

CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE

DESIGNING,
RESTORING
AND
MANAGING
WILDLIFE
HABITAT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the CWH Annual Report for 2021.

For more than 40 years, CWH has worked tirelessly to create and improve habitat for wildlife—and 2021 was no exception. Despite lingering pandemic-related challenges, we



have persisted in making remarkable strides for the wildlife resource. Last year, through the extraordinary generosity of our members and supporters, CWH was

able to continue the vital work of constructing wetlands, planting native grass and wildflower meadows, advising landowners, educating the public through workshops and outreach programs, planting cover crops, controlling phragmites on hundreds of acres of wetlands and installing and monitoring nesting structures for Bluebirds, Purple Martins, Ospreys and native bees. And this barely scratches the surface of our work.

CWH stands alone in practicing what we preach on our own land. We actively steward 1,150 acres on which we test and demonstrate the efficacy of our experience and techniques every day. Through our land management and restoration work, we help to ensure the future of the region's wildlife and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Please join me in congratulating the CWH board and staff for a job well done in 2021. And, as always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ralph V. Partlow, III".

Ralph V. Partlow, III
President, CWH Board of Directors

Front cover: Purple Martin house with hungry chicks
Photo courtesy of Kathy Quattrone @NatureNeighbors

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

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 Bay's health is inextricably linked to the way the land in its watershed is managed. Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage works with 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 them after their completion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CWH'S WILDLIFE REFUGES

CWH owns six properties comprising 1,150 acres on Maryland's Eastern Shore. In 2021, CWH managed these wildlife sanctuaries with the aim of achieving diverse wildlife habitat and improved water quality for the Bay.

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.

BARNSTABLE HILL FARM—Donated to CWH in 2000 by the White and Bennett families, Barnstable is the Eastern Shore's largest private wildlife sanctuary that is actively managed specifically for wildlife. CWH has restored more than 155 acres of habitat on the 540-acre waterfront farm.

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.

BOZMAN FIELD—This 29-acre field just west of St. Michaels includes 12 acres of mature woodland and 17 acres of early successional woodlands.

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

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 varied species of waterfowl.

PROGRAMS

CHESAPEAKE CARE

The region's non-tidal wetlands support turtles, amphibians, turkeys, warblers, dragonflies, Delmarva fox squirrels and numerous other species in addition to the waterfowl we associate with these habitats. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, however, Maryland's wetlands have shrunk by more than 70% over the past 350 years. Through the Chesapeake Care Program, CWH 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 and results in reduced nutrient loading to the watershed. Wet meadows and shallow-emergent wetlands provide critical habitat for ducks, geese, shorebirds, dragonflies and amphibians, while shrub swamps and woodland wetlands benefit species such as warblers, woodcock, amphibians and bats. In 2021, CWH restored 10 acres of wetlands and actively managed existing wetlands on our own lands and on those of our landowner partners. We also completed design work on wetlands slated for 2022 construction. Through Chesapeake Care, we will continue to build and manage wetland habitat for landowners committed to conserving wildlife resources.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

CWH's Sustainable Agriculture Program demonstrates how profitable row-crop farming is compatible with natural ecosystems, all while promoting the ultimate goal of organic no-till farming. This program entails

eliminating farming practices known to harm the environment and implementing wildlife-friendly and agronomically benign practices.

These 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 native perennial grasses and wildflowers that provide year-round habitat in field and stream buffers for insect pollinators and other species. CWH continues to demonstrate that wildlife habitat and agricultural profitability can—and indeed must—be compatible and that biologically based farming is more enduring than conventional agribusiness systems.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Through talks and workshops centered on the region's wildlife and habitat, as well as email blasts and social media posts, CWH's Education & Outreach Program teaches landowners how to be better stewards of the Bay in their own backyards.

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 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 restoration sites.



OTHER SERVICES

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Maintenance is critical for keeping new or restored wildlife habitat functioning properly. Newly created wetlands can easily be colonized by phragmites or dense stands of cattails, and an unmanaged meadow can quickly turn to forest. CWH staff regularly work to keep meadows, wetlands and scrub-shrub areas in an early successional stage through spot spraying, discing, controlled burning, hand cutting, frilling, 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 wide range of habitat. Much of the summer and fall of 2021 were spent managing and maintaining habitat on CWH and client properties. The work is dirty, hot and tiring, but the positive results for the wildlife resource are well worth the effort



NESTING STRUCTURES

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

CWH also monitors and collects data on Purple Martin nesting systems on the Mid-Shore. Active management of Martin housing provides better control of invasive non-native European Starling and English House Sparrows, resulting in more successful Martin production. In 2021, 1,096 chicks were fledged from 51 CWH-monitored houses and 34 gourds in three counties, a marked increase from 991 chicks in 2020. We also monitored 69 Bluebird houses that fledged 243 Bluebirds, 84 Tree Swallows and 22 House Wrens.

PHRAGMITES CONTROL

Non-native *Phragmites australis* continues to invade the Eastern Shore and other parts of Maryland at a startling rate. This invasive species grows so thickly that it can choke out native and beneficial wetland plants, destroy the wetland's fragile ecosystem and create 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 presence of 65 beneficial species of plants from the existing wetland seedbed once a stand of phragmites was eliminated. In 2021, CWH sprayed 264 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.



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the years ending December 31, 2021 and 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash And Cash Equivalents	\$60,601	\$151,162
Cash And Cash Equivalents—Restricted	13,760	13,880
Accounts Receivable	117,247	14,487
Employee Advances	508	253
Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets	18,955	26,410
Total Current Assets	211,071	206,192
FIXED ASSETS (at cost)		
Office Equipment	246	246
Machinery and Equipment	405,495	372,285
Automotive Equipment	164,516	106,039
Buildings	1,227,119	1,227,119
Land	3,853,932	3,853,932
	5,651,308	5,559,621
Less Accumulated Depreciation	1,286,876	1,212,806
Total Fixed Assets	4,364,432	4,346,815
OTHER ASSETS		
Investment in Endowment	606,449	566,949
TOTAL ASSETS	5,181,952	5,119,956
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	23,743	17,905
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	7,807	6,591
Total Current Liabilities	31,550	24,496
LONG-TERM DEBT		
Notes Payable	26,373	2,199
Total Long-Term Debt	26,373	2,199
Total Liabilities	57,923	26,695
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	4,877,675	4,861,814
With Donor Restrictions	246,354	231,447
Total Net Assets	5,124,029	5,093,261
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$5,181,952	\$5,119,956

See Independent Auditors' Report

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

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the years ending December 31, 2021 and 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021	2020
CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Grants	\$177,065	•	\$177,065	\$200,735
Contributions And Dues	331,833	•	331,833	345,481
Landowner Project Fees	296,060	•	296,060	186,008
Investment Income	21,453	13,558	35,011	13,650
Other Income	48	•	48	59,044
Rental Income	44,485	•	44,485	44,485
In-Kind Contributions	•	•	•	725
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	904	•	904	(487)
Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	2,988	1,349	4,337	70,783
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	874,836	14,907	889,743	920,424
EXPENSES				
Program Services	699,308	•	699,308	573,779
General and Administrative	97,281	•	97,281	81,769
Fundraising	62,386	•	62,386	57,441
TOTAL EXPENSES	858,975	•	858,975	712,989
Change in Net Assets	15,861	14,907	30,768	207,435
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	•	•	•	•
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	4,861,814	231,447	5,093,261	4,885,826
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$4,877,675	\$246,354	\$5,124,029	\$5,093,261

For more Annual Report information, visit cheswildlife.org.



Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, 1201 Parson Island Rd.,
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cheswildlife.org | 410-822-5100

**** The 2021 Annual Report that was mailed to supporters contained a typo in the Statements of Financial Position. While the Total Current Assets figure is correct, the Accounts Receivable figure inadvertently read \$17,247. This Annual Report document reflects the correct figure. The CWH staff and Board of Directors apologize for this unfortunate error.**