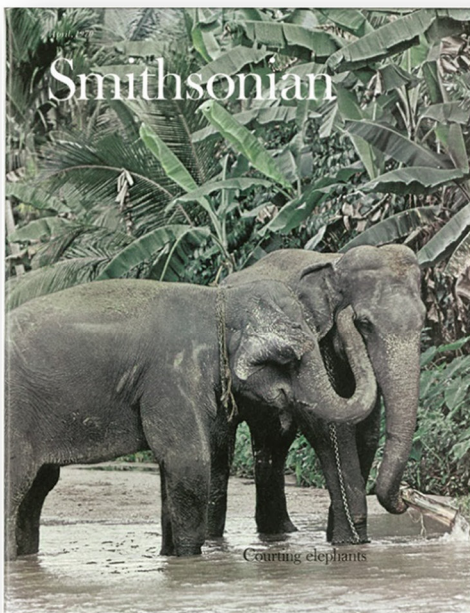




The Linden Times

A bi-weekly newsletter for the members & friends of the Calvert County Historical Society – April 23, 2020

This week we searched for some uplifting news for our Linden Times and in doing so we noted that Wednesday 22 April 2020, was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and 2020 is also the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian magazine. In both cases, since 1970, these organizations dedicated themselves to history, preservation of the environment and the enjoyment of nature. As such, where better to reflect upon these goals and mindful stewardship of our environment than right here in Calvert County, MD. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful and plentiful county that is located in between the Chesapeake Bay and the beautiful Patuxent River. From east to west and from Lyon's Creek in the north to Solomon's in the south, we are truly blessed with a robust and bountiful 345 square miles of glorious wonderful water, fertile earth, and natural beauty.



Smithsonian Magazine
April 1970 - debut issue

This appreciation and respect for Southern Maryland was first noted in 1634 in Father Andrew White's first written observations of the unsurpassed beauty of this part of the New World. He offered thanks for safe passage on the Ark and Dove to *Terra Maria* which he called Paradise itself. He described Maryland in the following way, "This baye is the most delightful water I ever saw". He noted the forest were full of walnuts, oaks, and cedar, "sallad-herbes and such like," ... and strawberries, raspberries and "fallen mulberry vines". "The soil was rich, black on top, reddish underneath." He further remarked that the new settlers had discovered "delicate springs" that provided good drink and the Indians daily caught partridge, deer, turkey, and squirrels. It is written he observed eagles, swans, herons, geese, and ducks whose bright feathers made them look like they were dressed for a party. Father White continued his praise of this land by noting that it lay between the extremes of New England and Virginia and that Maryland preserves, "a middle temperature between the two, and enjoys the advantages, and escapes the evils of each." (A Brief

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Relation of the Voyage Unto Maryland, ... (1634)

Although we are practicing social distancing at home, it still is possible to enjoy a great time, reflect and celebrate – this our homeland of Calvert County. May we suggest getting out of your house and putting your hands in the dirt and plant some indigenous wildflowers or a native tree. Perhaps just go outside for a few moments and wiggle your toes in the grass while enjoying the Spring songs of our wild songbirds. Perhaps to be adventuresome and organize a backyard ‘eat al fresco’ and then chance a few yoga poses on your picnic blanket. Finally, as the evening approaches just lay back with your hands behind your head and look for any animal shapes in the passing clouds. In closing, we hope you might take the time to venture safely outside and enjoy from your own backyard, Calvert County and consider how we can maintain and preserve all this beauty and bounty for the next 386 years.

The first Earth Day celebrations took place in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. More importantly, it



A woman picks trash out of the Potomac River on Earth Day in Washington D.C. on April 22, 1970.

"brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform." It now is observed in 192 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, chaired by the first Earth Day 1970 organizer Denis Hayes, according to whom Earth Day is now "the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year." For more on the history of Earth Day visit: www.earthday.org/history

Earth Day today finds the Maryland State Parks announcing the planting more than 10,000 Trees in

honor of the Earth Day 50th Anniversary. From the shores of Assateague Island to the mountains of Western Maryland, rangers will plant native trees on public lands to mark the occasion.

A special Wye Oak seedling — a descendant of a white oak that lived for centuries in Talbot County — was planted at Sandy Point State Park near Annapolis by Maryland Park Service Superintendent Nita Settina. "Once this white oak tree matures, it will support more than 500 species of insects essential to feeding young birds every spring," said Superintendent Settina. The white oak — *Quercus alba* — is Maryland's state tree, and is found in every county and Baltimore City.



"Planting native trees on our public lands is a perfect way to mark this special Earth Day," Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio said. "The most important lesson of the past 50 years is that everyone can make a difference and every contribution, no matter how big or small, is vital to our overall success. Special thanks to our staff and citizens across this state for commemorating Earth Day by enhancing our natural resources and our watersheds!" To read more visit: <https://www.thebaynet.com/articles/0420/maryland-state-parks-plant-10000-trees-for-earth-day-50th-anniversary.html>

"I'm planting a tree to teach me to gather strength from my deepest roots."

— Andrea Koehle Jones, The Wish Trees