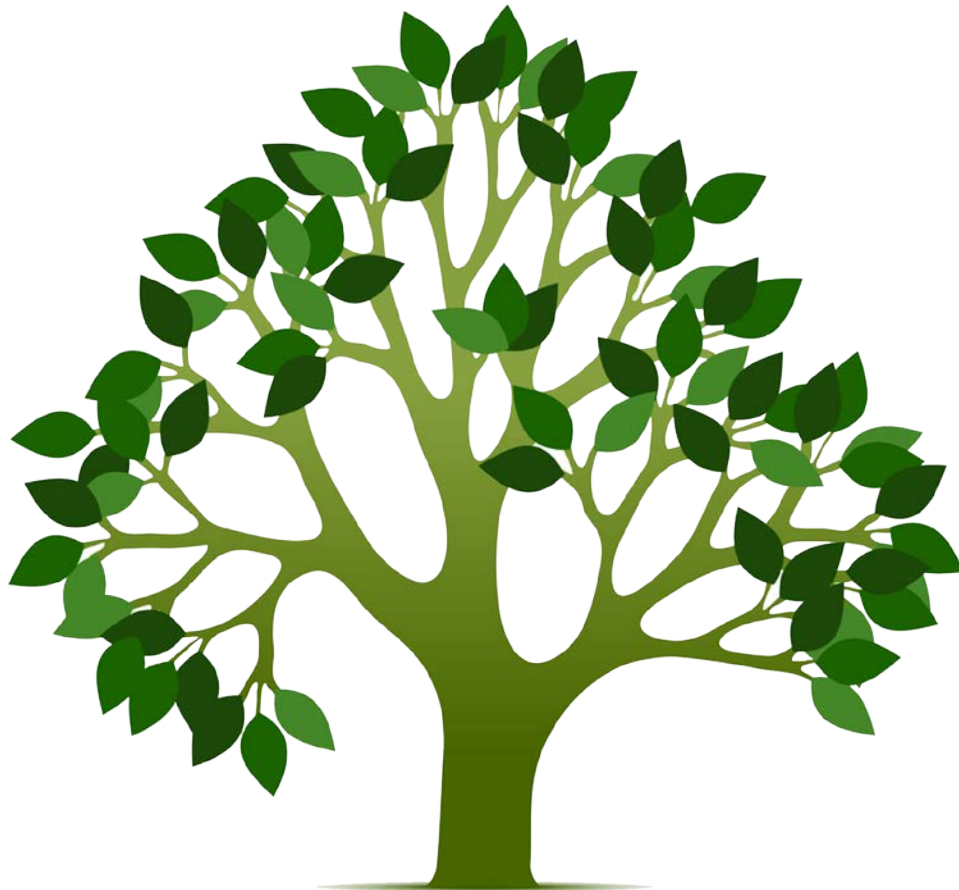


“Strengthening Youth Involvement
Through Conservation”

C E T Y

Annual Report

🍂 2017 🍂



Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth



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Southern Maryland RC&D

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 \$358,850 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 \$209,391 in grants. This year, we had requests for over \$19,035 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 2017

2017 Calvert County Envirothon	\$6,875
Calvert Future Farmers of America	\$500
Calvert Nature Parks: Fly Like An Eagle Scout Project	\$1,000
Spider Hall Little Hands on the Farm	\$4,000
Northern High School Lorax Club WOE Day	\$1,317
4-H Livestock Auction at the Calvert County Fair	\$3,865
CHESPAX: Insect Pollinators	\$878
Boy Scouts of America Troop #430	\$300
Maryland State 4-H Horse Jamboree Sponsorship	\$300

TOTAL

\$19,035



Envirothon Enhanced for 2017

Envirothon was enhanced this year through the use of technology and more training time. Linda Subda, a CHESPAX teacher, created a website to help with Envirothon training. The website had example test questions that were updated every month, along with resource materials for each part of the competition. This year also had two in-person training sessions, which were enjoyed by the trainers, teachers, and students. The training in November utilized technology to view soils maps, horizons, and properties which impact land use. The training in March taught how to determine soil texture, compare two different soil profiles, and understand a soil survey. Five teams from four high schools participated in the competition in April at Kings Landing Park. Team C from Calvert High School won the overall competition, as well as the top prize in each resource category. Thank you to everyone who participated and test your natural resources knowledge at [http://calvertcountyenvirothon.weebly.com/!](http://calvertcountyenvirothon.weebly.com/)



The winning team from Calvert High School, from left: Sarah Monroe, Sidney Losey, Jack Green, and Hope Couto.

Calvert Future Farmers of America (FFA) Jackets

Thank you for the generous grant amount of \$500 to purchase FFA jackets for our Calvert FFA chapter. We were able to purchase 15 individualized jackets which had 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. Several pictures of our entire Chapter were provided to your organization as well as pictures of different groups of students based on how many years they have been associated with the chapter.

Having FFA jackets allows us to be seen at various events where we volunteer, including the Farm Bureau Breakfast. The jackets are also helpful 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 "what is that FFA stuff?"

This year we will be holding a Horse Fun Show for our local equestrian enthusiasts and will 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 going strong in just our fifth year of existence!



CHESPAX: Insect Pollinators

Last year CHESPAX, in partnership with the Calvert County Natural Resources Division (CCNRD), developed a new first grade program that focused on insects and their important role as pollinators. This unit included a classroom component that is taught by the classroom teachers together with a field component that takes place in one of the parks managed by the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. The funding from this grant was used to purchase materials to complete the classroom and field activities of this program.

Before going on the field trip, students were taught that insects perform a variety of jobs that are very important to people. One of the more important roles insects complete is the process of pollination. The students looked closely at the body structures of plastic insects to find out what makes an effective pollinator. Students learned about the cycle of pollination and how it directly affects their daily lives through the different foods they eat. While participating in various activities they identified several foods that people would not be able to eat if pollination did not occur.



Dressing up as a butterfly – see the fuzzy body, long mouth and beautiful wings.



During their field trip, students explored the field and the forest looking for the diversity of insects. They looked closely at the actual insects' body structures to find out what will help them fulfill their assigned role within the community. They observed that pollinators have very specific body structures that help them with the process of pollinations such as a fuzzy body and wings.

After completing their field trip, the students used the information they gained to design a hand pollinator. They also designed a small insect hotel as a man-made habitat for insects at their school or home.



Through the implementation of this program last spring, teachers, students, and parents have begun to look at insects through a very different lens. They are beginning to see that many of the little six-legged friends we see daily are important to their world. As CHESPAX and the CCNRD continues to teach this program, we hope that it will be a positive influence about the importance of insects and that people will want to help to protect the insects around their home.

*Photo at top left: Looking for insects in the woods.
Photo at left: Enjoying insects in the field.*

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

On April 11, 2017, the Northern High School (NHS) Lorax Club held Wonders of the Earth (WOE) Day at the North Beach Wetlands Overlook Park. One hundred and five third graders from Sunderland Elementary attended. Five stations were set up for the students to rotate through.



Each station had an activity that taught the students about the environment and the part they can play to make it better. We had a soil group talk about the importance of bees and composting, and the students were able to plant a flower for their class. The stream group talked about habitats, pollution in the water, and wildlife, and students participated in a macroinvertebrate stream survey activity. The forestry group acted out a food chain and took a short hike on a trail through the woods. The Lorax group had face painting while NHS students read “The Lorax” to the students. The recycling group talked about the benefits of recycling, reusing and reducing. Students also made a craft.

Each station is run by a group of students from the NHS Lorax Club. The Sunderland Elementary students wrote thank you letters to us. They really enjoy having the high school students take the time to interact and teach them about the environment.



Calvert Nature Society: Fly Like An Eagle Scout Project

In 2017 the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth funded Grant #180 - “Fly Like An Eagle,” which supported several Eagle Scout candidates. Working with Senior Naturalist Andy Brown and the park managers, local Eagle Scout candidates identified several projects for the year. The projects took place at the county nature parks, from the boardwalks of Cypress Swamp to the fields of Kings Landing Park, as well as throughout the county with our Owl Monitoring Program.

This year’s projects were varied and offered significant benefits to the nature parks, including:

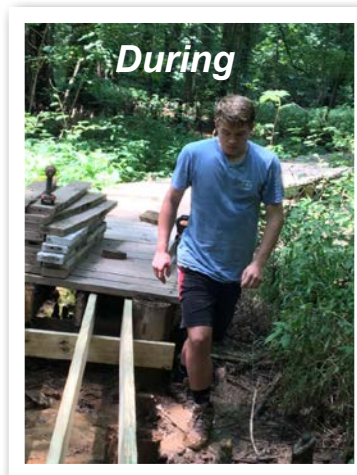
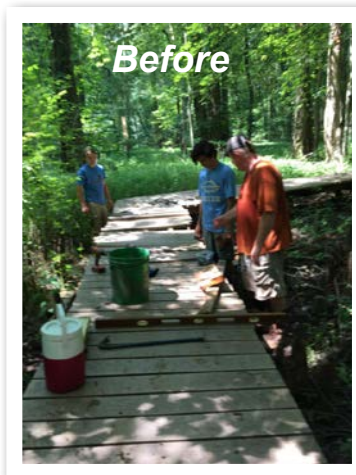
- A team of Scout volunteers constructed a shade pergola at the center of the meadow maze at Kings Landing Park. This addition is the first step in preparation for a nature play space at the park.
- Two Eagle Scouts repaired the Battle Creek boardwalk, including tree stump removal.
- Kings Landing also benefitted from two decks built at the historic YMCA cabins.
- Owlets will be safer in 2018 with new predator guards installed by another Eagle Scout and his team of volunteers.

Generally, Eagle Scouts are responsible for the bulk of the expense for their projects but the Society is happy to help support the projects. Also, the Scouts recruit volunteers to assist with their projects.

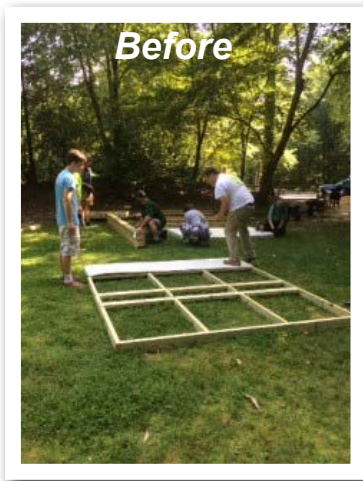
Two Eagle Scouts and 21 volunteers repaired the lower boardwalk at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp for a total of 121 hours (including stump removal). The predator guard project consisted of three different work sessions that included 39 volunteers for more than 207 volunteer hours. The porch project consisted of 14 volunteers and over 158 hours. The pergola project wrapped up the last week of October so the final numbers were not available by the time this report was due.

Thanks to CETY for supporting this project. Your support benefits the participants, the parks, and the community, and helps the Society fulfill its long-term goal of creating a cadre of engaged youth that continue their stewardship of the parks into adulthood.

Battle Creek Boardwalk Repairs



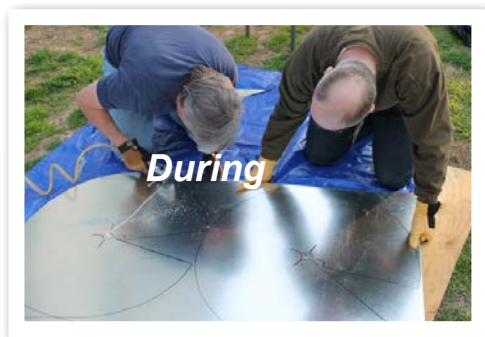
Owl Cage Construction



Cabin Porches at Kings Landing Park



Owl Boxes



Maryland State 4-H Horse Jamboree

Calvert County 4-H served as hosts for the 2017 MD State 4-H Horse Jamboree. Held July 7-9, 2017 at the Patuxent River 4-H Camp, the event provided a fun learning opportunity for 4-H members from around the state of Maryland. Each year the Maryland 4-H Horse Program works in collaboration with a county 4-H Program to host this three-day overnight fun-filled learning event. The Jamboree is for 4-H'ers participating in the horse project. The 2017 Maryland State 4-H Horse Jamboree was filled to capacity, with over 100 youths and volunteers participating from around the state.

This popular youth experience helps participants expand their knowledge of horses, refine their presentation skills, and further develop critical thinking skills. A variety of opportunities for fun learning included informal workshops, clinics, and presentations. The skills they develop during the Horse Jamboree help to prepare them for regional and national educational workshops and competitions. In addition, these skills will serve them throughout their lifetimes as they develop into competent, caring, and responsible citizens.

To host an event of this magnitude requires countless hours of time invested by volunteers and much support from sponsors such as CETY. The sponsorship funds that CETY provided went towards purchasing the event T-shirts. Thank you for your support!



Boy Scouts of America - Troop 430 Project

My Eagle Scout project was to fix the erosion problem in the back yard of the rectory at Jesus the Divine Word Parish in Huntingtown, Maryland. As seen in the before picture, there was very little grass growing in the yard. The yard slopes downward, causing soil to be removed during rainfall.



After photo

I met with an Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist from Calvert County who helped me with a plan. My first step was to take a sample of the soil and have it tested to determine how much lime would need to be added to make the soil favorable to growing grass. I waited until mid-fall because that is the best time of year to plant grass seed. My team started by turning up the soil and grading the earth. We then added top soil, lime, fertilizer and seed. The seed

we used was specifically for shady areas. We covered the new soil and seed with an erosion blanket. Father Dakes has been, and will continue, watering the area. I went back to the project site two weeks later and saw that the grass was growing well, but there are a few areas that require more seed. I plan on purchasing more seed and planting it in the next few days. I also plan on purchasing a traveling (or self-propelled) sprinkler to make it easier for Father to water the yard and to ensure that the yard is evenly watered.



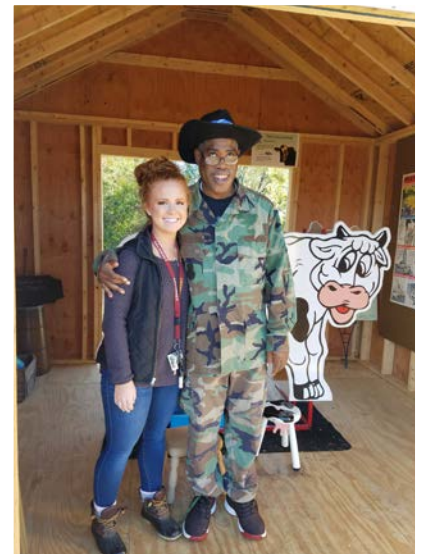
Before photo

Spider Hall - Little Hands on the Farm

The money received from the CETY Grant for 2017 was used for the Spider Hall Farm Agriculture Education part of the business.

To further the design of our Little Hands exhibit, we bought a shed to house the Milking Cow station that was also purchased. This cow exhibit allows children to “milk” a cow using a simulated udder and teets.

The “Dairy Barn” was a new addition to the already introduced hen house and grain bin. In addition to collecting eggs, grain, vegetables, and apples, the children also “milk” a cow and place a milk carton in their baskets to take to market. They learn that the farmer must take items to market where the items are then sold to customers as either produce or value-added foods.



Posing with the cow

Spider Hall - Little Hands on the Farm (cont'd.)

This year we added a straw maze and corn bin that gave children a chance to explore the commodities up close. Garden toys were added to the corn bin and bouncy balls were added to the straw maze. Fun and education all in the same area.

New signs were added to enhance our safety and educational mission.

Some supplies were replenished, such as beads that are used with every grade level to help students visualize and remember how a plant grows from seed to product.

This year, the Little Hands exhibit was open each weekend for hundreds of children and their families. We hosted over 25 children's field trips during the week days in October and first week in November.

We thank CETY for giving us the opportunity to share the importance of Agriculture in our lives with everyone who comes to the farm.



Little Hands Building



The Cow



Milking the cow



Newest display



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.

