



CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE

DESIGNING, RESTORING AND MANAGING WILDLIFE HABITAT

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the CWH Annual Report for 2018.

Though this report is smaller than in previous years, this in no way reflects the scope and accomplishment of CWH's work or the generosity of our members and supporters. Last year, with your help and the support of private foundations and government programs, CWH made many beneficial contributions to the region's wildlife resource: constructing wetlands, planting native grass/wildflower meadows, controlling phragmites on hundreds of acres of wetlands, meeting/advising landowners, educating the public through workshops and outreach programs, planting cover crops, and installing and monitoring nesting structures for purple martins, bluebirds, ospreys and native bees encompass just a portion of our work.

CWH stands alone in that we practice what we preach. We steward 1,150 acres of land on which we demonstrate the efficacy of our experience, techniques and values every day. The restoration projects and land management that we provide are vital contributions to the future of both the region's wildlife and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

For nearly 40 years, CWH has continually identified and pursued opportunities to improve habitat for wildlife. Please join me in congratulating the CWH board and staff for a job well done in 2018. And, as always, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Partlow

Ralph V. Partlow, III
President, Board of Directors

Cover, clockwise from top:

Painted turtles on beaver lodge in restored wetland at CWH's Bennett Point property.

Although seldom seen because of being nocturnal, we do have these little guys on Delmarva. Flying squirrel photo courtesy of Donna Tolbert-Anderson.

Pintails taking off from a CWH-restored wetland. Photo courtesy of Donna Tolbert-Anderson.

MISSION & BACKGROUND

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage is dedicated to designing, restoring and managing wildlife habitat and establishing a more sustainable agriculture. Since 1980, we have worked with landowners to enhance the wildlife value of their properties, benefit a wide range of wildlife species and reduce the adverse impacts of conventional farming. By increasing the amount and diversity of habitat and educating the public about the need for wildlife habitat, CWH is improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

APPROACH

The health of the Chesapeake Bay is inextricably tied to the way in which landowners manage the land in its watershed. Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage designs, restores and manages habitat for the sole purpose of increasing the amount and diversity of wildlife habitat in the Bay region. CWH is the only nonprofit in the Chesapeake Bay area that takes wildlife habitat projects from start to finish and then manages these projects after their completion.

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Bees fill the pollen baskets on their hind legs with pollen from this untreated sunflower.

PROGRAMS

CHESAPEAKE CARE

The region's non-tidal wetlands support dragonflies, amphibians, turkeys, warblers and Delmarva fox squirrels in addition to the waterfowl that we most often associate with these habitats. Unfortunately, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, Maryland's wetlands have diminished by more than 70% over the past 350 years. CWH's Chesapeake Care Program works with landowners to restore some of these lost wetlands.

Non-tidal wetlands benefit water quality by slowing runoff. This allows plants and bacteria to interact with water-borne nutrients, thus reducing nutrient loading to the watershed. Shallow-emergent wetlands and wet meadows also benefit wildlife by providing critical habitat to ducks, geese, shorebirds, dragonflies and amphibians. Wooded wetlands and shrub swamps benefit species such as warblers, woodcock, amphibians and bats. In 2018, with funding from the Biophilia Foundation, the Healy Foundation, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and an anonymous donor, CWH installed 15 acres of wetlands on our Canterbury Farm property in Talbot County. Through Chesapeake Care, we will continue to build and manage wetland habitat on the lands of those committed to conserving wildlife resources.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

CWH's Sustainable Agriculture Program demonstrates the compatibility of profitable corn/soybean row-crop farming with natural ecosystems, all while pursuing the ultimate goal of organic no-till farming. This program entails eliminating farming practices known to have harmful effects on the environment and implementing wildlife-friendly and other agronomically benign practices.

These practices include planting cover crops and untreated corn and soybean seeds, rotating crops, monitoring nutrients, practicing integrated pest management, managing buffer strips, soft edges and hedgerows for wildlife, and planting perennial native grass/wildflower habitat in field and stream buffers that provide year-round habitat for beneficial insect pollinators and other wildlife. CWH continues to improve and refine our demonstration that agricultural profitability and wildlife habitat can—and indeed must—be interwoven and that a biologically based farming system is more enduring than conventional agribusiness systems.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Through talks and workshops about the region's wildlife and habitat, CWH's Education and Outreach Program teaches landowners how to become better stewards of the Bay in their



A Monarch is tagged during CWH's Monarch Tagging Workshop. The workshop is held annually in September and is open to the public.

own backyards. In 2018, this initiative brought presentations to homeowners' associations, special interest groups and garden clubs on topics such as meadows, backyard habitat, bluebirds, Monarch butterfly migration and pollinator gardens. Site visits to private properties provided one-on-one opportunities for a wildlife habitat specialist to discuss options for suitable habitat improvements with landowners.

Guided tours show landowners how and why CWH restoration projects work. Seeing Northern Pintail on a restored wetland or ground-nesting birds in a warm-season grass meadow brings home the critical benefits of habitat improvements. Our streaming wildlife cameras bring views of birds in restored wetlands to anyone with an internet connection. Arrangements may be made to tour CWH's Bennett Point Farm in Queenstown, Barnstable Hill Farm on Kent Island, Canterbury Farm in Easton and other significant habitat restoration sites. Contact Andi Pupke at 410-822-5100 to arrange a tour.

OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Maintenance is critical to keep newly constructed or restored wildlife habitat functioning properly for the species of concern. Newly created wetlands are susceptible to being colonized by phragmites or dense stands of



orkshop at Barnstable Hill Farm. The free
he public.

cattails, while an unmanaged meadow can quickly turn to forest. CWH staff regularly works to keep meadows, wetlands and scrub-shrub areas in an early successional stage. Techniques include spot spraying, discing, controlled burning, hand cutting, grilling, frost seeding, delayed drawdown and carefully timed dormant-season mowing. We are especially careful to protect nesting and brooding wildlife during spring and summer.

Having a diversity of wildlife means creating and maintaining a diversity of habitat. Much of the summer and fall of 2018 were spent managing and maintaining habitat on CWH and client properties. It is hot and tiring work, but the positive results for the wildlife resource are well worth the effort.

NESTING STRUCTURES

The Nesting Structure Program installs artificial nesting boxes and platforms for species whose natural habitats have disappeared due to development, farming or deforestation. For a nominal fee, CWH installs nesting structures in suitable habitat for Eastern Bluebirds, Prothonotary Warblers, Purple Martins, Wood Ducks, Great-crested Flycatchers, Flying Squirrel, Owls and Ospreys. Every year, we place nesting structures around the Bay watershed for citizens interested in encouraging wildlife on their property.

CWH also monitors and collects data on Purple Martin nesting systems on



Habitat technician Phil Boyd finds the Gator on rubber tracks a huge help in accessing Wood Duck boxes for monitoring and maintenance.

the Mid-Shore. Active management of Martin housing provides better control of invasive non-native European Starlings and English House Sparrows, resulting in more successful Martin production. In 2018, 474 chicks were fledged from 26 CWH-monitored houses/gourds, with an average of 18.2 chicks per house.

BOTANICAL STUDIES IN UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY (ROW)

More than 48 million acres of utility ROW in the U.S. present unique wildlife habitat opportunities on property owned or accessed by oil, gas and electric companies. Since the early 1990s, CWH has worked to document the ecological transition from traditional mowing to integrated vegetation management (IVM). By changing the make-up of plant communities in these areas, IVM can eliminate the traditional and highly disruptive mowing cycles that often occur during nesting season. IVM can also provide big cost savings for the utilities and high wildlife habitat benefits in the form of migratory corridors that are especially beneficial for insect pollinators.

PHRAGMITES CONTROL

Phragmites australis continues to invade the Eastern Shore and other parts of Maryland at an alarming rate. This invasive species grows so thick that it can choke out beneficial and native wetland plants, destroying the wetland's

fragile ecosystem and creating a monoculture with little to no habitat value for wildlife.

CWH's Phragmites Control Program slows the rapid spread of this noxious plant with the goal of restoring diverse wetland ecosystems. A five-year study by CWH documented the emergence of 65 beneficial species of plants from the existing wetland seedbed once a stand of phragmites was eliminated. In 2018, CWH sprayed 230 properties in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties to eliminate phragmites and improve the biodiversity of hundreds of acres of wetlands.

LANDOWNER SERVICES

CWH works in partnership with private landowners to permanently protect land for wildlife habitat. Our conservation easements have dedicated more than 2,500 acres of habitat for wildlife in Queen Anne's, Talbot, Kent, Dorchester and Prince George's counties, including warm-season grass meadows, wetlands, mature woodlands and riparian buffers along tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2018, our Landowner Services Program continued to monitor and steward our existing easements and provide advice and services to landowners who strive to protect locally significant resource lands. This critical work ensures that the land will stay forever wild.



Green Damer dragonflies. Photo courtesy of John Beckley.

CONTRIBUTION & FOUNDATION SUMMARY

DONATIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Membership | \$ 44,730 |
| Annual Appeal | 70,107 |
| Major Gifts | 155,377 |
| Miscellaneous | 10,183 |
| EarthShare & Other Workplace Giving | 1,573 |

MAJOR GRANTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Anonymous | \$ 25,000 |
| Biophilia Foundation | 75,000 |
| EPA Small Watershed Grant | |
| Administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | 66,266 |
| Healy Foundation | 50,000 |
| Maryland Department of Natural Resources | 32,525 |





Wetland restored by CWH.

CWH'S WILDLIFE REFUGES

CWH owns six properties totaling 1,150 acres on Maryland's Eastern Shore. In 2018, CWH managed these wildlife sanctuaries to ensure diverse wildlife habitat and improved water quality for the Bay.

PINEY CREEK WETLAND PRESERVE

These 13 acres of tidal wetlands on the east side of Piney Creek in Queen Anne's County are frequented by numerous and varied species of waterfowl.

BENNETT POINT FARM

CWH has restored 107 acres of wetlands, planted 25 acres of forested buffer, and created 13 acres of meadow on this 284-acre farm along the Wye River.

BARNSTABLE HILL FARM

With more than five miles of water frontage on Eastern Bay and Kirwan Creek, Barnstable is the Eastern Shore's largest privately owned property managed specifically for wildlife. CWH has restored more than 155 acres of habitat on the farm. The White and Bennett families donated the 540-acre farm to CWH in 2000.

BAILEY'S NECK FARM

This 135-acre farm near Easton comprises 100 acres of wet woodlands, 30 acres of restored wetlands and five acres of scrub-shrub meadows.

BOZMAN FIELD

This 29-acre field just west of St. Michaels includes 12 acres of mature woodland and 17 acres of old farm fields that are slowly being transformed to wooded wetlands.

CANTERBURY FARM

Donated by the Healy family in 2008, this 150-acre wildlife refuge near Easton includes 121 acres of wetlands restored by CWH.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the years ending December 31, 2018 and 2017

| ASSETS | 2018 | 2017 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$5,662 | \$60,334 |
| Cash and cash equivalents—restricted | 16,436 | 16,550 |
| Accounts receivable | 19,509 | 13,700 |
| Employee advances | 1,463 | 1,236 |
| Prepaid expenses and other Current Assets | 6,060 | 1,469 |
| Asset for Sale | · | 33,500 |
| Total Current Assets | 49,130 | 126,789 |
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Land, buildings and equipment (at cost): | | |
| Office equipment | 44,654 | 44,654 |
| Machinery and equipment | 349,915 | 349,915 |
| Automotive equipment | 106,039 | 163,855 |
| Buildings | 1,198,667 | 1,198,667 |
| Land | 3,853,932 | 3,853,932 |
| | 5,553,207 | 5,611,023 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 1,133,079 | 1,121,003 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 4,420,128 | 4,490,020 |
| OTHER ASSETS | | |
| Investment in Endowment | 409,995 | 446,333 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 4,879,253 | 5,063,142 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 5,787 | 13,454 |
| Line of credit | 39,943 | 106,442 |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | 5,941 | 5,691 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 51,671 | 125,587 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT | | |
| Notes payable | 15,111 | 21,100 |
| Total Long-Term Debt | 15,111 | 21,100 |
| Total Liabilities | 66,782 | 146,687 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Without Donor Restrictions | 4,638,139 | 4,728,192 |
| With Donor Restrictions | 174,332 | 188,263 |
| Total Net Assets | 4,812,471 | 4,916,455 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$4,879,253 | \$5,063,142 |

See Independent Auditors' Report

The Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

A good diversity of ducks use the flooded cornfield sanctuary (Charlie Smith Project) at CWH's Barnstable Hill Farm.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the years ending December 31, 2018 and 2017

| | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | 2018 | 2017 |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT | | | | |
| Grants—Other | \$257,172 | · | \$257,172 | \$196,264 |
| Contributions and dues | 301,663 | · | 301,663 | 249,086 |
| Landowner project fees | 186,728 | · | 186,728 | 175,957 |
| Investment income | 13,506 | 8,061 | 21,567 | 18,277 |
| Other income | 18 | · | 18 | 10 |
| IRS refund | · | · | · | 2,024 |
| Rental income | 48,533 | · | 48,533 | 40,177 |
| In-Kind contributions | 130 | · | 130 | 33,853 |
| Gain (loss) on sale of assets | (33,270) | · | (33,270) | · |
| Realized/unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (36,066) | (21,992) | (58,058) | 40,082 |
| TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT | 738,414 | (13,931) | 724,483 | 755,730 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Program services | 687,866 | · | 687,866 | 594,063 |
| General and administrative | 83,121 | · | 83,121 | 101,581 |
| Fundraising | 57,480 | · | 57,480 | 56,601 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 828,467 | · | 828,467 | 752,245 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | · | · | · | · |
| Change in net assets | (90,053) | (13,931) | (103,984) | 3,485 |
| Net assets, beginning of the year | 4,728,192 | 188,263 | 4,916,455 | 4,912,970 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | \$4,638,139 | \$174,332 | \$4,812,471 | \$4,916,455 |

For more Annual Report information, visit cheswildlife.org.



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