

THE PEEPER

Calvert Nature Society

www.calvrtparks.org August 2015



Photo courtesy of Shannon Steele.

Monarchs Rule

*by Shannon Steele,
Park Naturalist*

After last year's lowest-ever count of 34 million monarch butterflies, it is nice to report that this year there were an estimated 56.5 million in their wintering grounds. Although there is a glimmer of hope this year, monarchs still need help.

More than 90% of the monarch population has disappeared over the last two decades. It is increasingly difficult for their numbers to recover from extreme weather events, illegal logging in their wintering grounds, and declining milkweed populations. A winter storm in 2002, for example, killed roughly 500 million monarchs; which is more monarchs than are alive today!

Currently, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is conducting a review of the monarch's status to determine whether or not

they should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Among the many challenges that monarchs face is a lack of milkweed, the only food source for their caterpillars. Increased agriculture (especially in the Corn Belt), development, and use of herbicides have drastically diminished the amount of milkweed across the country. In many places in the Central Plains, agricultural fields stretch to the horizon, while small patches of beautiful prairie wildflowers struggle to grow in the margins between the fields and the interstate highways.

(Continued on page 9)

LAND:

They're not making any more of it

Calvert County's current Comprehensive Plan has a goal to preserve the county's "Environment, Heritage and Rural Character; to create a sense of place, reflect the character, history and natural environment of the community."

The County has already preserved close to 29,000 acres, using land preservation programs such as Program Open Space and Rural Legacy as primary tools. The current Comprehensive Plan has a goal of preserving 40,000 acres, which the Society supports. However, the tight economy and budget compromises have caused concern about the future of land preservation in the county.

Calvert Nature Society recently submitted comments expressing our dedication to the preservation of the county's natural heritage and our concern about the "low or no" level funding for land protection in the county's FY 2016 budget. In addition to sparse funding in Calvert, this budget will affect the county's ability to leverage funding in state land protection. For example, the adopted budget contains \$2.6 million for the Leveraging and Retirement (LAR) Fund, but amount only covers existing contracts with property owners in the TDR (Transferable Development Rights) program. No funding is provided in FY2016 for enrollment of additional properties.

The County "maintain(s) the rural character through effective growth management with a proactive and consistent planning approach" according to the Comprehensive Plan. It takes vision and long-term commitment to successfully hold off development pressures on our fields and forests.

The Society desires to preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources in the county. We hope our members will be an active voice in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan process, so that land preservation goals can be met and the character of the county can be maintained.

— Anne Sundermann, Executive Director

Park Update

If you are a frequent visitor to Flag Ponds Nature Park, you may have noticed that the beach is larger and new ponds are forming on the beach. A portion of Flag Ponds beach is in the Coastal Barrier Resource System; late last year the boundaries were expanded due to this increase. This accretion of sand is unusual for the Chesapeake Bay—almost every other area is losing their beach.

In fact, if you were to walk along the Flag Ponds shoreline to the north, you would end up at a portion of the park's shore that is eroding quickly; approximately 6 feet of shoreline is being lost each year.

Shoreline erosion is attributed to several causes, including natural wave action and development, specifically man-made structures such as bulk heads, jetties and other hard structures. This loss of beach habitat means that the upstream and downstream beaches are no longer able to share and trade sands with each other.

A third cause is sea level rise. In the Chesapeake Bay region, researchers have found that the sea level is rising between 3-4 mm per year (or 7 to 23 inches by the year 2099). Higher water levels will cover existing beaches and change the wave dynamics, resulting in the loss of shoreline habitat.

Over the next few years, the Division will participate in projects to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise.

We are investigating building a living shoreline on the northern shores of Flag Ponds Nature Park. Living shorelines combine marsh plantings and sand replenishment with the traditional breakwaters. These "soft" alternatives to bulkheads and jetties trap sediment, filter pollution, and provide important habitat for fish, crabs, and other wildlife. In other locations, living shoreline projects have been shown to reduce shoreline erosion and habitat loss. Most living shorelines result in an increase in shoreline habitat. We will be meeting with the Board of County Commissioner to discuss how this project could be implemented and paid for.

So as you comb the beaches for fossils, consider the amazing dynamics of shoreline changes, and that these treasures are because of erosion of the cliffs and beaches. But remember as well that too much of a good thing can be bad for you.

— Karyn Molines, Division Chief

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. Calvert Nature Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

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Michael Rawlings, *Office Assistant II*
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FALL 2015 PROGRAMS



Calvert County Natural Resources Division Calvert Nature Society

Program Registration: www.calvertparks.org

Online registration is preferred. Many programs fill quickly; by registering online you will know immediately if you are registered for a program.

For mail in or walk in registration, a registration form must be completed.

You can find the forms on the web site or at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

Call 410-535-5327 or email CypressSwamp@co.cal.md.us for additional information.

NATURE PARK INFORMATION

Mailing Address

Calvert County Natural Resources
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary

2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Office & Reservations: 410-535-5327
Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Memorial Day–Labor Day
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00–6:00 p.m.
Labor Day–Memorial Day
Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00–4:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

1525 Flag Ponds Parkway
Lusby, MD 20657
Park Office: 410-586-1477
Reservations: 410-535-5327
Hours: Memorial Day–Labor Day
Weekdays, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Weekends, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Labor Day–Memorial Day
Weekends, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Mon. & Fri., 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Hughes Tree Farm

1320 Clay Hammond Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Hours: Dawn to dusk

Kings Landing Park

3255 Kings Landing Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639
Park Office: 410-535-2661
Reservations: 410-535-5327
Hours: Memorial Day–Labor Day
Daily, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Labor Day–Memorial Day,
Daily, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

2695 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Information: 410-535-5327
Hours: Dawn to dusk

SUPPORT CALVERT'S NATURE PARKS...

JOIN CALVERT NATURE SOCIETY

The name has changed, but our high-quality nature programs and beautiful parks remain the same. Calvert Nature Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit "friends" organization that supports the quality environmental education programs offered by Calvert County Natural Resources Division. **Join or renew today online at www.calvertparks.org.**

CALVERT NATURE SOCIETY MEMBER BENEFITS:

Most of the programs listed in this program are free to members. Members receive discounted rates on summer nature camps and special events. "Members Only" activities are scheduled throughout the year. In addition members receive the quarterly newsletter and program schedules in advance of the general public.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Families can experience the fascinating natural world found in our area. These programs incorporate activities to entertain learners of all ages. Most programs spend time outdoors: dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Reservations required. Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fee per program: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

Insects Abound!

3-5 years

Wednesday, September 2

Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

We will take a close look at some bugs – big and small, creepy and crawly – and see where they live and what they eat. We'll also spend some time outside doing a bug search – so come dressed for a walk!

Calvert County's Favorite Falcon

All ages

Saturday, September 5, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

The American Kestrel is a native falcon whose numbers are in decline in our area. We will discuss the life history of these beautiful birds and how we are trying to bring back their numbers. This program is free.

Shells on the Shore

3-5 years

Thursday, September 17

Session A: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Session B: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

The beaches are covered in amazing shells. We will collect shells and talk about the animals that live in them. Afterward we will make a fun craft with the shells we find.

Monarch Tagging

6-9 years

Saturday, September 19, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp & Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Help conserve monarch butterflies by gently catching and tagging them. As you help the naturalist collect data, you and your children will learn how you can participate in this citizen science project at home. Meet at Cypress Swamp.

Monarch Migration

18 months-5 years

Monday, September 21

Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

After some butterfly-themed activities and a puppet show, head out to the meadow to look for migrating monarchs and other butterflies.

Homeschool First Fridays

4-12 years old

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

This series of environmental education programs is developed especially for homeschool families.

Parents with younger children (ages 4-6) will stay with the group; parents of older children have the option of staying or not. Parents who stay with the program are expected to participate as mentors and teachers. Staff will provide guidance on how to assist.

Siblings younger than 3 are welcome, but must be under the care of a parent/guardian at all times and should not distract the program participants. Older and younger students will be grouped by age to allow for age-appropriate topic exploration (parents will stay with the younger group).

Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family per program



Homeschool First Friday

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Insects: Friday September 4, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Fish: Friday, October 2, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Birds: Friday, November 6, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Mammals: Friday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

These classes are a great way to get hands-on science and nature lessons, receive help on projects and research and network with other homeschooling families. Each two-hour program will consist of indoor and outdoor hands-on learning. Depending on the topic, students may observe live animals, collect aquatic creatures, take measurements of water quality, or play games. This fall's homeschool series focuses on animal classification. Each month will focus on a different animal group.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES (cont'd from page 4)

Reservations required. Adult participation required unless noted. Children must be the age indicated for each program.

Fee per program: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8 per family.

School's Out Adventure

*For children in grades 3-5, adults not required
Wednesday, September 23,
9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park*
Don't stay home on this day off from school – join new friends and old for this fun adventure. We will spend the day exploring this new park - hiking thru the woods, walking in the creek, and playing games. Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$12 per family.

Full descriptions of the all programs are available at www.calvertparks.org.

Owl Eyes, Raccoon Paws

*For families with children 6 years and older,
adult participation required
Friday, October 2, 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

Down by the Bay

*3-5 years old
Tuesday, October 6
Session A: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Session B: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Fall Fish BioBlitz

*6-9 years old
Saturday, October 10, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*

Nature Playspace Building

*6-9 years old
Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

Animal Moves

*3-5 years old
Thursday, October 22
Session A: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Session B: 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*

“O” is for Owls

*18 months - 5 years old
Friday, October 30
Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

The Great Fall Find

*3-5 years old
Thursday, November 5
Session A: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Session B: 2:00-3:00p.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

Gaggle of Geese

*3-5 years old
Wednesday, November 18
Session A: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Session B: 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*

Nature Sleuths

*6-9 years old
Saturday, November 21,
2:00-3:30 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

“T” is for “Turkey”

*18 months – 5 years old
Monday, November 23
Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Session B: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

Sleepy Trees

*3-5 years old
Session A: Wednesday,
December 2, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Session B: Wednesday,
December 2, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Flag Ponds Nature Park*

The Christmas Possum

*18 months—5 years old
Tuesday, December 8,
Session A: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Session B: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*

Tree Cookie Ornaments

*6-9 years old
Saturday, Dec 12, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Reservations required. Unless otherwise noted: Free for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$8.

Dog Hike

*All ages
Saturday, November 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm*
Bring your four legged friend out for a hike as we explore the beautiful rolling hills of Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm. Be sure to bring a leash and plastic bags to clean up after your pet. Free.

Fall Nature Hike

*All ages
Sunday, November 15, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park*
We will explore Ward Farm Park and see what exciting things we find. Be sure to bring your camera and some binoculars.

Geminid Meteor Shower

*10 years and older
Saturday, December 12, 8:30-10:30 p.m.
Kings Landing Park*
Then come to Kings Landing Park to watch one of the best meteor showers of the year. Includes a campfire.

PROGRAMS FOR 10–16 YEAR OLDS (Including Junior Rangers Series)

These programs encourage developing minds to appreciate and protect the nature around them. Programs identified by the Junior Rangers Series logo are designed to create a group of young men and women with a strong, long-term commitment to preserving and protecting the landscapes, waterways, and natural resources of Calvert County. Adult participation is not required for these programs. Fee per program, unless noted: Free for members, \$8 per person for nonmembers.

How Do I Get There From Here?

12-16 years old

Saturday September 12, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

King Landing Park

Which way is west from here? North is the side of the tree with the moss, right? Have you always wanted to learn how to use a compass, but never had the time to figure it out? Now's your chance! We'll go over some ways of finding your way without a compass, compass basics, then put our newly-learned skills to the test on an orienteering course around the park.



Capture That Critter

10-13 years

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

The Maryland Biodiversity Project needs help documenting all the plants and animals of Maryland. Teens will have fun exploring the park as they capture as many animals on camera as possible. They can bring their own camera or help catch animals for the naturalist to photograph. Wear clothes that can get wet/dirty and bring a bag lunch, water, backpack and camera (optional).



Archery

10-14 years

Wednesday, September 23, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Come to Kings Landing Park to practice your archery skills! Never shot a bow and arrow? No problem, we'll have a short lesson for beginners before we start. Bring a refillable water bottle.



Life on the Edge Teen Overnight

12-16 years

Friday, October 16, 7:00 a.m. –

Saturday, October 17 at 5:00 p.m.

Meet at Kings Landing Park for transport to Assateague Island National Seashore

Assateague Island is poised between the land and the sea - reformed each day by ocean, wind, and waves. Kayak the coastal bay, camp in the sand dunes, cook dinner over a fire, and explore the beach at night. Fee includes: Friday snacks and dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, tents, and



park fees. Must attend pre-trip meeting Thursday, October 1, 6:30p.m. to go on trip. Fee per person: \$40 for Society members. Nonmembers pay \$60.

Field Day

10-14 years

Monday, October 19, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

School's out, so let's spend the day immersed in nature while playing games! Participate in field day events such as an egg drop, a pac-man themed maze run, archery, and more. Bring a refillable water bottle and a bagged lunch.

Nature Play Space Project Day

12-16 years

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

A safe place to play outdoors is important for people of all ages. This will be a day for teens to give back as well as have fun outdoors and meet new people by helping create elements for our Nature Play Space. We will do things create a digging pit, build a fort, or gather loose parts which may be used by park visitors big and small.



Service Day at Kings Landing Park

10-14 years

Wednesday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Trying to earn service hours for school? Come to Kings Landing Park to assist the rangers with some much needed projects! We will be picking up litter, clearing trails, repairing damage, and many more worthwhile activities. You will leave with a letter thanking you for 4 hours of service! Bring working gloves, a bagged lunch and a refillable water bottle.



Raptors Behind the Scenes

12-16 years

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Come find out what it takes to work with captive hawks and owls. Help take care of the daily maintenance of these birds and spend some time working hands-on with them.



KAYAK TRIPS

9 years to adult, unless otherwise noted. Participants must be at least 9 years of age to accompany an adult in a double kayak, and at least 12 years old to ride in a single kayak. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Program fee per person, unless noted:

\$15 for members; \$30 for nonmembers.

Bring your own kayak and take \$10 off your fee.

River of Life Kayak Trip

Saturday, August 15, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

We'll head out on the Patuxent in kayaks, making stops to get wet and use nets to catch and observe some of these river animals like crabs and fish. Includes instruction on kayaking basics and safety.

Full Moon Kayak Trip

Saturday, August 29, 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Explore the fascinating natural world under the light of the full moon at Kings Landing Park by kayak. Participants may bring their own kayaks and paddle at a discounted rate. Kayaking experience required.

Night Time Stand Up Paddle

Adults only

Saturday, September 5, 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Explore the bay off Flag Ponds Nature Park with lighted stand up paddle (SUP) boards. Participants must have experience SUP boarding. Try SUP boarding at Patuxent Adventure Center in Solomons or SUP2U Rentals at Kings Landing Park. Program fee per person: \$75 for Society members. Nonmembers, \$85 per person.

Life Down Under Kayak Trip

Saturday, September 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Early fall is a great time to be paddling on the river - but what lives under the surface? We will paddle to different locations and see what we can find using a variety of nets.

Kayak Photography Trip

Adults only

Saturday, October 17, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

Capture the fall sites on the Patuxent River while traveling by kayak. We'll meet at the parking lot near the pool.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Take time to learn about and appreciate the natural resources found throughout the County. These programs combine hiking through the parks, while learning more about the plants, animals, and other natural wonders.

These programs are geared towards adults and older teens.

Fees, unless noted: Free for Society members.

Nonmembers pay \$8 per person.

Birding at Ward Farm Nature Park

All ages, under 16 with an adult.

Check website for upcoming dates

Join Master Naturalist Karen Anderson to explore the bird life of our new Ward Farm Nature Park in Dunkirk. Free.

Morning Hike

Ages 14 years-adult, under 18 with an adult

Sunday, August 30, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

Join us for an early morning hike around Flag Ponds, around 3 miles on uneven terrain. We will be sure to encounter lots of birds, so be sure to bring your binoculars.

Wildflower ID for Beginners

Saturday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Interested in knowing the names of the wonderful wildflowers you encounter in forest and field? Then take this class where you'll learn to "key-out" local plants using the popular Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. This will be a combination indoor/outdoor hands-on class. Please bring a hand lens, lunch, and water.

Please consider buying Newcomb's Wildflower Guide before the program and reading the beginning sections.



Winter Tree ID

Sunday, December 13, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Kings Landing Park

All trees do not look alike in winter! We'll learn the basics of plant identification using winter keys and field guides, then take a hike to use our knowledge (so make sure you bring outdoor weather clothes). This program is designed for those with little or no experience and will focus on twigs, buds, and bark. Optional: field guides, binoculars and a hand lens.

Calvert Stewards Volunteer Opportunities

Assisting at the parks is a rewarding way to raise awareness of the importance of our natural lands. Use your experience to help preserve our future in Calvert County by becoming one of our Calvert Stewards. Some projects are appropriate for families, and most qualify for the Junior Rangers programs. Programs are free, unless noted.

Monarch Tagging

Monday, September 21, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

*For teens and adults, under 16 years with an adult
Kings Landing Park*

Help conserve monarch butterflies by gently catching and tagging them. As you help the naturalist collect data at Kings Landing Park, you will learn how you can participate in this citizen science project at home or at our parks. Free.

Nature's Play Space

For 6-9 year olds with adult:

Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For 12-16 year olds:

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

We'll be transforming a small corner of Battle Creek Cypress Swamp into an amazing area designed to integrate natural components into a child's experience playing in nature. We will create a digging pit, build a fort, and gather loose parts that may be used by park visitors big and small. Bring your imagination!

Flag Ponds Work Days

Saturday, October 24, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Thanks to grants from Dominion Foundation, the Chaney Foundation and the Calvert Garden Club, we'll be building improved picnic and boardwalk facilities at Flag Ponds. Bring heavy work gloves, we'll provide the tools and supplies needed. Must be at least 10 years old; under 16 years with an adult.

ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Sunday, September 6, 5-7:30 pm

*Buffet dinner at the Nature Center,
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp*

Speaker: Sara Via, University of Maryland
will present information about how climate change
affects native insect and plant life.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Amphibian Monitors. In the fall, volunteers are needed each day to help monitor amphibian populations at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Volunteers, after a training with the naturalist and trained volunteers, will check our drift fence traps in the morning to identify count, and measure salamanders, frogs and toads captured in our bucket traps. Animals are then released. Volunteers should be willing to commit to 2-4 days per month between September and December.

We need volunteers for weekdays and weekends. Contact Tania Gale, galete@co.cal.md.us or 410-535-5327. Families can volunteer, but at least one adult must be responsible for data collection and animal safety.

Bird Nest Monitors. This fall and winter continues expansion of bird nest box monitoring and we need more boxes built! If you are handy with a hammer and screwdriver, you can help build bird boxes and put them up in the parks. We also need volunteers to visit the nests throughout winter to get them ready for the spring nesting.

Contact Andy Brown, brownaj@co.cal.md.us or 410-535-5327 to find out the dates for our next box building workshops. Families are welcome to participate.

CHESPAX Educators. Are you available for a few hours during the week to help teach children about animal diversity, terrapins or oyster populations? We use volunteers to help teach CHESPAX environmental education programs for Calvert County schools. New volunteers will be trained by staff and experienced volunteers. For adults; all volunteers must undergo a background check to work with school children. Contact Andy Brown, brownaj@co.cal.md.us or 410-535-5327 for the training and scheduling dates.

Events. Help out at our display table at the County Fair, Patuxent River Appreciation Day, and other outreach events. Volunteers generally work in 2-3 hour shifts. Contact Anne Sundermann at anne@calvertparks.org.



Preserving Calvert History

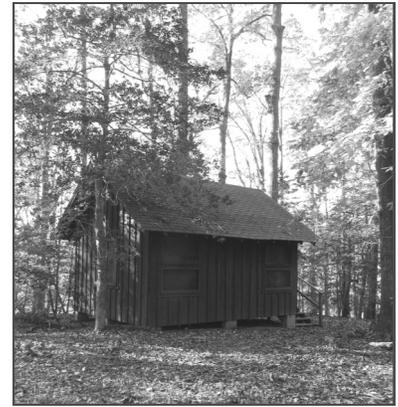
The African American Heritage Preservation Program has awarded the Society a \$73,000 grant to restore the cabins at Kings Landing Park. The park was home of Camp Mohawk, a summer camp for African-American youth run by Baltimore YMCA. The cabins will be rehabilitated for overnight camping, interpretive programs, and day use.

There are several projects underway to preserve the cultural resources at Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm on Grays Road in Prince Frederick. The Calvert Nature Society was recently awarded a Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant for The Money Crop Trail, which will restore and interpret the rolling road at the Heritage Farm.

The Division has applied for a grant to gather the oral histories of the African American farming community that will tie into the history of the George E. Rice house at the Farm.

A second project, initiated by Kirsti Uunila, the County's Historic Preservation Specialist, is an underwater archeological

The Kings Landing cabin project includes repair roofs and windows; paint exterior; and repair interior bunks. This is the second phase of a multi-phase project to bring the cabins into full use once again.



survey of Battle Creek including the shores of Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm where there are several prehistoric and colonial sites. The survey is part of a County-wide effort to map and document archeological sites that are threatened by sea level rise.

—Anne Sundermann

Monarchs Rule *(cont'd from page 1)*

Although there is a need to provide food for the growing population, it is disappointing that no land is set aside for native wildflowers and the creatures that depend on them, like monarchs.

Luckily, there are several organizations who are working to conserve monarchs: the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, MonarchWatch, and the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab, to name a few.

How You Can Help Monarchs

Set aside part of your yard or farm as a monarch waystation. By planting milkweed and nectaring flowers, you will provide food for both larva and adults. Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is easy to find at local stores, tolerates our hot summers, and faithfully returns every year. If you have trouble finding a local milkweed source, the Xerces Society has a Milkweed Seed Finder at www.xerces.org/milkweed-seed-finder/.

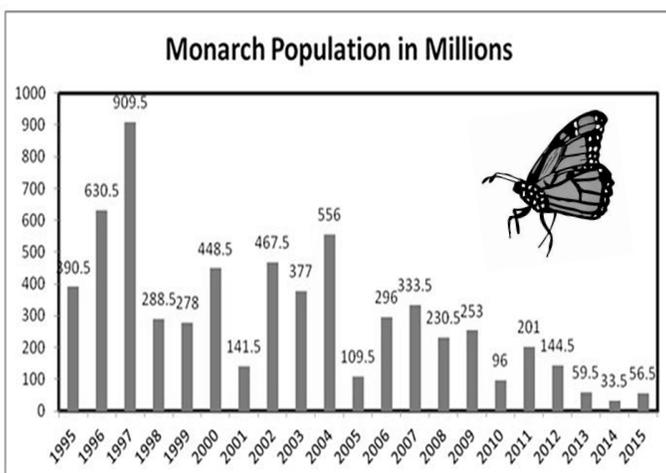
Avoid planting tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*); according to the Xerces Society, it may increase risk for disease and affects migration.

Limit or eliminate your pesticide use. It kills butterflies in addition to insect pests.

Attend one of the nature center's monarch programs this September. See www.calvertparks.org/calendar for event listings.

Participate in citizen science projects that help track monarch populations:

- *Monarch Butterfly, Journey North:* Smartphone app that enables you to report observations from your phone.
- *Monarch Watch:* Catch and tag monarchs to help scientists answer questions about their populations and migration (small fee for tags).
- *Monarch Larva Monitoring Project:* Count monarch eggs and caterpillars in your garden.



Monarch Population over the last 20 years. Graph by Center for Biological Diversity.

Timeless Treasures Sought for Fisherman's Shanty

Calvert Nature Society is accepting donations of period items for the restored shanty.

See a list of period objects at www.calvertparks.org/shanty



Shanty Interior. Photo courtesy of Bill Conway

Nature's ARTcade

More than 40 artists from across the region displayed their work in Nature's ARTcade, an art exhibition at Flag Ponds Nature Park in Lusby, Maryland. Calvert Nature Society, in support of the Calvert County Division of Natural Resources, organized the exhibition to showcase artwork inspired by the natural world of Southern Maryland.

Submissions came from across the region, from local artists and the DC-metro and Baltimore art communities.

Artists' awards were presented at the opening reception on Saturday, June 6. Prize monies for this juried exhibition were more than \$2,000.

- 1st: Alison Segithy, Alexandria, VA; for Baby Blue Sea Core \$1000
- 2nd, Tara Will, Hampstead, MD: Foxtail View \$500;
- 3rd, Julia Musengo, Broomes Island, MD: Two Seasons Chess Set: Summer Spirits vs. Winter Hunters, \$250
- Honorable mention, Cathy Leaycraft, Baltimore, MD: Fallen Tulip \$150
- Best of Calvert (sponsored by Arts Council of Calvert County), Tim Scheirer, Steel Eagle \$150
- People's Choice: Suzanne Shelden, Hunting Creek - 2013 and Larry Ringgold, Swoop split \$150

Carmen Lee Nance Gambrill, owner of Carmen's Gallery in Solomons, was the curator. Judges were Annapolis-area artist Colleen Sabo and local scientist and pottery artist Denise Breitburg.

As curator for Nature's ARTcade, Ms. Gambrill selected works in a variety of media that expressed the artists' unique interpretations of the beauty that surrounded them. "Each artist has his or her own way of expressing the beauty of the area."

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE ARTCADE POSSIBLE:

Host Committee:

Joy Bartholomew, Martha Grahame, Pat & John Hofmann, Padi & John Hollowell, John H. Jones & Dianne Nestor, and Robyn Truslow

Sponsors:

Calvert Arts Council, College of Southern Maryland; Bill Chambers & Cindy Morgan; Davis, Upton & Palumbo LLC; Dominion Cove Point; Patuxent River Appreciation Days, Inc.; Medart Galleries; SMECO

Special Thanks to Connie Sutton and Flag Ponds staff; Beth Beighley, Jessica Valadie, Suzanne Shelden; Julia Musengo; and volunteers Pamela Callen, Bill Conway, Fanny Cramer, and Candace Morell

Showcasing Student Artwork

Accompanying the juried exhibition was an exhibition by Calvert County art students, coordinated by Beth Beighley of Mutual Elementary School. The award ceremony for the students was held Sunday, June 7; prizes for the student exhibit were more than \$500. Awards were presented to:

◦ **High school:**

- 1st, Shane Colgan, Northern High School
- 2nd, Keri Budd, Northern High School
- 3rd, Keneesha Kramer, Huntingtown High School

◦ **Middle:**

- 1st, Lucy Paskoff, Homeschooler
- 2nd, Ezra Huckabee, Shield of Faith Covenant School
- 3rd, Alora Deller & Ariana Soffos, Southern Middle School

◦ **Elementary:**

- 1st, Sydnee Deans, Appeal Elementary School
- 2nd, Ian Inman, Appeal Elementary School
- 3rd, Sophia Ronan, Plum Point Elementary School

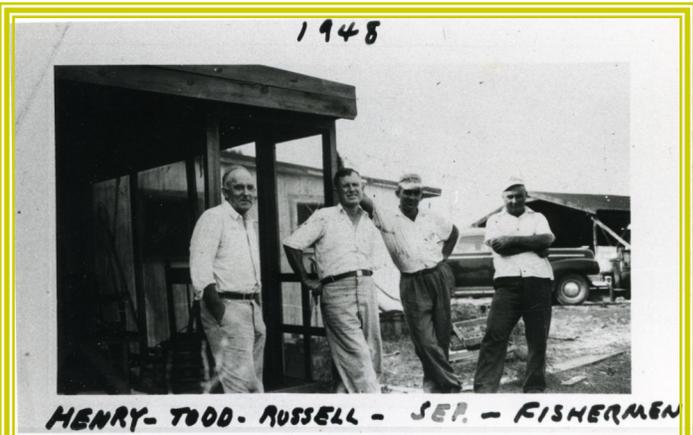
Restoring Our Heritage

The Fisherman's Shanty

Your financial support will help us rebuild and furnish the Shanty. Here are a few examples of what your gift will provide:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$ 1000 -- Kitchen/Cooking | \$ 250 -- Storage Bins & Tins |
| \$ 750 -- Heating | \$ 200 -- Tools |
| \$ 500 -- Furniture | \$ 100 -- Personal Items |
| \$ 400 -- Fishing/Net Tarring | \$ 50 -- Outdoor Items |
| \$ 300 -- Bedding | \$ 25 -- Reprint Old Photos |

Vandalized in 2012, the shanty is being rebuilt.



The shanty was a gathering place, circa 1948 to the present. Top photo, courtesy of Calvert Marine Museum.



Our Appeal Goal: \$32,000. *We have already raised close to \$27,000.*

Please help us close the \$5,000 gap so that the Shanty can be restored and furnished.

Our Ultimate Goal: That park visitors may once again see the restored Shanty and experience how the watermen lived.

YES, I want to help rebuild & refurnish the Fisherman's Shanty.

My donation to the Shanty Fund is \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

THANK YOU!

Clip this page and mail to

Calvert Nature Society
 PO Box 122
 Port Republic, MD 20676

Or go online to

www.calvertparks.org/shantydonate.

Calvert Nature Society is a 501(c)3 organization.



**PO Box 122
Port Republic, MD 20676**

*Help us furnish the Fisherman's Shanty
See how you can help on Page 11.*

A regional art exhibit inspired by the natural world of Southern Maryland—June 2015

Nature's ARTcade



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Read
more
about
Nature's
ARTcade
on
page 10.
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