

## 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 2020.

In 2020, CWH marked 40 years of putting new wildlife habitat on the ground and managing lands enhanced for the benefit of our native local and migratory wild species. Despite the



challenges of the pandemic, our work with the wildlife resource remained largely uninterrupted. Last year, through the generosity of our members and supporters,

CWH was able to continue maintaining wetlands, planting native grass and wildflower meadows, advising landowners, educating the public, 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 comprises just a fraction of our work.

CWH stands alone in that we practice what we preach on our own land. We 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 2020. And, as always, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

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

Front cover: An egret perches on a stump left from a beaver cutting on a 20-year-old restored wetland at CWH's Barnstable Hill Farm refuge.

♻️ 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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Danny Sterling, Agricultural Technician

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Dean Knowles, Habitat Technician

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the years ending December 31, 2020 and 2019

ASSETS	2020	2019
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$151,162	\$32,257
Cash and cash equivalents-restricted	13,880	25,322
Accounts receivable	14,487	10,211
Employee advances	253	2,910
Prepaid expenses and other Current Assets	26,340	2,583
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>206,122</b>	<b>73,283</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS (at cost)</b>		
Office equipment	246	44,654
Machinery and equipment	372,285	339,512
Automotive equipment	106,039	106,039
Buildings	1,227,119	1,198,667
Land	3,853,932	3,853,932
	5,559,621	5,542,804
Less accumulated depreciation	1,212,806	1,184,705
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>4,346,815</b>	<b>4,358,099</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Investment in Endowment	566,949	482,069
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5,119,886</b>	<b>4,913,451</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	17,905	12,553
Current maturities of long-term debt	6,591	6,276
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>24,496</b>	<b>18,829</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>		
Notes payable	2,199	8,796
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>8,796</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>26,695</b>	<b>27,625</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	4,861,744	4,675,207
With Donor Restrictions	231,447	210,619
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>5,093,191</b>	<b>4,885,826</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,119,886</b>	<b>\$4,913,451</b>

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, 2020 and 2019

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2020	2019
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>				
Grants	\$200,735	-	\$200,735	\$164,474
Contributions and dues	345,481	-	345,481	298,643
Landowner project fees	186,008	-	186,008	214,601
Investment income	8,501	5,149	13,650	16,673
Other income	59,044	-	59,044	43
Rental income	44,485	-	44,485	39,050
In-Kind contributions	725	-	725	80
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	(487)	-	(487)	4,784
Realized/unrealized gain (loss) on investments	43,781	27,002	70,783	55,475
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUE &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>888,273</b>	<b>32,151</b>	<b>920,424</b>	<b>793,823</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program services	573,779	-	573,779	588,383
General and administrative	81,839	-	81,839	75,040
Fundraising	57,441	-	57,441	57,045
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>713,059</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>713,059</b>	<b>720,468</b>
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	<b>11,323</b>	<b>(11,323)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>186,537</b>	<b>20,828</b>	<b>207,365</b>	<b>73,355</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of the year</b>	<b>4,675,207</b>	<b>210,619</b>	<b>4,885,826</b>	<b>4,812,471</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$4,861,744</b>	<b>\$231,447</b>	<b>\$5,093,191</b>	<b>\$4,885,826</b>

For more Annual Report information, visit [cheswildlife.org](http://cheswildlife.org).

# CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE



DESIGNING, RESTORING  
AND MANAGING  
WILDLIFE HABITAT  
**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, 1201 Parson Island Rd., Chester, MD 21619  
[cheswildlife.org](http://cheswildlife.org) | 410-822-5100



Goldenrods, tickseeds, tall boneset, black willow, cattail and associated species growing on a wetland restored 10 years ago at our Barnstable Hill refuge. This marsh is well used by Painted Turtles, egrets, puddle ducks, Monarch butterflies, Green Darners and other wetland species.



## CHESAPEAKE CARE PROGRAM

The region's non-tidal wetlands support warblers, turkeys, dragonflies, amphibians, Delmarva fox squirrels and many 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. Shallow-emergent wetlands and wet meadows provide critical habitat for ducks, geese, shorebirds, dragonflies and amphibians, while woodland wetlands and shrub swamps benefit species such as warblers, woodcock, amphibians and bats. COVID prevented CWH from building new wetlands in 2020, as the USDA offices that support the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP—the program that funds most of our wetland restoration work) were greatly slowed in handling the required paperwork. However, we were able to perform management activity on many existing wetlands and begin design work on wetlands we will construct in the future. Through Chesapeake Care, we will continue to build and manage wetland habitat for landowners committed to conserving wildlife resources.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

CWH's Sustainable Agriculture Program demonstrates the compatibility of profitable 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 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 PROGRAM

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.

Right: An Eastern Bluebird broods its eggs in a nesting structure installed and monitored by CWH.

## 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 diversity of habitat. Much of the summer and fall of 2020 were spent managing and maintaining habitat on CWH and client properties. It's hot and tiring work, 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 in suitable habitat 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 appropriate 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 Starlings and English House Sparrows, resulting in more successful Martin production. In 2020, 991 chicks were fledged from 43 CWH-monitored houses and 24 gourds.

### PHRAGMITES CONTROL

*Phragmites australis* continues to invade the Eastern Shore and other parts of Maryland at an alarming rate. This invasive species grows so thickly that it can choke out beneficial and native 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 2020, CWH sprayed 242 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.



Pickerel Frog. Photo courtesy of Bill Hubick.

### 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 Dorchester, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties, including warm-season grass meadows, wetlands, mature woodlands and riparian buffers along Chesapeake Bay tributaries.**

In 2020, our Landowner Services Program provided advice and services to landowners who strive to protect locally significant resource lands. This critical work ensures that the land will stay forever wild.



### CWH'S WILDLIFE REFUGES

CWH owns six properties comprising 1,150 acres on Maryland's Eastern Shore. In 2020, 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.

A Monarch caterpillar feeds on common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).