

iNaturalist Projects 2022 Annual Report

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Number of Volunteers: 6 although hundreds more made observations

Number of Hours: 381.75

Purpose and Objectives

Calvert Stewards use the iNaturalist app and web site for a variety of projects.

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

Volunteers work independently to document the plants, animals, mushrooms and other living things throughout Calvert County through iNaturalist. Volunteers explore County-owned property to record observations using the iNaturalist app or web site. Surveys on private property will be limited to volunteers' homes.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Work independently or in teams
- Ability to transfer observations to iNaturalist via phones, tablets or web site

SKILLS NEEDED

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to photograph or record observations of life

Optional, but Preferred, Skills

- Ability to identify to species the observations of life made in Calvert County

TRAININGS

- Orientation through a workshop, in-person, or via phone to understand the project.
- On-going opportunities to join scheduled iNaturalist surveys

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Smart Phone or Tablet (Android or iPhone)
- iNaturalist App on your phone or tablet

PROCEDURES

iNaturalist projects are established that automatically collect observations matching specific criteria.

SUMMARY OF 2022 ACTIVITIES

Volunteers contribute to a combination of on-going projects as well as specialized or focused investigations. Because of the nature of the iNaturalist Projects, observers are not required to be current volunteers or record hours.

iNaturalist provides a unique avenue for observing nature and engaging with other nature lovers. We held one volunteer training, but overall depended on the individual contributions and the power of the iNaturalist project framework.

CALVERT COUNTY BIODIVERSITY

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/calvert-county-biodiversity>

This project was our first iNaturalist project and it collects all observations made within the Calvert County boundaries even if the person is not a Calvert Steward. Users have the option to join the project, although that is not required to have observations counted. The number of observers, observations, and species have increased each year since the project started in 2018.

Year	Observers	Species	Observations
2018	260	855	2,341
2019	449	1,223	5,532
2020	599	1,852	8,876
2021	736	2,147	11,362
2022	644	2,739	19,117
TOTAL	2 161	4.975	52,372

Top Ten Observers in 2022

* Calvert Stewards who are recording hours; + other Calvert Stewards using iNaturalist

Rank	User	Observations	Species
1	tonyiajohnson*	6,226	1,073
2	mntndwnm*	1,498	572
3	rosalie-rick*	1,181	238
4	jmgconsult	1,005	302
5	maryhollinger+	691	352
6	ronwertz	495	191
7	karyn-nrd	460	246
8	ptlcruiser	427	237
9	kdaniel20816*	418	237
10	jasonavery+	277	155

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

<https://www.calvertparks.org/CNC>

Karyn is a member of the coordinating committee. In its sixth year, the objective is to safely explore biodiversity April 29-May 2, 2022.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-washington-dc-metro-area> .

Summary Calvert County Observations: April 29-May 2, 2022

For the whole City Nature Challenge for the Washington DC region there were a total of 38,974 observation of 2,931 species by 2,225 observers. Within Calvert County, 54 people made 2,282 observation of 687 species. Calvert Steward Tonya Johnson ranked as number 8 in the DC CNC.

The screenshot displays the iNaturalist interface for the Calvert County project. At the top, a dark grey header bar contains the project name 'Calvert' in a rounded rectangle, followed by a green bar showing '2,282 OBSERVATIONS'. To the right, three white boxes with dark grey text show '687 SPECIES', '319 IDENTIFIERS', and '54 OBSERVERS'. Below the header, a navigation bar includes 'Map', 'Grid', and 'List' options. The main content area shows a grid of four observation cards. Each card features a photograph of the organism, a circular profile icon, the species name, its scientific name in parentheses, a 'Research Grade' badge, a shield icon with a number, and a timestamp. The first card shows a green beetle on soil, labeled 'Six-spotted Tiger B...' (*Cicindela sexguttata*) with 3 shields and a 10mo timestamp. The second card shows a bird on a branch, labeled 'Golden-winged x Bl...' (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *cyanop...*) with 1 shield and a 10mo timestamp. The third card shows an osprey on a tree stump, labeled 'Osprey' (*Pandion haliaetus*) with 2 shields and a 10mo timestamp. The fourth card shows a purple flower, labeled 'Palm Violet' (*Viola palmata*) with a 10mo timestamp.

PARKS FOR POLLINATORS 2022: CALVERT COUNTY

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/parks-for-pollinators-2022-calvert-county>

The Division joined other park and recreation agencies from across the country in hosting Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz events throughout the month of September.

We had the second highest number of observations of all the agencies participating, and our iNaturalist wizard, Tonya Johnson, was the top observer nation-wide. The Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz is organized by the National Recreation and Park Association. www.nrpa.org/bioblitz

Overview **3,266** OBSERVATIONS **725** SPECIES **312** IDENTIFIERS **115** OBSERVERS Stats

Map Grid List Identify Search Export Observations

American Blue-black Sp...
Anoplus americanus 6 months ago

Oriental Bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus 5 months ago

Virginian Tiger Moth
Spilosoma virginica 1 5 months ago

Two-spotted Scoliid Wasp
Scolia dubia ssp. *dubia* 2 6 months ago

Ants, Bees, and Stinging Wasps
Infraorder Aculeata 3 6 months ago

Pearl Crescent
Phyciodes tharos 1 6 months ago

HORSESHOE CRAB SURVEY: CALVERT COUNTY AND BEYOND!

For 2022, there were a total of 144 observation of by 99 observers throughout the Chesapeake region ,with 49 observation within Calvert (by 24 observers)

This project documents the distribution and abundance of horseshoe crabs during their annual mating season along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County and beyond! 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.

TRAININGS

Throughout 2022, several trainings and workshops were held. We partnered with The Nature Conservancy on monthly virtual identification nights. People could join a zoom event to learn about identification of different groups of organisms, then break out into small groups to identify iNaturalist observations.

FUTURE PLANS

- Encourage volunteers to track hours and projects
- Promote the independent nature of making observations
- Coordinate activities in Calvert County for the City Nature Challenge, April 28-May 1, 2023
- Schedule an iNaturalist field collection day or Bioblitz, preferably in association with one of the projects
- Expand the education and outreach activities during Parks 4 Pollinators month.

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

2022 Annual Report

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

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

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

