



C·E·T·Y

**CALVERT
ENVIRONMENTAL
TRUST FOR
YOUTH**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

*“Strengthening youth
involvement through
conservation”*



CALVERT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR YOUTH

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MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY

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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 \$424,863 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 \$306,097 in grants. This year, we had requests for \$26,166 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 2021 PROJECTS



2021 Calvert County Envirothon	\$10,093
Calvert County Fair Livestock Auction	\$9,342
Environmental Stewardship Through Composting (Tidewater School)	\$1,179
Fly Like an Eagle: Scout Projects at Calvert County Nature Parks (Calvert Nature Society)	\$2,000
Nature Discovery Fun: Nature Walks at Annmarie Gardens for Pre-schoolers	\$950
Beneficial Bugs: A Pollinator Week Celebration (Friends of JPPM)	\$1,000
What Does Biodiversity Sound Like? (CHESPAX)	\$1,602

TOTAL AWARDED: \$26,166



Beneficial Bugs: A Pollinator Week Celebration

In honor of National Pollinator Week, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum hosted our second annual celebration of our connectedness to the weird and wonderful “bugs” that live all around us.

Our primary objective was to help people, especially children, feel comfortable around insects and other invertebrates. Our secondary objective was to raise awareness that most of our food depends on pollinators.



With these objectives in mind, our goal was to showcase the joy of the natural world and empower participants with the knowledge that everyone can take actions that are good for people, planet, and pollinators. This year, we offered daily in-person “Insect Investigations” for small family groups, as well as garden tours for adult audiences.



The results were mixed. We successfully enrolled 27 families for the investigations tours, and reached over 100 people that way, but attracted zero participants for the adult tour. Additionally, some supplies ordered in April had still not arrived in time for the pro-

grams, so we had to make due with what we already had on hand. That said, we had some great materials in house already from the 2020 grant, and the park’s education staff provided assistance so that we could have more personal interactions with attending families. Overall, another great week!



Our raffle quiz at the end of the week further engaged the families, and the five winners were thrilled about their prizes!

CHESPAX: What Does Biodiversity Sound Like?



The 2020-2021 school year presented enormous challenges to teachers and students as the pandemic impacted virtually every aspect of the “normal” school experience. The CHESPAX program was impacted in a similar way. Programs that were traditionally run as hands-on outdoor experiences were adapted to online activities.

The pandemic did prompt the CHESPAX staff to explore new methods for engaging students in the authentic environmental science that is the hallmark of the program. Eighth grade students have been collecting biodiversity data from their schoolyards for several years. While photographs have been the primary medium for documenting their findings, recent advances in the design of affordable bio-acoustic data loggers have enabled CHESPAX staff to develop student activities to measure the biodiversity of sound.

Through the generous support of the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth, the CHESPAX program purchased six Song Meter Micro units from the Wildlife Acoustics company. The small, lightweight

recorders can be programmed to collect sound samples around the clock in in designated increments (typically 1-5 minutes per hour). The sound data is stored on microSD cards and played on a computer with speakers or headphone attachments.

On June 1st and 2nd, CHESPAX staff piloted the use of the new loggers (in-person) with six eighth grade science classes at Mill Creek Middle School. Students learned about the advances in the use of the technology and how bio-acoustic data loggers provide benefits such as extending the time in which data can be collected during the school day and reducing the impact of human activity on the calling behaviors of the subject species. Classes used a Google Earth image of their schoolyard to select locations to place the loggers (bottom left photo). Students considered the different habitat types found on the schoolyard and avoided placing the loggers in proximity to roads to minimize interference from vehicle noise.

Students placed the loggers at the targeted locations on the first day and collected the loggers on the second day. CHESPAX provided resources to the assist the classes in identifying the sounds that were collected. Classes were able to identify some of the more familiar species of frog and bird sounds that were collected. CHESPAX will continue to develop resources to assist classes in the identification of the sounds collected through this project.

As we look to next year, we plan work with teachers at all six middle schools to utilize this new technology. A digital “library” of nature sounds from each middle school is being planned for the 2021-2022 school year. The biggest hurdle to the project is developing the identification skills of students and teachers. Through publicly available (free) applications such as BirdNET from the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory, identification of bird sounds is made relatively simple. CHESPAX staff and program partners will provide additional support for the classes with the identification of the documented species.

As the environment changes due to habitat loss and climate change, the biodiversity of the region will likely be impacted. Providing students with experiences in collecting authentic data with the technological tools employed by scientists will help them engage with this important issue.

CHESPAX staff submitted a blog post to the Global Biodiversity Blog to discuss the project for an international audience. The

August 26, 2021 blog post can be found at CHESPAX Blogs – Calvert County Public Schools Chespax Program Blog Page (chespax-blogs.com).





2021 Envirothon



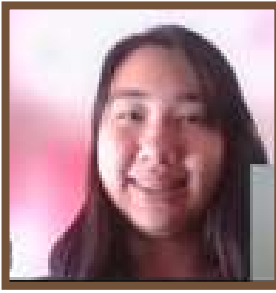
A Virtual County & State Combined Competition



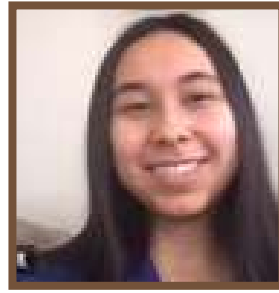
Addison Fortenberry



Ana Reinhardt



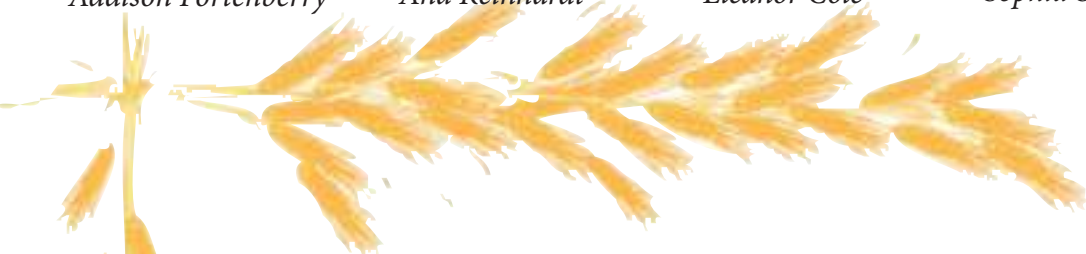
Eleanor Cole



Sophia Skolnick



Sasha Barley



The Envirothon is an environmentally-based problem solving competition for high school students. Teams are made up of 5 students who work together to study Maryland's natural resources over the course of the school year. All topics are very hands-on and include practical skills. The trainings are taught by experts in each field.

Because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Envirothon was cancelled. For the 2021 season, educators rallied and were able to successfully host an entirely virtual Envirothon competition.

This year, all Maryland teams who wished to participate were invited to compete in the State Envirothon. Two teams from Calvert County participated: Northern High School and Calvert High School.

The virtual competition was held April 26-29 where 51 teams competed for the Maryland Envirothon title. The students competed in four resource categories: aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife.

At the virtual Awards Ceremony on May 6, the highest scoring team from Calvert County was announced as Northern High School with a score of 331.32. Their score earned them 8th place in the Maryland State Envirothon. Calvert High placed 12th in the Maryland with a score of 324.75.

Congratulations Northern High School for claiming the Calvert County Envirothon title for 2021 and placing 8th in Maryland!



Environmental Stewardship through Composting

by: Tidewater School



Our students have been able to experience, full circle, growing plants from seed, the decomposition of the waste from those same plants to create nourishment for worms in our new composter, and the subsequent production of rich compost for the growth of new crops. It's an experience that offers weekly opportunities for environmental stewardship, reminds us of the interrelatedness of living things, and illustrates how easy it is for us to help the environment. It is a win-win situation for the school and the ecosystem!

We were fortunate to have three siblings at the school who had experience using the same Subpod composter that we purchased with our grant funds. They, along with our Environmental Education teacher, gave lessons to the rest of our students on how to feed the worms. Our students made books and charts to remind us of what we could and could not add to the composter. We grew tomatoes and carrots through the summer which have served as the source of our plant scraps. Our students are now growing fall crops and are using some of the compost in our elevated beds. We anticipate that more compost will be ready for the spring growing season.



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Children have been preparing books on composting and are also making notes and illustrations in their nature journals about the worms and their work. As a Maryland Green School, this aligns with some of our current goals for re-certification in 2 years. We will continue to educate each new student about the composting process and will involve them in planting and maintaining our gardens.



2021 CALVERT COUNTY FAIR ANIMAL AUCTION

The Youth Livestock Auction is held annually during the Calvert County Fair. This is when animals that 4-H members have raised and 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 club by purchasing animals and donating them back to the youth.

This is an excellent way to learn about agriculture, the value and reward of hard work, and the importance of good land and livestock management.



Calvert County Youth Livestock





Scout and Community Service Projects 2021

Calvert Nature Society Board of Directors
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 Division Chief, Natural Resources

Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth

Calvert Nature Society was awarded \$2000 from the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth (CETY) program to support service projects in 2021. Although the pandemic restrictions resulted in fewer scout and community service projects, in 2021, we were able to support ten youth projects and numerous other community service projects. The CETY grant supported Scout and Community Service Projects in addition to the Calvert Stewards Volunteer Program throughout the county nature parks. Calvert County Natural Resources staff oversee the projects, working with scouts, youth groups, and volunteers on a variety of projects. The CETY funds provide supplies and materials for construction projects, plants for habitat restoration and gardens, and tools such as shovels, rakes, and work gloves. Grant funds are match through contributions of the service groups as well as the Society and County budgets.

Calvert Nature Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Calvert County's natural heritage and the creation of an environmentally literate and aware community. We provide opportunities for appreciation and understanding of our natural world through our outreach initiatives and in support of the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Calvert Nature Society works closely with Calvert County Natural Resources on a variety of programs and projects and has more than 30 years' partnership in such projects.

Scouts and youth groups assist the Calvert Bluebird Council in maintaining, enhancing, and expanding the bluebird nest box trails found throughout the county. For example, Joni Ramsay's girl scout troop and the Warner family built close to 2 dozen Bluebird nest boxes. The bluebird trail Gold Award project spearheaded by Girl Scouts Lorelei Osterhouse and Annaliese Haberreiter of Prince Frederick-based Girl Scout Troop 5796 and overseen by Calvert Steward Mary Hollinger was featured in the Calvert Recorder (Southern Maryland News). Within 2 days, the nests were occupied! (photos below) https://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/building-boxes-for-bluebirds/article_96a1c86c-60dd-5125-aa68-a3da82ee7d69.html



Other projects supported by the CETY grant include:

- Eaton Karintarigun constructed Phoebe and Barn Swallow nest shelves
- Eoin Smylie constructed and installed two Bee Hotels at Kings Landing Park for his Eagle Scout Project. (photo below left)
- Junior Scouts Gabrielle and Brianna Dalzell and their Girl Scout Troop 1281 (photo, below right) completed a shrub planting at Gatewood Preserve for their Gold Award (below, center two photos) and constructed and installed a turtle basking platform at the observation blind on Cocktown Creek at Kings Landing Park.



- Girl Scout Taylor Cherry moved a fire pit to a more suitable location at the Kings Landing Park Amphitheater and created an activity pamphlet based on the park. She also designed a patch to be given out to individuals who successfully completed the pamphlet. (photo left)
- Eagle Scout Duncan Santerre and members of Troop 347 replaced an old bridge on North Ridge trail at Flag Ponds Nature Park. (photo right)



Other Service Projects Worth Mentioning

Volunteer Park Technician Drew Miller received a presidential service award recognizing the significant amount of time he has spent at the park this past year! Photo: Taylor Williams, Andrew, Grace Hanners, and Karyn Molines.



- On Saturday 4/24 Park Ranger Emma McCarthy led a beach clean-up event, along with the help of Park Technician Taylor Quinn. They had several groups pre-register, and even more show up on the day of ready to help. Overall, 79 people participated in the clean-up event. Following the beach clean-up, Taylor Q. led a volunteer planting project; Park Ranger Abby Rieve and Volunteer Park Tech Andrew Miller helped get all of the plants in the ground. Pictures: Emma installing tree tubes; Jenny Yoder planting a tree; volunteer cleaning up the beach; Abby and Andrew planting native plants.
- A Purple Martin House provided by Calvert Steward Joanna Lutmerding was installed at Gatewood Preserve. It is installed so the railings and decking can be replaced without the box being removed.



- Kings Landing Park staff Ethan Matteson and Ben Krause spearheaded the boardwalk repair project. In total, 20 rotted boards were replaced on the boardwalk. Ethan painted the ramp with gritted paint to ensure visitor safety. We had been using a grip tape but that was not holding up very well. (below left two photos)
- Calvert Steward volunteers helped Natural Resources staff build a new bridge and trail system connecting Gatewood Preserve to Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm. (below right two photos)



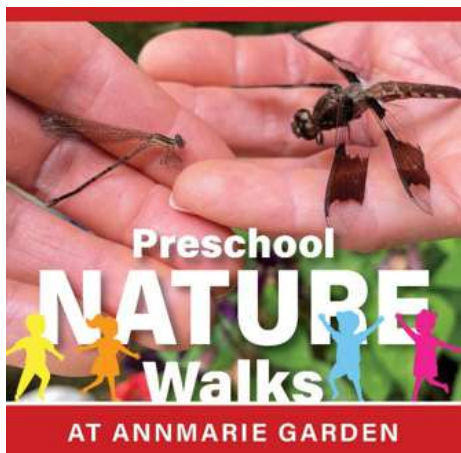
While on break from college, Calvert Steward Ben Springer (photo at right) helped with a variety of volunteer projects including documenting barred owl nesting for the Breeding Bird Atlas and assisting with Raptor surveys. He repaired and installed ALL of the Battle Creek nest boxes that were damaged or that washed away in the August 2020 Tropical Storm Isaias.



Taylor Garner, a participant in the first class of the Calvert County Watershed Stewards program, run through the University of Maryland Extension Sea Grant Program, is working on a project to install rain gardens and interpretive signage at Flag Ponds Nature Park. We have some new teen volunteers that have helped with our bird banding project.

Calvert Steward JoAnna Lutmerding is helping Naturalist Gene Groshon train youth volunteer Scottie Clark with the techniques of banding and processing birds under the MAPS protocols.

The Maryland Conservation Corps crew based out of Merkle NRMA came to Flag Ponds Nature Park four separate days throughout the month to help dig the new trail. Their help was invaluable and allowed us to make a considerable amount of progress on this project.



Preschool Nature Walks at Annmarie Gardens

In March of 2021, Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center launched a new program designed to introduce pre-school age children to the wonders of nature. Thanks to the support of Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth, Annmarie’s “Pre-school Nature Walks” engaged more than 450 preschoolers, parents and grandparents.



This new program set out to offer families a chance for hands-on learning about nature while spending healthy time together outdoors. Each week, our staff naturalist, Hester Burch, introduced a nature theme, then guided the group to our lawns, Fairy Lolly nature play space, or other tree lined open areas to independently explore, discover and play. Activities during the walks included demonstrations, read-alouds and even show-and-tells where children shared what they found. Hester encouraged child-led discovery and exploration time and answered questions from young and old alike!



Initially intended to run for 6-weeks, the program was so well received it was extended for the full year. In the end, 30 nature walks were conducted reaching more than 450 guests. Featured themes included “Magnificent Moths”, “Brilliant Beetles”, “Bye-Bye Butterflies”, “Cicada Search”, and many more.

Annmarie Garden believes that art and nature connect people to each other and themselves creating a happier, healthier Southern Maryland. Through a wide variety of engaging exhibits, programs, classes, public projects, and annual events, Annmarie opens up opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and reflection. By providing opportunities for visitors to experience and engage in imaginative activities, Annmarie seeks to nurture the human spirit and contribute to a healthy society and environment.



We offer our most sincere thanks to the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth for their support of this program which brought so much joy and inspiration to Calvert County families.



Summary of Grants Approved by Organization
1997 – 2021

	Number of Grants	Amount (\$)
Battle Creek Nature Center (Outdoor Heritage Foundation, Junior Ranger Corp Projects, Girl Scout Gold Award)	11	9,175
4-H Livestock Auction at Calvert County Fair	9	51,183
Boy Scouts	12	9,010
Girl Scouts	2	1,015
Calvert County Public Schools	86	52,199
Calverton School	1	200
CHESPAX (Calvert County Public Schools)	20	20,395
Calvert County Forestry Board	1	40
Calvert Marine Museum	2	1,550
Calvert Farm Bureau	4	5,950
Calvert Future Farmers of America	3	1,400
Cooperative Extension Services	11	9,080
Envirothon	26	110,219
Combined Groups (Student Ambassador) (Agricultural Educational Center) (Ann’s Circle, Inc.) (Tidewater School) (Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park) (Calvert Nature Society)	21	34,681
TOTAL	209	\$306,097

Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth (CETY)
Summary of Grants Approved by Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
1997	602
1998	1,000
1999	4,960
2000	7,979
2001	7,472
2002	4,500
2003	9,133
2004	8,554
2005	7,115
2006	7,357
2007	10,161
2008	9,985
2009	8,828
2010	10,473
2011	11,022
2012	8,806
2013	11,523
2014	16,796
2015	18,164
2016	25,926
2017	19,035
2018	20,599
2019	25,129
2020	24,818
2021	26,166

Total Amount of Grants Awarded

\$306,097

CALVERT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR YOUTH

Account Information and Donations Received

Edward Jones Investment Account Value December 31, 2020	\$570,901.00
Edward Jones Investment Account Value December 31, 2021	\$595,545.03

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

INTEREST ALLOCATION:

2021 Interest Earned	\$36,593.55
90% to Grants	\$32,934.00
5% to Operating Expenses	\$1,830.00
5% to Principal.....	\$1,829.56

GRANT FUNDS:

Grant Funds available after 2021 grants awarded.....	\$4,267.07
2021 year-end interest earned (90%)	<u>32,934.00</u>
Total 2022 Grant Funds Available	\$37,201.07

OPERATING FUNDS

Operating Funds available after 2021 expenses.....	\$4,270.62
2021 interest earned (5%)	<u>1,830.00</u>
Total 2022 Operating Funds Available	\$6,100.62

ESTIMATED OPERATING EXPENSES

Tax preparation	\$800.00
Annual post office box fee	200.00
Maryland Nonprofits Membership	100.00
Renewal of Charitable Registration/State of Maryland	<u>100.00</u>
Total 2022 Estimated Expenses	\$1,200.00

CALVERT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR YOUTH
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

OPERATING & GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE JANUARY 1, 2021\$27,691.34

RECEIPTS:

Grant Funds (90% of 2021 Interest Earned)\$32,934.00
 Operating Funds (5% of 2021 Interest Earned).....1,830.00
 Donation from CSCD (specified to go to grants).....8,000.00
 Donation from FY22 Calvert Co. Gov't budget.....5,000.00
 Donation from American Rescue Funds7,031.00
 Donation from CSCD.....3,000.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS.....\$57,795.00

SUBTOTAL.....\$85,486.34

DISBURSEMENTS:

Operating Expenses:

Rymer & Assoc. (tax preparation)\$700.00
 Maryland Nonprofits (information service)100.00
 Postmaster (Post Office box fee).....188.00

Total Operating Expenses.....\$988.00

Grants Awarded:

Grant #215 Calvert SCD Envirothon Competition\$10,093.00
 Grant #216 Calvert LAC9,341.65
 Grant #217 Tidewater School1,179.00
 Grant #218 Calvert Nature Society Fly Like an Eagle.....2,000.00
 Grant #219 Ann's Circle – Nature Discovery Fun.....950.00
 Grant #220 Friends of JPPM-Pollinator Week.....1,000.00
 Grant #221 CCPS-What does Biodiversity Sound Like?1,602.00

Total Grants Awarded\$26,165.65

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS\$27,153.55

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 31, 2021\$43,301.69

