

FrogWatch USA Surveys Project

2023 Annual Report

PROJECT LEADER: Kimberly Curren Kimberly.Curren@calvertcountymd.gov

PROJECT GOALS: To collect data related to frog and toad presence in Southern Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington DC areas in participation with national FrogWatch USA project:
<https://frogwatch.fieldscope.org/>

SKILLS NEEDED

- Capable of reading and following detailed instructions
- Proficient at keeping detailed records
- Ability to collect information related to weather conditions such as temperature, wind, and precipitation within 48 hours of surveys
- Ability to input data into a web-based portal
- Comfortable working outdoors independently from program coordinator
- Ability to sit still and quietly for up to 10 minutes at a time

OPTIONAL BUT PREFERRED SKILLS

- Experience with wildlife data collection is a plus.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Volunteers must follow strict data collection protocols when collecting survey data
- After successfully completing an official FrogWatch training, volunteers must submit their first 4 data sheets to the program coordinator to assure data collection accuracy

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

- Volunteers will select wetland a site that has frogs or toads present
- Before monitoring session begins, collect and record weather-related data
- Volunteers spend 2 minutes in silence acclimating wildlife to their presence
- Volunteers begin monitoring by listening and recording what they hear for 3 minutes
- Submit observations to FieldScope web portal under Southern MD chapter

VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

- Trainings take place in February and March
- Volunteers begin by signing up for their FrogWatch training on the Calvert Steward website
- Volunteers will be required to complete training before they can collect and submit FrogWatch data
- Training includes a written assessment and frog call ID test, participants must score 80% on both in order to qualify as certified monitors
- Volunteers who do not score 80% on their assessment may still collect data but will be coded differently in the Field Scope database as a non-trusted data point
- Volunteers can then log their survey collection time in Calvert Steward Galaxy Digital volunteer portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>.

PROJECT DATES

- Frog call surveys are year-round once volunteers are trained to collect data they do not have to re-take the training
- Frog call “season” begins in March or April in Southern Maryland, volunteers may start collecting data as soon as they have completed training

SUMMARY OF 2023 ACTIVITIES

- Matt Neff from Calvert Marine Museum held two in-person trainings, Kim Curren held one in-person and one virtual training via zoom
- Volunteers submitted a total of 689 individual observations to the FieldScope database

2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS:

- 84.5 hours total frog call survey time
- 45 hours total training time

2023 VOLUNTEERS:

The following volunteers attended an official FrogWatch training in 2023 and submitted observation surveys:

- Mary Hollinger
- Melissa Biddlecomb
- Stacey Remick-Simkins
- Maggie Silverman
- Matthew Neff

The following volunteers attended an official FrogWatch training in 2023 but did not submit survey data:

- Paige Stevens
- Eva Blockstein
- Emily Hansroth
- Jerry Wood
- Gail Melson
- Constance Chubb
- Amanda DuPrey
- Peggy Williams
- Kris Wood
- Lydia Wells
- Sue Hamilton
- Sandra Roszel

FUTURE PLANS:

- 2024 trainings will be held earlier in the year, preferably to be completed by the end of February so we do not miss the beginning of the season
- 2024 trainings will be shortened from 3 hours to 1.5 hours and the assessment will be modified to only include relevant information for the project
- We will be including an option for volunteers to collect data at Gatewood Preserve in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate volunteers who do not have a site to collect data

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
c/o Natural Resources Division
2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
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Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

