Elementary Mobile Science Lab | \$1,800 |

TOTAL

\$25,926

Ashley Steele Contributes to CETY's Next Generation



Ashley Steele has been working over the past two summers as an intern for Calvert Soil Conservation District. She is pictured here doing research to seek additional grants for the CETY fund. She devoted many hours soliciting donations and even went door-to-door to many Calvert County businesses. Ashley was made aware of this opportunity to intern at Calvert Soil Conservation District when she was a student participant in the 2014-2015 Envirothon. We look forward to Ashley's future efforts to enhance CETY funding.

Ms. Steele graduated from Calvert High School in 2015 and enrolled at Iowa State University in the fall of 2015. She is currently in her sophomore year and is studying animal science.



Envirothon Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

The 2015-2016 Envirothon was the 25th anniversary for the Envirothon program in Calvert County. Throughout the past 25 years of Envirothon in Calvert County, hundreds of students have been able to learn more about the natural resources that exist around them. There was a spring training and a competition day for the program this year to help reinforce students' knowledge. The competition and 25th anniversary celebration at Kings Landing Park included sandwiches, cake, and special guests. It also included T-shirts and tote bags to commemorate the occasion. Since last year, participation increased from five teams to six, with some schools having more than one team. Calvert High School won the overall competition and all of the individual subject prizes, which included guidebooks and gift cards for soils, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife. Thanks to everyone for their participation, especially to those who have made the program successful for 25 years!



The winning team from Calvert High School, from left: teacher Chuck Gustin, Emmaline Sheahan, Sarah Monroe, Sabrina Tolbert, Sidney Losey, Hope Couto, Audrey Evans, and Tristan Heibel.

CHESPAX: Third Grade Trees for Terrapins

For a number of years, CHESPAX and the Calvert County Natural Resources Division (CCNRD) have been teaching a third grade science unit focused on diamondback terrapins. In this unit, students learn about the habitat requirements of the diamondback terrapin, threats that terrapins encounter during their life cycle, and what can be done to help the terrapin population in the Chesapeake Bay. One of the ways that students are helping the diamondback terrapins is to “head-start” terrapins in the classroom. Each elementary school received a terrapin to raise for the year that is part of a research project through the National Aquarium. These terrapins are then released back into the bay at the end of the school year. The release video for the 2015–2016 terrapins may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9hupjQyQ88>.

During the 2015-2016 school year, a new way to help the terrapins was made possible with the help of Dominion Energy and their “Project Plant It” program. They provided redbud trees for each of the third grade students to plant at home or in their community. Planting trees helps to keep the soil on the land instead of in the bay, where it can cover up clams that are a major source of natural food for our terrapins. In addition to planting the trees, students designed a tree tag to attach to the trees to help bring awareness to the fate of our terrapins if we don’t protect our soil. The tags helped to increase the visibility of the planted trees during the early stage of their lives, when they are most vulnerable to mowers and grass trimmers that can damage the young seedlings. Through these actions, students become better stewards of our land and in return help save the diamondback terrapins.



Ready to seine.



Catching terrapin food with a seine net.



Terrapin tag designed by a student.



Working on a tree tag.



Students with their terrapin.

CHESPAX: Help Save the Earth

Do you know that every single thing that we use comes from the earth? We depend upon the earth's renewable and nonrenewable natural resources for our clothes, cars, phones, computers, toys, and much more! Without these natural resources, our lives would be very different.

During the winter of 2016, second grade students from the Calvert County Public School System were learning these important concepts. These students did a number of in-school activities that helped them learn about our use of natural resources. For example, students learned that the plastic we use comes from oil, and our metal cans come from rock. They also learned that when we throw items in the garbage, we are wasting these important natural resources. A much better solution would be to recycle, reduce, reuse, or compost these materials, thus reducing what is sent to the landfill.

The students participated in an educational field trip to the Appeal Landfill where they learned about various items that can be recycled. Students investigated Calvert County's recycling centers to learn about items that people are throwing away that should be recycled. A highlight of the trip was an exploration into the variety of products that can be made from recycled materials. Students then traveled to Annmarie Garden where the staff taught them about composting food scraps and how to craft a meaningful message to educate people about the 3 R's (reducing, reusing, and recycling).

Students used the information they learned on the field trip to create a message on a grocery bag to inform people about saving our natural resources through reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting. At school the students were shown a short video and given a rubric to help guide their bag design. To help educate the community, these grocery bags were given out on Earth Day at local stores, including Roland's, Bowens, Nicks, and Buehler's markets.



Above and below: Grocery bags made by students.



Working on badges at Annmarie Garden.



Students see how much garbage is being thrown away.

Huntingtown Elementary - Promising Scientists

Thank you for the generous grant of \$1,000 to Huntingtown Elementary School. Girl Scouts from Huntingtown Elementary Troop 2006 worked in conjunction with Huntingtown community members, Old Field Landscapes, and Lawn Artists, to remove non-native shrubs and plants and to replant Maryland native plants, such as switchgrass, coreopsis, coneflower, and black-eyed-Susans to name a few, at the front and side entrances to the school.



Friends of JPP - Reconstruction of Turtle Lodge

The Woodland Indian Village at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) contains four replica structures or lodges that represent housing of Maryland's original inhabitants. This summer, with the generosity of the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth, we were able to successfully reconstruct the Turtle Lodge, the second largest structure in the Village completely covered in tulip poplar bark. The reconstruction of the Turtle Lodge was a physical improvement for the Indian Village overall, and also served as an educational opportunity for students to experience traditional building techniques. In addition, the knowledge student volunteers gained from this project helped them understand Native American life along the Patuxent River, enhanced their teamwork skills, and provided service to a community organization.



Students assisted in peeling bark from large tulip poplar trees used for covering the structure, peeling bark from cedar saplings used for framing, and moving the bark to prepare for covering the structure. The end result was the beautiful newly-named Rabbit Lodge, which allows us to continue to use the Woodland Indian Village as an immersive educational space.



Students from Huntingtown High School's Rho Kappa Chapter harvested tulip poplar bark located at a private residence in St. Mary's county. Using handheld tools for peeling bark called "spuds," students assisted in the de-barking process. The large bark pieces served as the covering for the new wigwam at the Woodland Indian Village. Once the trees were peeled, the sheets of bark needed to be stacked flat to dry. Students placed tobacco sticks in between bark sheets to allow for air flow. The wigwam's construction is an "all-ages" activity. Groups of preschool students helped peel

bark for the poles that framed the structure. The frame of the wigwam was tied together with bark lashings and supported by cedar poles.

The newly completed Rabbit Lodge, with bark covering and peeled cedar poles (thanks to many student volunteers) will debut this November during JPPM's American Indian Heritage Day celebration.

Northern High School Lorax Club Wonders of the Earth (WOE) Day

The thirteenth annual Wonders of the Earth Day was held on April 21, 2016. This outdoor education day was hosted by Northern High School's Lorax Club and supported financially by a CETY grant. Over one hundred third graders from Sunderland Elementary School traveled to Northern's campus to participate in this event. On a pleasant



spring day, lessons in stream health, the importance of forests, the fun in recycling, and biodiversity were taught by high school students who had planned and prepared for weeks ahead of this event.



The day was well organized and divided into five teaching sessions with elementary classes rotating through the sessions. A short period was reserved for lunch, and time was also allotted for face painting. Sunderland students boarded the bus back to their school in the afternoon, tired but happy and

carrying a goodie bag to commemorate the day. Northern students remained to clean up the school grounds before boarding their bus, also tired but happy, and proud of the inspiration they may have been to the younger pupils.

It is uncertain if WOE Day will continue due to the construction on Northern's campus, but for many years and for many Sunderland Elementary School students, WOE Day has been a memorable tradition.

Calvert Future Farmers of America (FFA) Jackets

Thank you for the generous grant amount of \$400 to purchase Future Farmers of America (FFA) jackets for our Calvert FFA chapter. We were able to purchase ten individualized jackets with the student's 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 our chapter to be seen at various events where we volunteer, such as the Farm Bureau breakfast. The jackets are also helpful when Calvert FFA is recruiting at Southern and Calvert middle schools. We visit eighth grade students every year during their science classes. We wear our jackets and the students are immediately interested.



This year, we will be holding a Play Day for local rodeo contestants and will also 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 a nearly 40 year break!

Fly Like an Eagle: Scout Projects at Calvert County Nature Parks

In 2016, the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth supported several Eagle Scout projects. Working with Senior Naturalist Andy Brown and the park managers, local Eagle Scout candidates identified several projects for 2016. These projects are at various settings, including the boardwalks of Cypress Swamp, the fields of Kings Landing Park, and the picnic area at Flag Ponds Nature Park.

Generally, Eagle Scouts are responsible for the bulk of the expense for their projects, but Calvert Nature Society likes to be able to support these projects. The scouts also recruit volunteers to assist with their projects.

Troop 347 sponsored two Eagle Scout candidates who undertook a challenge course at Kings Landing Park and a rehabilitation of the picnic area at Flag Ponds. Over 100 volunteers worked approximately 900 hours on the challenge course. Twelve volunteers worked for 232 hours on the picnic area.

Eagle Scouts repaired the boardwalk at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and on the Duncan Pond Trail at Flag Ponds. The Battle Creek project included nine volunteers who worked for 85 hours. The Duncan Pond rebuild took 22 volunteers working for over 115 hours.

Thank you to CETY for supporting this project. Our long-term goal is to create a pipeline of engaged youths that will continue their stewardship of the parks into adulthood. Your support benefits the participants, the parks, and the community.



Flag Ponds Picnic Area

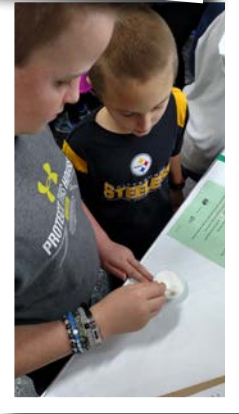
Kings Landing Challenge Course



Sunderland Elementary - Mobile Science Lab

We are excited and grateful that Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth funded our Ag Lab at Sunderland Elementary School during the week of December 5-9, 2016. There were a total of five classes, and 123 students participated each day. Students spent 60 minutes a day in a lab completing an activity related to agricultural products produced in Maryland.

The labs consisted of several workstations, including Farmers Protect the Environment (the team designed its own environmentally-friendly farm), CSI: Candy Science Investigators (students acted as food scientists as they discovered the properties of some of their favorite candies), From Pod to Candy Bar (students explored how many candy bar ingredients begin in Pods and then performed an experiment to determine which candy would sink or float due to its ingredients/properties), Colorful Bean (students experimented to decide whether petroleum-based or soybean-based crayons produce the brightest color), Corn: The Environmentally Friendly Crop (students examined the environmental impact of a packing foam made from petroleum with one made from corn), Cream to Butter (students tested various milk products to determine which one would produce butter and why), Egg-citing Eggs (students discovered and labeled the parts of an egg), Fabric Scientists (students explored everyday fabrics and conducted tests to decide which fabrics are best for different uses), Glue from Milk (students acted as chemists and laboratory techs to produce glue from milk and then tested its strength against Elmer's), Mighty Smooth Bean (students planted soybeans in plaster of Paris and watched this bean show its strength), Thirsty Stems (students discovered the parts of a plant and their functions), Super Slurper (students examined the absorbency of several household products), and Well Contamination - From Where to Where? (students collected data on an imaginary town experiencing pollution in some of its wells). The students all enjoyed their time experimenting and learning!



Calvert Farm Bureau National Agriculture Week Breakfast

In celebration of National Agriculture Week, the Calvert County Farm Bureau and Calvert County Young Farmers hosted a Farm-to-Table Breakfast. The event was held on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at the Calvert County Fairgrounds. Nearly 400 people were served at the breakfast, which featured locally-sourced meats, eggs, and other breakfast foods. The breakfast was prepared and served by the Calvert County Farm Bureau with participation from the Calvert High School FFA chapter and Calvert County 4-H groups.



Nearly four hundred people enjoyed a delicious breakfast consisting of locally-sourced meats, eggs, and other breakfast foods.

Our primary objective, which was to generate funds for the Calvert County Farm Bureau Scholarship, was successful. A total of \$4,000 was raised for the Calvert County Farm Bureau College Scholarship Fund. In May, the Calvert County Farm Bureau Board of Directors awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to college students. Two additional students received \$1,000 scholarships through contributions made to the Calvert County Farm Bureau "Fallen Farmers" Memorial Fund. In addition, \$225 was awarded to a Calvert County school teacher to participate in the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation's Ag in the Classroom Summer Workshop.

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

Spider Hall - Little Hands on the Farm

Because of the CETY grant money awarded to Spider Hall Farm for 2016, children and families who visited our Little Hands exhibit this past October were able to engage in learning about farm-to-table and the importance of agriculture in our lives. The Little Hands program consists of 13 to 15 stations where children do the tasks of a farmer and then take the “crops” to market.

This year we developed five stations using two sheds, and focused on the “grain bin,” the chicken coop, the garden, the apple orchard, and the market.

Entering Little Hands, children take a shopping bag and fill it while going to each exhibit. Throughout the stations, there is information and easy-to-follow directions.

- The “grain bin” is filled with touch bins, showcasing wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, soybeans, hay, and straw.
- We set “hens” on nests and load the chicken coop with nests of plastic eggs. There are two live hens on display in their own coop, just outside the shed.
- The orchard is full of apple trees that are loaded with apples, ready for “picking”.
- A visit to the garden entails planting a seed and then taking a potato or carrot from the garden for “harvesting” and putting it in the bag.
- Once the bag is full from visiting all of the stations, the children deliver the “crops” to market. After classifying the items into the correct bins, the children receive a token or “money” for their work.
- They take the token to the “store” for a prize.



This is Little Hands in its first phase. While we focused on these five stations this year, in the future we hope to build more sheds, including a tractor barn, and sheds showcasing horses, sheep, dairy, swine, and soil/water conservation.

We thank CETY for the opportunity to reach over 2,000 children this year and help spread the word about agriculture in our lives.





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.

