



CALVERT COUNTY FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD

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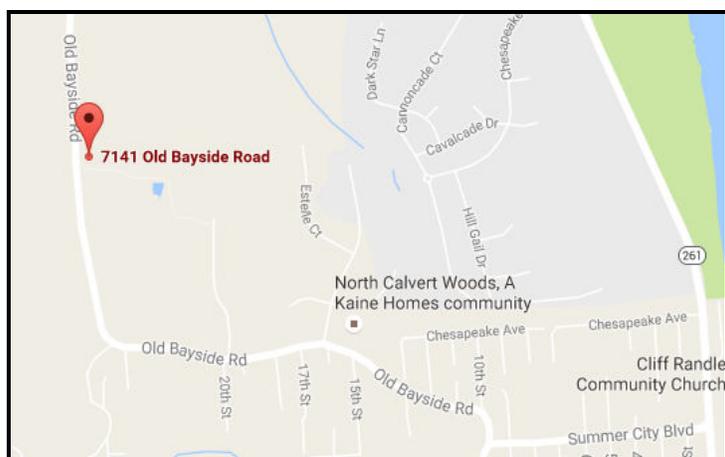
Fall Newsletter

2016

Fall Forestry Tour Invitation

The Calvert County Forestry Board cordially invites you to attend our Fall Forestry Tour! This year's tour will take place on **November 5, 2016**, at the Anderson Tree Farm (also known as Poplars Farm) in Chesapeake Beach, MD. The tour will start at 9:00 am and will run till noon. The rain date for the tour is November 12, 2016. Tour topics will include invasive species control, land management and cell phone tower installation. Fall colors should be on full display, so bring your camera and enjoy a wonderful day in the woods with us! Please wear appropriate footwear.

The tour welcomes anyone interested in forestry and/or Tree Farms. Refreshments will be served before the tour and a lunch will be provided after the tour to all who RSVP. Door prizes will also be awarded. The Tree Farm is located at 7141 Old Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, MD. To help us plan for the tour, we ask that you RSVP at www.calvertforestry.org or by calling Brian Stupak at 410-535-1303 (leave a message with your name, phone number and the number of people attending) or by sending him an e-mail at forester@calvertforestry.org. Please RSVP by October 28, 2016. We look forward to seeing you there!



Website Redesign

The Calvert Forestry Board website got a much needed redesign in 2015. The site was moved from Host Monster to Weebly, which allowed the Board greater flexibility in designing and updating the site. Kudos to Board member Chuck Gustin for taking the lead and keeping our site on the cutting edge of technology. Please visit our site at: www.calvertforestry.org and let us know what you think. You can also subscribe to future editions of our newsletter and receive invitations to other forestry events.

Membership

Since our last newsletter in 2013, there have been a few changes to the Board membership. Board members David Clark, Ken Korando and Steve Gaines have left the Board. David Clark left the Board in 2015 after three years of service to devote more time to his bee keeping business. Steve Gaines left the Board in 2014 after two years to accept a job in Paramaribo, Suriname in South America to teach outdoor education. And Ken Korando, Board member for four years, left to devote more time to his winery business.

However, we were fortunate to get two new members. Autumn Phillips joined the Board in 2014 and is the new land manager at the American Chestnut Land Trust. She is the current Board chairperson. Lisa Oswald is an aerospace test engineer at Pax River NAS and has a great interest in natural resources and the environment. She joined the Board in 2016.

The Board is also looking to add two more members in the near future. If you are interested in promoting forestry throughout Calvert County and would like to join, please contact Brian Stupak @ 410-535-1303 or brian.stupak@maryland.gov for more information. The Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except for June, July & August. The meetings are held in Prince Frederick and run from 6pm to 7:30pm. Activities include the Tree Farm tour, spring seminar, Arbor Day Poster Contest judging, Critical Area Timber Harvest reviews, tree plantings and more! Members must be residents of Calvert County and have an interest in forestry.

That Time of Year

Yes, it's that time of year when the temperature starts to drop and leaves turn color from green to beautiful red, yellow, and orange. Fall is usually the time when most landowners tidy up their yards and properties. This usually results in a large amount of leaves, branches, and other woody debris. One way to dispose of this debris is through open-air burning. A common practice for many years, burning can be a practical solution, if done safely. Here's a reminder of some good burning tips:

- Obtain the proper burn permits well in advance of your burn. All burns require a Calvert Environmental Health Dept. permit and most require a DNR Forest Service burn permit as well.
- Locate your burn pile in an area that has at least 10-20 feet clearance from any flammable vegetation.

- Keep shovels and rakes, as well as a garden hose nearby.
- Stay with your fire at all times. Do not leave the fire for any reason.
- Contact the Calvert County Fire Board (410-535-3491) prior to burning.
- If you burn between 4 pm and 12 midnight, a DNR Forest Service burn permit is not required. A permit is required if you burn outside of those hours.

Contact the DNR Forest Service's Calvert Co. office (410-535-1303) for burn permits and detailed burn regulations. Contact the Calvert Environmental Health Dept. (410-535-3922) for air quality regulations and permits.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Have you ever wanted to take care of your woods, but you couldn't afford to do it? Plant some trees after a harvest, eradicate invasive species, maintain your trails, thin out your forest or even perform a controlled burn? Well now you can, through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP is a federal cost-share program run by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) that partially reimburses landowners for voluntarily implementing conservation practices on their land. Most practices are a minimum of one acre or more in size. Please keep in mind that most projects need to be planned well in advance and all applications are ranked and approved on a monthly basis. In other words, make any application about 3-6 months ahead of when you want to implement it. If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact your local DNR Forest Service office (410-535-1303) or your local NRCS office (410-535-1521, ext. 3) for more information about this wonderful program.

American Chestnut Grove

In April of 2015, the volunteers and forestry board members planted 50 American Chestnut seedlings as part of a state wide program to bring back this native species that has been decimated by chestnut blight. The seedlings are a blight resistant variety and are being tested for their hardiness. Ironically, the seedlings were planted on land owned by the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) in Port Republic, MD. The 1/6th acre planting site was originally overgrown with brush and other invasive species, but was reclaimed through volunteer efforts. The seedlings were planted in staggered rows and each seedling is protected by a 4 foot tall tree tube.

A requirement of the program was to label each seedling, provide regular maintenance (mowing & watering) and to measure the seedlings' growth each year. ACLT and Forestry Board volunteers have performed the maintenance on a regular basis and AP environmental science students from Calvert High School have volunteered to complete the growth measurements. After one year of growth, approximately 45 of the 50 seedlings have survived! The Board and volunteers will maintain the site until the seedlings grow out of their tree tubes. Growth measurements will continue for at least 5-10 years.

The project was funded by the MD DNR Forest Service and the MD Forestry Foundation Mel Noland Challenge Grant. The Challenge Grant makes funds available to all forestry boards for tree planting and other forestry projects. Each Board has been allocated \$1500 and they must match the grant with either their own funds, in-kind donations, or a combination of the two. The Board is hopeful that these seedlings will grow to be mighty chestnuts.



Calvert County Forestry Board
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