

Calvert Stewards Volunteer 2020 Report

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Volunteer Program Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Calvert Stewards volunteer program in 2020. Beginning in early March, all volunteer programs had to be adapted to comply with the social distancing protocols required by state and local governments. As shown in the accompanying table, some programs were severely impacted while others were able to adjust and proceed almost normally with the new protocols in place. Despite these challenges, total volunteer hours increased from 2,848 in 2019 to 3,662 in 2020.

The two most popular volunteer programs from 2019, education and animal care, suffered the most under the COVID restrictions due to the suspension of in-person learning in local schools and the closure of the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center. Large increases were seen in programs that allowed volunteers to work as individuals or family groups including park maintenance and the various research projects. In some cases, for example the Saw-whet Owl Project and Monarch Watch, program managers were able to allow volunteers to work together with social distancing and mask requirements in place.

In 2020, 84 Calvert Stewards contributed 3662 hours with a monetary value of \$108,066. Our top volunteer for 2020 is Jason Avery who contributed 509 hours with a value of \$15,021! Mary Hollinger was a close second with 503 volunteer hours.



Jason Avery in the field capturing odonates like those shown at right



Falcon being rescued by Mary Hollinger

Data

Program	2020 hours	2019 hours
Animal Care	29.5	490.0
Appreciation Events	0	1.0
Barn Owls of the Patuxent River	199.1	241.5
Bat Surveys	2.8	0
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Maintenance	0	0
Bluebird Project	806.2	135.0
Calvert Nature Society Support	14.5	15.5
Dragonflies & Damselflies of Calvert	355.5	80.0
Education	15.3	711.6
Flag Ponds Park Maintenance	432.3	0
iNaturalist Projects	36.0	0
Kayak Leaders	0	17.5
Kestrel Partnership	0	11.0
Kings Landing Park Maintenance	4.0	0
M.A.P.S	147.5	0
Monarch Watch	86.8	146.5
Motus Project	0	0.0
Office Support	0	60.0
Other Research Projects	82.0	74.0
Outreach Events	0	11.0
Park Maintenance	388.3	106.0
Plant Populations	20.0	36.0
Prothonotary Warblers	121.0	151.5
Saw-Whet Owl: Project OwlNet	545.5	323.4
Service Projects for Groups (does not include Scout projects)	0	92.0
Wanna Bees	6.0	0
Wildlife Rescue	243.2	144.3
Winter Raptor Research	127.0	0
		0
Total	3662.1	2847.8

2020 Volunteer Hall of Fame

Over 500 hours

Jason Avery
Mary Hollinger

Over 250 hours

Andrew Miller

Over 100 hours

Karen Anderson
Brian Richards
Teresa Richards
Joanne Simmons
Craig Simmons

Over 50 hours

Mary Bell
Mike Carpenter
Eaton Ekarintaragun
Sandy Foley
Jo Lutmerding
Lori Sampson
Rick Smith

Future Endeavors

In 2021, staff will continue working to modify volunteer opportunities to comply with the COVID restrictions. Since a large, in-person gathering is not possible, alternative ways to recognize and show appreciation to our volunteers will be planned.

The Motus project is under development. Project manager Gene Groshon expects to offer more opportunities to volunteer with the program in the coming year.

More training sessions will be held for volunteers. Some trainings will focus on newly recruited volunteers, while others will target the active volunteers in specific programs.

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
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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

