

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

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Greetings Calvert Stewards!

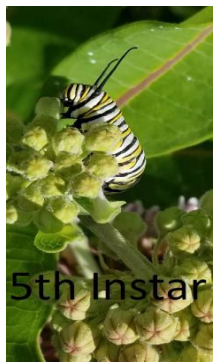
The Natural Resources staff hopes you all remain well and are finding ways to enjoy the beautiful spring weather! This newsletter highlights community science volunteer opportunities that may pique your interest. We look forward to seeing and working with you in the coming months.

If you've ever watched a Monarch butterfly flit past, you might find it hard to believe that these fragile creatures migrate hundreds of miles. Many scientists scoffed at the possibility until Paul and Norah Urquhart of Canada found a clever way to track the butterflies using small adhesive tags attached to their wings. In one of the earliest and most well-known examples of community science, Paul and Norah put out a call for volunteers to catch and tag Monarchs throughout their range. Starting with only 12 people in 1952, there are now thousands of volunteers, including several Calvert Stewards, whose work allows scientists to see patterns, learn routes, and track the paths of these incredible butterfly journeys.

This is the advantage and wonder of community science. With the cooperation and collaboration of trained community volunteers, scientists gain access to volumes of data they could never collect on their own. Our Calvert Stewards volunteer program provides several opportunities, including Monarch monitoring, for you to become a contributor to the body of knowledge that provides insight into the inner workings of the ecosystems in which we live. An added bonus is that individuals and families can take advantage of these opportunities by working independently until COVID restrictions are lifted.

Click on the titles to get more information about these community science opportunities available to all Calvert Stewards.

[Monarch Larva Monitoring Project 2021](#)



Volunteers throughout the United States and Canada contribute data to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP). Weekly from mid-May through early September, Calvert Stewards volunteers count monarch caterpillars in the Battle Creek Cypress swamp meadow. As part of the citizen science MLMP, your contributions will aid in conserving monarchs and their threatened migratory phenomenon, and advance our

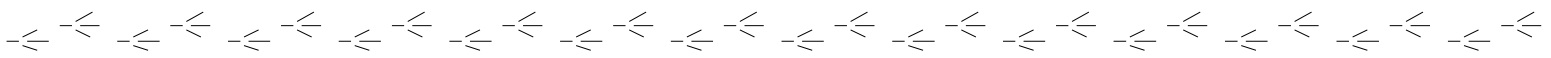
understanding of butterfly ecology in general. For more on the MLMP check out

<https://monarchjointventure.org/mlmp>



For questions about various Calvert Stewards Programs and Opportunities

Email: volunteer@calvertparks.org Call: 410-535-5327



City Nature Challenge 2021



Join us in this friendly global effort to safely explore biodiversity from April 30 to May 3, 2021! Please join the project and spread the word to your friends and neighbors. The City Nature Challenge has two parts: 1) During the weekend of April 30-May 3, individuals and groups will be on the hunt for animals, plants, mushrooms, and other life forms.

These observations will be documented on iNaturalist and counted towards our region's tally. As a participant, it is up to you how much or how little you take part! 2) Beginning April 30th, help identify the observations.

Calvert County Biodiversity

This opportunity is similar to the City Nature Challenge, but focuses on Calvert County and can be done anytime. Help us document the distribution and abundance of plants, animals, fungi and other species found throughout Calvert County by using [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org) to photograph and map your observations in a few easy steps.



You can also help verify other people's observations to improve our data quality, come to a scheduled iNaturalist survey, or even hold your own event. Spread the word, we need volunteers in every area of the county!

Bird Counts and Surveys

Volunteers can contribute data to the Breeding Bird Atlas: A five-year survey of the breeding birds of Maryland and Washington, DC. Birders are assigned very specific areas to search for all nesting species. Nesting behavior such as bringing material or food to a possible nest, or observing fledglings ready to fly, must be observed and recorded.



Dragonfly Surveys

Volunteers photograph and identify the dragonflies and damselflies found throughout Calvert County. Focus is on the county nature parks, but any Calvert County record is valuable.



Observations should also be submitted through iNaturalist, which will be included in the [Dragonflies and Damselflies of Calvert County](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/dragonflies-and-damselflies-of-calvert-county) iNaturalist project (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/dragonflies-and-damselflies-of-calvert-county>)

Bat Survey Data Collection

Using hand held Echo Meters and cell phones, volunteers document the presence of bats throughout Calvert County. The various aspects of data collecting include:

- Using your smart device and the Echo Meter Touch to record bats
- Sorting through recordings to identify species
- Uploading records into iNaturalist or to Maryland Biodiversity projects



Horseshoe Crab Survey



Help us document the distribution and abundance of horseshoe crabs during their annual mating season along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County and beyond!

Use [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org) to photograph and map your observations in a few easy steps. You can also help verify other people's observations to improve our data quality, come to a scheduled horseshoe crab survey, or even hold your own event. You can also explore on your own.

Spread the word—it's a big area! The area includes the entire Chesapeake Bay Shoreline in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. We are really interested in Calvert County sightings, but any observations along the Chesapeake are important.