

# Calvert Stewards Community Service 2021 Report

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## Community Service & Scout Projects

Organized groups of volunteers, for example scout, church, or school groups, perform service projects in support of Calvert County Natural Resources. Although the pandemic restrictions resulted in fewer scout and community service projects, in 2021, we were able to support ten youth projects and numerous other community service projects. Calvert County Natural Resources staff oversee the projects, working with scouts, youth groups, and volunteers on a variety of projects.

Calvert Nature Society was awarded \$2000 from the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth (CETY) program to support service projects in 2021. The CETY grant supported Scout and Community Service Projects in addition to the Calvert Stewards Volunteer Program throughout the county nature parks. The CETY funds provide supplies and materials for construction projects, plants for habitat restoration and gardens, and tools such as shovels, rakes, and work gloves. Grant funds are match through contributions of the service groups as well as the Society and County budgets.

Scouts and youth and community groups assist the Calvert Bluebird Council in maintaining, enhancing, and expanding the bluebird nest box trails found throughout the county. For example, Joni Ramsay's girl scout troop and the Warner family built close to 2 dozen Bluebird nest boxes. The bluebird trail Gold Award project spearheaded by Girl Scouts Lorelei Osterhouse and Annaliese Haberreiter of Prince Frederick-based Girl Scout Troop 5796 and overseen by Calvert Steward Mary Hollinger was featured in the Calvert Recorder (Southern Maryland News). Within 2 days, the nests were occupied! (photos below)

[https://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/building-boxes-for-bluebirds/article\\_96a1c86c-60dd-5125-aa68-a3da82ee7d69.html](https://www.somdnews.com/recorder/community/features/building-boxes-for-bluebirds/article_96a1c86c-60dd-5125-aa68-a3da82ee7d69.html)



- 🗑️ Eoin Smylie constructed and installed two Bee Hotels at Kings Landing Park for his Eagle Scout Project. (photo below left)
- 🗑️ Junior Scouts Gabrielle and Brianna Dalzell and their Girl Scout Troop 1281 (below right). completed a shrub planting at Gatewood Preserve for their Gold Award (center two photos) and constructed and installed a turtle basking platform at the observation blind on Cocktown Creek at Kings Landing Park.



- 🗑️ Girl Scout Taylor Cherry moved a fire pit to a more suitable location at the Kings Landing Park Amphitheater and created an activity pamphlet based on the park. She also designed a patch to be given out to individuals who successfully completed the pamphlet. (photo left)
- 🗑️ Eagle Scout Duncan Santerre and members of Troop 347 replaced an old bridge on North Ridge trail at Flag Ponds Nature Park. (photo second from left)
- 🗑️ Calvert Steward volunteers helped Natural Resources staff build a new bridge and trail system connecting Gatewood Preserve to Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm. (right two photos)



- 🗑️ 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.



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

📷 While on break from college, Calvert Steward 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.



📷 Injured Bald Eagle Rescue by Mary Hollinger

📷 Volunteer Karen Ritchie inspects milkweed for monarch activity and other invertebrates.

📷 Jenny Yoder and volunteers with bags of removed stilt grass and flats of native plants waiting to be planted in the garden.



## 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.

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.

## Future Endeavors

For 2022, we plan to better track and document service projects through Galaxy Digital web portal. Suggestions for projects will be listed in the Service Projects Program.

[https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=117596](https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=117596)

*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

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
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Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

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Calvert County Natural Resources Division:  
[www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources)

