

Annual report of Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust 2015-2016

In accordance with the Agreement, for 2015-2016 the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust consisted of seven Trustees and the Executive Director. Trustees from Dominion Cove Point LNG LP were Mark Reaser replaced by Paul Dickson and Mike Gardner. Trustees from Maryland Conservation Council were Karen Meadow and Millie Kriemelmeyer. Trustees from Sierra Club Maryland Chapter were Meredith Sweet and Greg Bowen replaced by Lila West. Mike Rudy was the trustee elected by the organizational trustees to represent the community. Executive Director was Bob Boxwell.

The three member organizations approved the Trust's budget and appointed their Trustees.

Information from Dominion's trustees has kept the board advised as to the expansion project. With the on-going construction at the plant, meetings for 2016 have been held at the Trust offices.

The Trust continues to fund the Ruth Mathes Scholarship Fund. The College of Southern Maryland, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science each awarded scholarships for the year and received a check for \$2,500 for this calendar year. The board set aside the Dominion gift of \$250,000 in our accounts at Bernstein's to serve as the Ruth Mathes Fund Scholarship Endowment. An additional request for \$7,500 from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science was made and approved.

The Trust's investments remained with Bernstein. The annual audit was performed by Askey, Askey and Associates, CPA, LLC. Financial documents are available for review upon request.

The accountant was Fernandes DeGennaro and Associates and the bank accounts are with PNC.

An office was maintained at the Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve located at 11785 Clifton Drive in Lusby, Maryland.

The Trust held regular business meetings and its annual meeting.

The Hellen Creek Nature Preserve and house were maintained by the Executive Director.

The acquisition of TNC's Hemlock Preserve was to be completed in February 2016. Without any warning the State refused to release Rural Legacy money because they stated the property is already protected. The current owner The Nature Conservancy has no easement on the parcel. The property is therefore not protected. We are currently working with Frank Allen the President of Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust to come up with the funding from other sources.

The Webster Street Marsh Preserve continued to revert to marsh.

Other potential property acquisitions have been investigated.

The following reports for 2015-2016 were submitted by the Executive Director:

Correspondence

- Communications with The Nature Conservancy and Calvert County Department of Planning concerning transfer of ownership of the Hemlock Preserve to the Trust.
- Maintained a web site and Facebook account.
- Participated in the Sustainable Calvert group to promote land preservation in the county.
- Sent a letter of endorsement for the establishment of a National Maritime Sanctuary at Mollows Bay.
- Sent a letter to Calvert County government endorsing the return of funding for the county's Land Preservation Program.

Meetings

- Staff participated in Land Trust Alliance roundtable at King's Landing.
- Staff attended Volunteer Maryland meeting.
- Board members attended meetings of the Maryland Conservation Council. Staff and trustee attended chapter and local group Sierra Club ExComs.
- Staff attended the Battle Creek Nature Society and American Chestnut Land Trust annual meetings.
- Staff attended meetings of the new land preservation network in Calvert County, Sustainable Calvert.
- Staff attended meetings on Rural Legacy and county land preservation strategy with the State.

Strategic Planning

- Provided information to TNC and Calvert County and Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust concerning the Hemlock Preserve acquisition.
- Contacts with DNR and TNC personnel concerning status of hemlock population.
- Planning with local Boy Scouts for winter encampment. Also held Cub Scout overnight and a summer encampment is scheduled.
- Investigated properties within the Patuxent watershed.
- Communications with ACLT director concerning new science committee and potential partnership opportunities.

Outreach

- Held four seasonal public outings and two workdays at Hellen Creek Nature Preserve.
- Participated in Calvert Green Living event at Annmarie Garden.
- Staff serves on Calvert County Citizen's Green Team.
- Staff reviewed planning concepts for DNR for Newtown Neck Park in St. Mary's County, Maryland.
- Staffed a display and booth at Patuxent River Appreciation Days.
- Staff attended meetings as board member of the Southern Calvert Land Trust, Drum Point Property Owners Association environmental committee, and Sierra Club Southern Maryland group.

- Cooperated in field work for water conductivity efforts in Charles County.
- Sponsored two public lectures (Climate Change and Maryland Bee Populations) through Calvert Nature Society.
- Judged and presented awards for the 2016 Calvert County Science Fair.
- Provided display and staff for Morgan State open house and Calvert Memorial Hospital's Earth Day event.
- Attended the dedication of the Osprey cam at Kings Landing that was funded by CPNHT in 2015.

Education

- Provided programming for Boy and Girl Scouts troops in Southern Maryland.
- Provide assistance or programming for two events at Chesapeake Public Charter School third grade classes.
- Provide programming for after school programs at Greenview Knolls Elementary.
- Worked with CHESPAX as advisor to schools on bluebird trails and nature trails.
- Assisted Appeal Elementary and Dowell Elementary Schools' green school programs.
- Staff helped plan and cohosted the annual Master Naturalist classes in Calvert County. Partnered with Battle Creek and American Chestnut Land Trust.
- Provide programming for Calvert Master Gardner Garden Smarter program.
- Provided programs for two St. Mary's County garden clubs (climate change

Land Management

- Continued invasive plant removal efforts.
- Continued deer management hunting program.
- Continued biological monitoring programs for plants, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.
- Maintained trails and continued clean up of Hilltop and Hellen Creek sites.
- Maintained deer exclosures for native plant gardens at office and along streamside.
- Maintained and supplemented hummingbird/butterfly plot.
- Provided access for two Boy Scout winter camping events.
- Provided access for Cub Scout spring camp over.
- Assisted county by visiting new county park lands and reporting findings to staff.
- Monitored properties for ACLT and Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust.
- Eagle Scout project to extend trail system completed. A new picnic table was also delivered.
- Established post and ropes to augment the new trail extension.
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Research

- Provided over \$22,000 in funding for the following projects;
- Tagging and transmission efforts are part of the 2016 research on horseshoe crabs at Cove Point beach. We provided additional money to fund intern salaries. (\$3,000)
- Continued funding of Brent Steury's RTE monitoring of Cove Point beach and marsh easement for RTE species with the addition of pumpkin ash population. (\$3,200)
- Funded Brent Steury to survey ground beetles. (\$8,750)
- Funded effort to continue to evaluate and date of the black sands along the Chesapeake shoreline in Calvert County. (\$7,750)

- Staff monitored bluebird trail at Dominion Cove Point LNG site. (see web site for reports)
- Staff provided assistance in water monitoring sampling for the county.

Grants and donations

- Sponsored at the \$250 level and participated in the Calvert Green Living event at Annmarie Gardens.
- Provided funding for St. Mary's County Envirothon and Cove Point Beach Association road maintenance fund (\$100 each).
- Provide funding for materials to establish a native plant garden at the entrance of Appeal Elementary (\$800).
- Provided funding, along with three other organizations, for a volunteer coordinator for Elms Environmental Center (\$5,750).
- Provided funding to operate the Sustainable Calvert website. (\$500)
- Funded the fourth year of the Future Leaders intern program request for \$15,000 with St. Mary's River Watershed Association.
- Funded intern for Calvert County to work on County's GIS program.
- Funded and participated in quarterly water monitoring for Calvert County. The combined amount for the county programs was \$15,985.21

Submitted June 28, 2016