

Calvert Stewards Volunteer 2021 Report

Volunteer Coordinators: Paige Stevens & Julianna Parreco

volunteer@calvertparks.org

Phone: 410-535-5327

<https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Our Mission

The Calvert Stewards volunteer program provides an opportunity for public service in education, research, and stewardship which support the overall missions of the Calvert County Division of Natural Resources and the Calvert Nature Society. This benefits the participants, the parks and the community as Calvert Stewards use and develop their skills to form an environmentally aware community and become the environmental stewards of Calvert County.

We also encourage youth and families to volunteer for projects to create a pipeline of engaged citizens that will continue their involvement in the parks into adulthood.

Volunteer Program Summary

Although still impacted by covid restrictions, our volunteers continued to participate in more volunteer opportunities than ever. Overall, 105 volunteers contributed 4,742 hours in 2021 compared to 3,662 in 2020. The dollar value of our volunteers is equivalent to \$142,037, based on the hourly rate of \$29.95 calculated by the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute and Independent Sector, a national coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs.

Our most popular programs were the bluebird nest box monitoring project, Flag Ponds maintenance, and wildlife rescue, all of which have almost doubled in hours for 2021 compared to 2020.

- 🗑️ Flag Ponds 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.



☞ While on break from college, 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.



☞ A Purple Martin House provided by JoAnna Lutmerding (left hand photo) was installed at Gatewood Preserve. It is installed so the railings and decking can be replaced without the box being removed.

☞ Injured Bald Eagle Rescue by Mary Hollinger

☞ Karen Ritchie inspects milkweed for monarch activity and other invertebrates.

☞ Park Ranger Jenny Yoder and volunteers with bags of removed stilt grass and flats of native plants



Other Projects of Note

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.

Eaton Karintarigun constructed Phoebe and Barn Swallow nest shelves

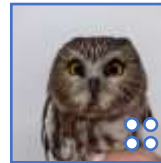
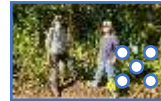
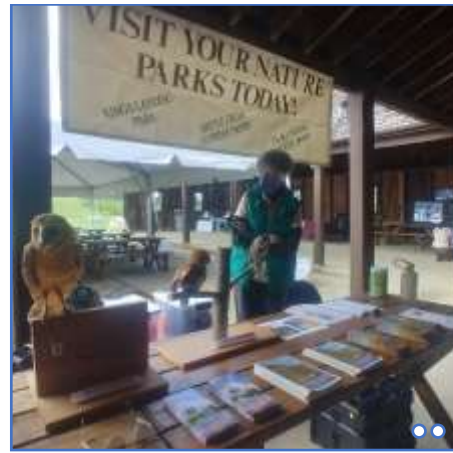
The Maryland Conservation Corps crew based out of Merkle NRMA came to Flag Ponds Nature Park four separate days throughout the month to help dig the new trail. Their help was invaluable and allowed us to make a considerable amount of progress on this project.



○ Amy Werking (right) installed interpretive signs at Gatewood Preserve and Battle Creek Cypress Swamp as part of her Master Naturalist requirements

○ Mary Ellen Boyton at the Birding Festival Outreach Event

○ Jason Avery during the Dragonfly Mercury Study



○ Northern Saw-whet Owl captured during the banding project

○ Nature Center Garden Volunteers

Future Endeavors

For 2022, we hope to be able to provide more opportunities for our volunteers as COVID-19 becomes less of a threat. We hope to provide more ways to get involved in our education and teaching opportunities as our field trips become in-person. We plan to hold at least one volunteer appreciation event and training day for new volunteers each season.

Summary of Volunteer Programs

Program	2021 hours	2020 hours
Animal Care	89.5	29.5
Appreciation Events	5.0	0
Barn Owls of the Patuxent River	334.17	199.1
Bat Surveys	1	2.8
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Maintenance	29	0
Bluebird Project	907	806.2
Calvert Nature Society Support	6	14.5
Dragonflies & Damselflies of Calvert	443.93	355.5
Education	182.25	15.3
Flag Ponds Park Maintenance	887.5	432.3
iNaturalist Projects	49.75	36.0
Kayak Leaders	7.5	0
Kings Landing Park Maintenance	44.5	4.0
M.A.P.S	129	147.5
Monarch Watch	48.27	86.8
Other Research Projects	265.37	82.0
Outreach Events	15.0	0
Park Maintenance	154	388.3
Plant Populations	34.5	20.0
Prothonotary Warblers	74.5	121.0
Saw-Whet Owl: Project Owl-net	120.5	545.5
Wanna Bees	0	6.0
Wildlife Rescue	674.25	243.2
Winter Raptor Research	101.25	127.0
Other/Misc.	136.75	0
Total	4742.49	3662.1

2021 Volunteer Hall of Fame

Over 500 hours

Mary Hollinger

Andrew Miller

Over 250 hours

Jason Avery

Over 100 hours

Eaton Ekarintaragun

Karen Anderson

Janet Barnes

Jennifer Horsmon

Maggie Silverman

Craig Simmons

Joanne Simmons

Over 50 hours

Mary Bell

Melissa Boyle Acuti

William Bury

Janet Canon

Mike Carpenter

Sandy Foley

Angela Mitchell

Karen Moreland

Lori Sampson

Rick Smith

Lauren Tjiputra

Michael Warner

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

2021 Annual Report

Date of Issue March 2022

CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
c/o Natural Resources Division
2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
(410) 535-5327

Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

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

