

CETY

Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

*Strengthening Youth Involvement
Through Conservation*



Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth



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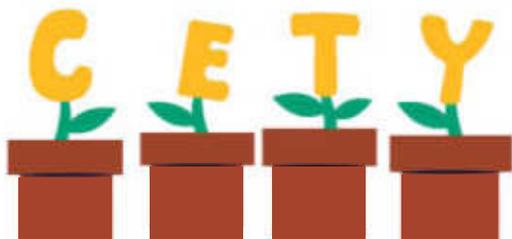
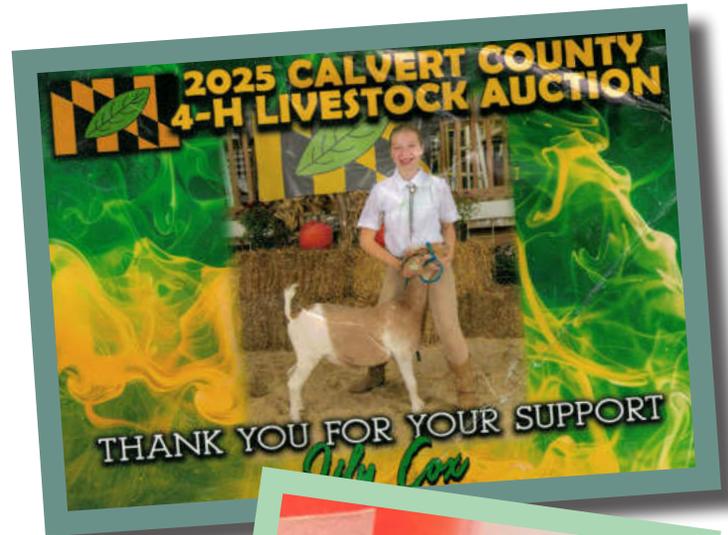
MISSION STATEMENT

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. The interest earned from these donations is used to support environmental projects throughout the county. Since its inception, the Trust has awarded \$405,104 in grants. This year, CETY was able to fund 12 applicants totaling \$22,793.



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 2025 Projects

#259	Calvert County Envirothon	\$14,328.07
#260	Calvert County Livestock Auction	\$2,326.50
#261	Northern High School Wonders of the Earth Day	\$934.00
#262	Calvert Marine Museum Purple Martins	\$1,124.00
#263	Calvert Career & Tech. Academy <u>Curriculum of Agricultural Science (CASE) Projects</u>	\$1,150.00
#264	Calvert Nature Society Scouts Projects	\$1,000.00
#265	CHESPAX Terrapins Program	\$1,930.00

\$22,792.57



CONGRATULATIONS NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL! 2025 CALVERT COUNTY ENVIROTHON 1ST PLACE TEAM



Northern High School, Calvert County Envirothon, First Place Team (left to right): Sally Shnawa, Ashlynn Vilcheck, Raleigh Sterling, Trinity Pierce, Madilyn Ketchum

WHAT IS ENVIROTHON?

The Envirothon is an environmentally-based problem-solving competition for high school students. Teams are comprised of 5 to 7 students who work together to study Maryland's natural resources over the course of the school year. Schools compete in four resource categories: aquatics, forestry management, soil conservation, and wildlife management. All topics are hands-on and include practical skills and trainings taught by experts in each field.

CALVERT COUNTY COMPETITION

The competition was held on a chilly but sunny Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at King's Landing Park in Huntingtown, MD. 9 teams of students, from all 4 Calvert County high schools participated. The first-place team of this year's Calvert County Envirothon was Northern High School with 336.5 points out of a possible 400 points. 2 teams from Huntingtown High school placed 2nd and 3rd with 315.5 and 297.5 points. The 2nd place Huntingtown High School team received gift cards for placing first in the Soils category.



The Maryland
Envirothon

MARYLAND STATE COMPETITION

The Northern High School team represented Calvert County at the Maryland State Envirothon competition, held June 11-12th at the Western Maryland 4-H Park in Swanton, MD. They placed 7th of 14 teams. Maryland's first place team came from Hartford County and placed 2nd in the International Envirothon, narrowly missing 1st place by just 1 point! Congratulations to Hartford County!

THANK YOU

The Envirothon has many sponsors including the Calvert County Soil Conservation District, Calvert Forestry Board, Calvert County Natural Resource Division, Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center (PEARL), American Chestnut Land Trust, and the CHESPAX program of Calvert County Public Schools. Thank you for the continued support in making this program a success.

*Congratulations Northern High School!
1st Place Calvert County Envirothon
& 7th Place Maryland State Competition!*



NHS at the State competition



2025 Calvert County Youth Livestock Auction at the Calvert County Fair

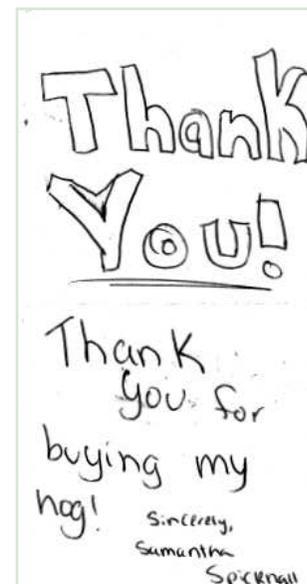


The Youth Livestock Auction is held annually during the Calvert County Fair. This is when animals that 4-H members have raised and cared for are sold to the public. It is the final step in their livestock project where the educations marketing aspects are put into action.

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.

This year, CETY was able to purchase a market sheep, goat, and a hog!



Wonders of the Earth Day

Northern High School

On April 1, 2025, the Lorax group held WOE (Wonders of the Earth Day) at Northern High School. 110 3rd graders from Sunderland Elementary attended. 4 stations were set up for the students in the morning and then 3 stations in the afternoon. Each station has an activity for the students to participate in teaching them to be more aware of their environment. We had a soil group talk about the importance of pollinators and composting. Students painted a butterfly house and planted a flower in a pot to take back with them to school. The forestry group acted out a food chain. The Lorax group had a face painting station. The recycling group talked about the benefits of recycling, reusing and reducing waste. Students practiced this during lunch. The afternoon session had students, make pipe cleaner flowers, used water-color markers and coffee filters to make an earth, put together a baggie with milkweed seeds, dirt and a pot to take home and plant and they learned about watersheds and talked about habitats, water pollution and wildlife. The Sunderland students wrote thank you cards.



Due to unforeseen budget savings, the remaining funds from grant #261a will be rolled over to 2026 WOE Day, Grant #261b.



Purple Martins Colony at The Calvert Marine Museum



Grant #262



The Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth (CETY) Grant supported educational programming and citizen science by funding equipment to enhance the Purple Martin colony at the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM). Over the past ten years, volunteers from CMM and the Purple Martin Club have established and maintained a thriving Purple Martin colony. Because Purple Martins are entirely dependent on human-provided housing, ongoing monitoring and intervention are essential to ensure adequate nesting conditions throughout the breeding season.

In 2024, the Purple Martin colony at the Drum Point Lighthouse reached maximum capacity. As a result, fledglings surviving the winter will face limited nesting opportunities upon their return. By providing additional gourd housing, this project expanded available nesting sites, supported the species' habitat needs, and enhanced educational opportunities for museum visitors.

During this grant period, the Purple Martin Club also continued its outreach partnership with Calvert Elementary School (CES). Students in the after-school club participated in a long-term, hands-on project focused on constructing housing, monitoring nesting activity, and recording observational data on their school grounds. Fourth- and fifth-grade students in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program played an active role in advancing environmental education at both their school and the Calvert Marine Museum.

On April 3, 2025, members of the Purple Martin Club, with assistance from a teenage volunteer, installed a new pole and twelve gourd houses to expand the Purple Martin colony at the Calvert Marine Museum. Throughout the summer nesting season, club volunteers monitored and maintained the colony, documenting nest numbers, egg counts, and overall bird activity.

Purple Martin Club volunteers also participated in the CMM Maritime Festival by hosting an educational outreach table. They shared information on Purple Martin conservation and opportunities for community involvement in local birding and habitat expansion efforts. More than 1,300 visitors attended the festival and engaged with volunteers at the exhibit.

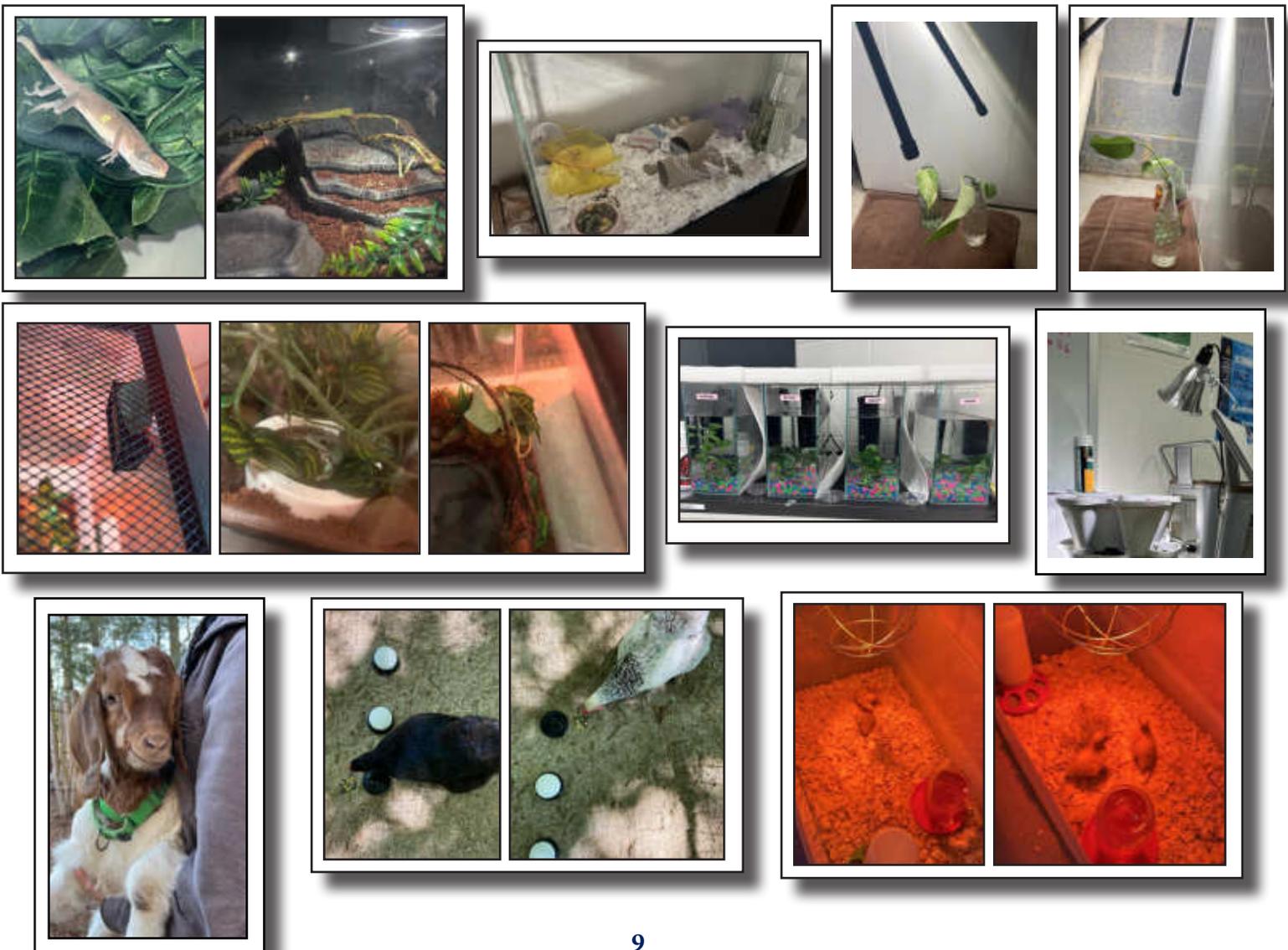
In addition to expanding Purple Martin housing at CMM, the club sustained its environmental education outreach at Calvert Elementary School in Prince Frederick. Fourth- and fifth-grade students in the GATE program constructed gourd houses for an on-site colony at their school. Students learned the full preparation process, using gourds grown in an Amish field that were dried, cleaned, drilled, painted, and mounted on a pole on school grounds. To support colony establishment, students also learned about and utilized the Purple Martin dawn song, a technique used to attract migrating birds.

The program included twice-monthly instructional sessions from September through May. Through this hands-on experience, students gained valuable insight into bird migration, habitat requirements, and the life cycle of songbirds, reinforcing both scientific inquiry and environmental stewardship.

Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Capstone Projects at Career and Tech Academy (CTA)

CETY awarded the Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education (CASE) Program at the Career and Technology Academy (CTA) in the amount of \$1,050.00 for students' project expenses. The proposal was successful in supporting 14 students in completion of their capstone projects. It was expected at the time of application in January 2024 that we would have 21 students who would be completing senior projects, however not all students decided to continue with the CASE program. This provided an increase in the per student budget from \$50 to \$75. Students had to submit a budget by September 16 and then supplies were purchased from different vendors. Due to Mrs. Graham, the CASE Agriculture teacher, being out on maternity leave until November 1, there was a delay in supply acquisition. Any actual costs that exceeded the budgeted cost were incurred by the CASE Program's School Activities Fund (SAF) which is funded through donations and fund-raising. Students are required to return all supplies used from their project that were non-consumable to be used for future capstone projects. Student projects ranged from working with animals including: Betta fish, Mice, Anoles, Tree Frogs, Axolotls, Chickens, Ducks, and Fruit Flies; to working with plants including Pepper, African Violets, and Pothos.

Each student has a number to protect their personal information. Vendors for our project included Amazon, Hatchers Supply Store, Petco, and Carolina Biological. We are grateful for the support of CETY in helping our students complete successful projects! Below are photos of some of their projects:





Scout and Community Service Projects 2025

The Calvert Nature Society was awarded a \$1,000 CETY (Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth) grant to support at least three Eagle Scout and youth service projects. Throughout 2025, we held twenty different projects engaging scouts, youth and service groups; we had 224 volunteers contribute 719 hours. BOCC President Hance presented citations recognizing eight youth who volunteered 50 or more hours in 2025 (👉 Braeden McIntosh with Karyn Molines and Comm. Hance). Funds were used to purchase lumber and other materials needed to complete the projects.

Eagle Scout Projects

- 👉 Adam Nikoli installed information kiosks at Hughes Tree Farm.
- 👉 Luke Garrett completed the Tether Ball Eagle Scout Project at the Kings Landing Pool.
- 👉 Ray Holmberg built an accessible picnic platform at Gatewood Preserve.
- 👉 Seamus Casada of Troop 789 installed a beginner level orienteering course at Ward Farm Park.
- Michael Johnson repaired Duncan's Pond Trail Boardwalk at Flag Ponds Nature Park.
- Ethan Garifo built picnic tables for different nature parks.
- Damien Norden continued his efforts in the Kings Landing Park Native Plant Garden Renovation.
- Logan Oberg installed a Kiosk/Bulletin Board at the Kings Landing pier.

Day of Service Projects

- 👉 The Omega Pi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority held their annual tree planting at Gatewood Preserve. In addition to the 11 sorority sisters, students from their Youth Leadership Institute planted 40 Northern Red Oaks.
- 👉 Karyn worked with students in the Huntingtown High School EYES Club to remove mesh shelters from the trees at Gatewood Preserve. They removed close to 3 dozen tubes!
- 👉 Volunteers planted natives at Gatewood Preserve;
- 👉 CCPR Volunteers supported Day of Service at Flag Ponds Park in August.
- 👉 the Youth Mentors Program service day planting shrubs at Battle Creek
- The annual Paddle and Pathways Pickup in collaboration with Calvert Stewards, Chesapeake Green Team and the Town of Chesapeake Beach. Throughout the year, we held Days of Service: installing a new native pollinator garden in front of the Cove Point pool; weeding the King Memorial native pollinator gardens; and weeding and planting the Ward Farm Park rain gardens.

Other Service Projects:

- Calvert Steward Ella Gibson presented on the use of color bands on American Kestrels to improve data collection as her senior project for the Calvert Career and Technology Academy's Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program. She received an A for her work.
- The Foundation School helped with Native Garden Maintenance and Phragmites Seed Head Removal at Flag Ponds Nature Park.
- Calvert Peace Project helped with the Phragmites Seed Head Removal at Flag Ponds Nature Park.
 - 👉 Calvert Stewards Eaton Ekarintaragun created original watercolors that Gene Groshon gave to Jo Lutmerding and Joe Clark in appreciation of their work with the MAPS bird banding project.



Diamondback Terrapins Release on Poplar Island



Third-grade teachers from each CCPS elementary school and a teacher from the Calvert Country School raises a diamondback terrapin with their students as a part of the CHESPAX education program. At the end of the school year, the terrapins are released onto Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay.

The “terrapin teachers” participated in the release of their diamondback terrapins, cultivating a higher interest and engagement among third-graders and serve as an effective culminating activity for this year-long project

This program meets multiple objectives in the Next Generation Science Standards including:

LS1.B. Growth and development of organisms – reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles.

LS3.B. Variation of traits – different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have inherited different information.

LS4.B Natural Selection – sometimes the differences in the characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.



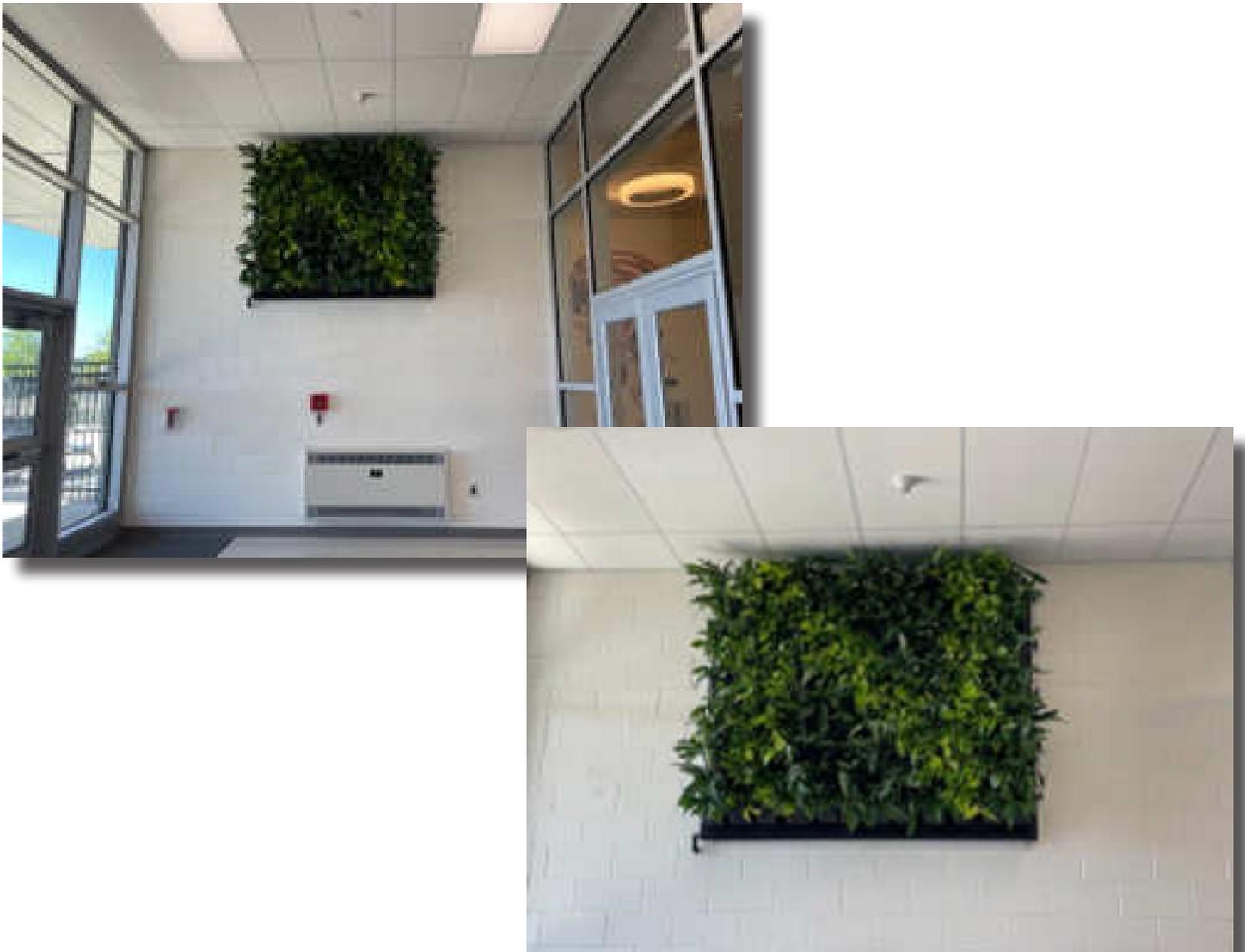
**The projected expenses were lower than the anticipated budget. The surplus funds will be rolled over to 2026 in support of the ROV Field Trip Oyster Project with Grant #265b.*

Update from Grant #234 (2023)

Northern High School, Lorax Club, Green Wall

In 2023, CETY awarded Northern High School's Lorax Club \$4,200 for the installation of a Greenwall in their school. This grant covered half of the total cost for the project at \$8,400. In 2024, Northern High School secured the remaining funds. Once installed, the Lorax Club members will be responsible for maintaining the greenwall.

On August 30, 2025, Greenstreet Growers installed the Living Green Wall. The Greenwall has a filter above it that helps to improve the air quality. It captures pollutants and the plants act as a natural filter to improve air quality and reduces risks of respiratory issues. The wall enhances the school's environment by creating an engaging and calming structure to look at. It teaches students about the planet and the importance of appreciating nature while fostering a nurturing and productive learning environment. It provides a hands-on learning opportunity allowing students to observe plant growth and learn about ecosystems. This grant #234 was for half of the cost of the greenwall.



CALVERT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR YOUTH
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

OPERATING & GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE JANUARY 1, 2025\$24,719.69

RECEIPTS:

Grant Funds (90% of 2025 Interest Earned)	\$27,004.00
Operating Funds (5% of 2025 Interest Earned).....	\$1,500.00
Donation from Calvert County Government.....	6,200.00
Donation from Tri-County Council.....	250.00
Donation from SMECO.....	500.00
Donation from Calvert SCD.....	326.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS.....	\$35,780.50
Minus donations to principal.....	6,950.00
SUBTOTAL.....	\$28,830.50

SUBTOTAL.....\$53,550.19

DISBURSEMENTS:

Operating Expenses:

Rymer & Assoc. (tax preparation)	\$1,000.00
Postmaster (Post Office box fee).....	244.00

Total Operating Expenses.....\$1,244.00

Grants Awarded:

Grant #259 Calvert SCD Envirothon	\$14,328.07
Grant #260 Calvert LAC (4-H).....	2,326.50
Grant #261-A Northern HS-Lorax Club	542.74
Grant #261-B Northern HS-Lorax Club	391.26
Grant #262 Calvert Marine Museum-Purple Martin Colony	1,124.00
Grant #263 Career & Tech Academy-CASE	1,150.00
Grant #264 Calvert Nature Society-Fly Like an Eagle	1,000.00
Grant #265-A Terrapin Release CHESPAX/CCPS	853.59
Grant #265-B Oyster Reef Ball ROV field trip CHESPAX/CCPS.....	1,076.41

Total Grants Awarded\$22,792.57

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS\$24,036.57

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 31, 2025\$29,513.62

CALVERT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR YOUTH

Account Information and Donations Received

Edward Jones Investment Account Value December 31, 2024.....	\$571,120.88
Edward Jones Investment Account Value December 31, 2025.....	\$612,560.01

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

INTEREST ALLOCATION:

2025 Interest Earned	\$30,004.79
90% to Grants	\$27,004.00
5% to Operating Expenses	\$1,500.00
5% to Principal.....	\$1,500.79

GRANT FUNDS:

Grant Funds available after 2025 grants awarded.....	\$0.00
2025 year-end interest earned (90%)	<u>27,004.00</u>
Total 2026 Grant Funds Available	\$27,004.00

OPERATING FUNDS

Operating Funds available after 2025 expenses.....	\$1,009.62
2025 interest earned (5%)	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 2026 Operating Funds Available.....	\$2,509.62

ESTIMATED OPERATING EXPENSES

Tax preparation	\$1,100.00
Annual post office box fee.....	<u>260.00</u>
Total 2026 Estimated Expenses	\$1,360.00

Summary of Awards by Year

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	13	62,292
Boy Scouts	12	9,010
Girl Scouts	2	1,015
Calvert County Public Schools	97	66,243
Calverton School	2	1,200
CHESPAX (Calvert County Public Schools)	25	31,370
Calvert County Forestry Board	2	470
Calvert Marine Museum	4	3,654
Calvert Farm Bureau	4	5,950
Calvert Future Farmers of America	4	2650
Cooperative Extension Services	13	10,580
Envirothon	29	147,906
Combined Groups (Student Ambassador) (Agricultural Educational Center) (Ann's Circle, Inc.) (Tidewater School) (Calvert County Historical Society) (Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park) (Calvert Nature Society)	35	52,532

Thank you, CETY!

We are grateful for the support of CETY in helping our students complete successful projects!
- CTA, CASE Program

We're very thankful for the funding and it makes a big positive contribution toward what we can do for our community.
- Calvert Marine Museum

Thank you for the continued support in making this program a success.
- CHESPAX, Envirothon

