

# CALVERT STEWARDS

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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

### Summer 2020 Newsletter

Greetings Calvert Stewards! The Natural Resources staff hopes this finds you all well. We hope you will enjoy this update on some volunteer activities that are still in full swing despite the current COVID-19 restrictions.

#### **iNaturalist Projects**

This program serves as an umbrella for projects that are submitted through the iNaturalist app. These projects provide perfect opportunities for individuals and families to earn volunteer hours while satisfying the current social distancing requirements.

#### **iNaturalist Training**

An hour-long, online workshop will be held **September 8 at 2:00**. You will discover the power of the iNaturalist application through a combination of presentation, demonstration, and discussion during this Zoom experience. Whether you are a current iNaturalist user or are brand new to the technology, please join us for this fun interactive learning opportunity. To learn more or to sign up to attend the training, visit the [iNaturalist Training Opportunity](#). Zoom details will be sent to all who respond.

#### **Parks for Pollinators 2020**



This “bioblitz” is taking place throughout the month of September. A bioblitz is a collaborative race against the clock to discover as many species as possible within a set location during a defined time period. By participating in this self-directed activity, volunteers will help to document the distribution and abundance of pollinators and pollinator-friendly plants in Calvert County. Find out how to participate by checking out the [Parks for Pollinators Opportunity](#).

#### **Dragonflies & Damselflies of Calvert**

This is a self-directed opportunity available to all volunteers. Volunteers work independently surveying local bodies of water for species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). Volunteers submit photographs of their discoveries through iNaturalist and Odonata Central. Please visit the [Program page](#) to learn more.

Calvert Steward Jason Avery has recorded two state rare dragonflies in Calvert County: Laura’s Clubtail listed as a S2 (State Rare) and the Treetop Emerald listed as a S1 (Critically Imperiled/Highly State Rare).



Photos by Jason Avery.

#### **Wildlife Rescue**

The Battle Creek Nature Center receives many calls from members of the public who want to help rescue wildlife, but are unable to transport the animal. Volunteer transporters provide a vital, life-saving service to both the



Center and the community by facilitating the rescue/transport of wild animals. Visit the [Wildlife Rescue Program](#) to learn about becoming a volunteer transporter.

## Bluebird Monitoring

The Bluebird Nest Monitors have been working hard all summer collecting data on bluebird reproduction throughout Calvert County. Volunteers check their assigned boxes on a regular basis noting the presence of eggs and nestlings. This ongoing project allows us to compare and see trends in bluebird reproductive success year to year. This is an ideal volunteer activity for individuals and families. If you are interested in volunteering, please check out the [Bluebird Project Program](#)



## Monarch Project

Naturalist Shannon Steele and volunteers have been busy monitoring the populations of Monarch butterflies and their host plant, milkweed. Each week they meet in the meadow at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp where Shannon has established sample plots allowing volunteers to work together while meeting social distancing requirements. The data are submitted to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project that compiles information on Monarchs from sites across the United States. To learn more about this activity, please go to the [Monarch Watch](#) Program.

From Shannon: *We had a fantastic crew of 5 monarch volunteers surveying milkweed on August 18, but we only found 5 monarch caterpillars out of 168 plants. Although we all were disappointed at the extremely low numbers during what should be their peak, this made us realize how critical it is to collect this data every year. Our work will help experts put together the big picture of what's happening nationwide with the monarch population.*



## Park Maintenance

[Flag Ponds Native Plant Gardening, September 6 9-11 am](#)

Volunteers work with park staff to maintain our parks by monitoring trails, planting and maintaining gardens, managing recycling, and helping with special events. To find out about current opportunities, click on these links for [Flag Ponds](#), [Kings Landing](#), and [other parks](#).

## M.A.P.S. Project

MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship. This is a bird banding research project that focuses on studying populations of birds in their breeding habitats. This project is finished for 2020, but you can find out how to participate next year at the [MAPS Program](#)

From Naturalist Gene Groshon: *The 2020 MAPS season started off very well with a busy first day of 79 birds captured! Some of these birds were migrants that were passing through on the way to their breeding grounds. Some species of note from that day include Chestnut Sided Warbler, Canada Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Black and White Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and 20+ Common Yellowthroats. The rest of the season went really well with a lot of recaptures from previous years showing birds are continuing to use this site as a breeding ground.*



Scottie Clark has been volunteering with the MAPS program since 2015. His interest in birding and conservation have always been clear and he has started training to band birds. Here he is processing an Indigo Bunting we captured while JoAnna Lutmerding records and helps him through the process.

## Calvert Stewards Rock!

During the months of June and July, 32 Calvert Stewards volunteered **786 hours** of work with a value of **\$23,222!** Our STAR VOLUNTEER was **Jason Avery** who contributed 98 hours, followed by **Mary Hollinger** with 83 hours. Many thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who keep our programs running.

## Get Counted!

Not only should you respond to the 2020 Census, Remember To Record Your Volunteer Hours!