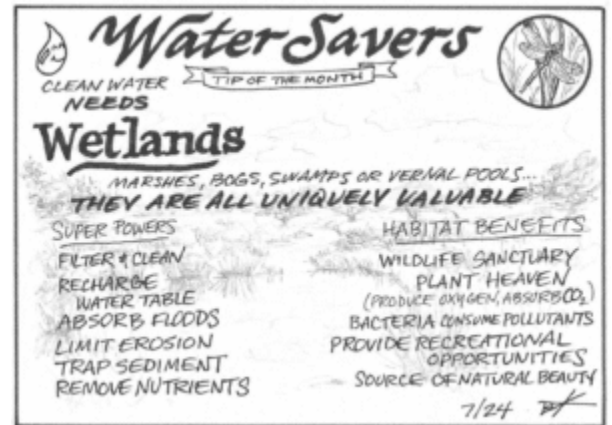


Watershed Stewards Academy July 2024 Newsletter

Hello Watershed Stewards!

We have some exciting news to share with you about a new Facebook page for Watershed Stewards Academy. If you have not already done so, please click on the link below and 'like' or 'follow' the page. There is also a private group page for Maryland WSA stewards only where you can post your activities and collaborate with other Maryland stewards. To access this private group from the main Facebook page, click on 'More' and then 'Group' to request to join the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/UMD-Extension-Watershed-Stewards-Academy/61550700817860/>



Please remember to enter your projects and volunteer hours into the WSA database and reporting system. Click [here](#) to log in!

Elizabeth McGarry, UME Administrative Assistant II

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301-226-7400



Continuing Education

Don't Just Flush and Forget – Basic Care for Your Septic System

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm

A septic system provides a valuable service to a home and needs periodic attention or maintenance. This webinar will discuss basic practices to keep your system functioning.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

True Resilience: Using a Neighborhood's Stormwater Challenges to Build Community

Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 12 – 1 pm

Over the past five years, the Community Ecology Institute has worked in close collaboration with multiple funding and community partners to improve flooding resilience in the neighborhood surrounding its Freetown Farm location. This presentation will cover the stormwater challenge we inherited, how we secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to address them, and the best management practices we installed at our property and surrounding area. This session will also share how we collaborated with numerous community members and contractors to achieve our stormwater goals, our continued stormwater challenges, and strategies a wide range of individuals and organizations can apply to take action around stormwater issues.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

The Threat of Climate Change to Urban Stormwater Infrastructure

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 12 – 1 pm

Extreme events throughout the USA and the world have become mainstream news, causing tens and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, not to mention the environmental impacts. The current design methodology is based on historical rainfall patterns and our aging infrastructure was never designed to meet the demands of current and future potential storms. Flood depth and duration is predicted to increase given current climate projections. To offset the increase in potential flooding, several stormwater infrastructure adaptation strategies were assessed for reducing flood depth and duration: Baseline (existing conditions), adding rain gardens (aka, Infiltration Basins), adding new surface storage (wet ponds), retrofitting existing storage with “Smart” technology, adding new Smart storage, or upsizing of stormwater pipes to convey more water. This presentation will delve into the possibilities of adapting our stormwater infrastructure to mitigate potential extreme events, minimize flooding, and adapt to climate change.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

Sunset Birding Cruise with Jack Wildlife on Schooner Woodwind

Monday, July 1, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: 80 Compromise St, Annapolis

The Chesapeake Bay is home to hundreds of species of birds, many living close to the shores of the Severn River. Join Jack to learn about the birds of the Chesapeake, their life histories, fun facts, and see how many different species of birds you can spot on the water!

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Wild Walking: A Guide to Forest Bathing Through the Seasons

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 7 – 8pm (Virtual)

Join Capital Nature co-founder Ana Ka'ahanui for a talk with local author, naturalist, certified forest bathing guide and Capital Nature advisor Melanie Choukas-Bradley. Melanie will talk about her newly released book, *Wild Walking—A Guide to Forest Bathing Through the Seasons*, sharing a brief history and description of forest bathing and its many health benefits. Melanie will be joined by other DC-area guides as they describe the special joys and opportunities for forest bathing in the DMV during the summer months.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Advancing Sustainable Stormwater Management in the Chesapeake Bay Region:

Use of Innovative Biochar Technology for High Performance, Climate-Friendly Green Infrastructure

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 12 – 1 pm

This presentation will overview the advanced use of biochar technology for sustainable stormwater management within the Chesapeake Bay Region. Biochar, a carbonaceous material synthesized through pyrolysis or

gasification of (primarily) agricultural and forest wastes or biomass, offers numerous benefits, including enhanced soil fertility, improved water retention, pollutant filtration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Biochars are considered carbon negative because the thermochemical processes used in their production sequester carbon into highly stable fixed carbon content, ranging from 30+% to 80+%, depending on the feedstock. This carbon sequestration contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and can qualify for carbon credits, supporting a climate-friendly circular economy.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Kayaking: Coastal Geology of the Bay

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 6 - 8 pm

Location: The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace

Learn about the coastal sedimentation along the Chesapeake Bay as well as the geological processes that shape our landscape. Learn how geology impacts the regions diversity of plants, wildlife, and urban development. We'll discuss fossils, take sediment core samples, and learn the geologic periods that the Bay covers while enjoying the sights from the water.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

MWEE Teacher Training – From Classrooms to Creeks!

Thursday, July 11, 2024, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: 2001 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek

Join the Alice Ferguson Foundation in a one-day training to learn how to implement a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) in your school or classroom! Help your students become better environmental stewards and meet state curriculum standards. Training is free!

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Bridging the Watershed (BTW) Teacher Training

Thursday (virtual) and Friday (in-person), July 11 & 12, 2024, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in Washington, DC

Are you a teacher in the DMV (grades 6 to 12) interested in getting your students outside for a hands-on field study? Join our Bridging the Watershed program and get access to our award-winning watershed curriculum that supports our field trips in nearby parks. Students learn about stream health by testing water chemistry, finding macroinvertebrates, learning about sedimentation and more.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Farm Tour with Wildlife Artist Jonathan Shaw

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Come visit the 467-acre, preserved Wye Farm near Wye Mills, and enjoy a guided walking tour of 33 acres of wildflowers, pollinators, and successional grasslands so important for breeding birds including quail.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Regenerating Home and Municipal Landscapes

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

How can we produce beautiful residential and municipal landscapes that will reduce carbon emissions, maintain & improve soil health, help manage stormwater, boost biodiversity and even save money? Find out how you can make your yard and/or your community's landscape part of the climate and biodiversity solution.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Tuckahoe Lake Family Paddle

Saturday, July 20, 2024, 4 – 6 pm

Tuckahoe State Park, Crouse Mill Road, Queen Anne

Join ShoreRivers' Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps member, Autumn Conley, as she leads a paddle at Tuckahoe State Park. This expedition is an interactive, family-friendly, guided paddle/tour. Participants will explore Tuckahoe Creek, a stream bordered by rich marsh and woodland habitat, and learn more about Eastern Shore ecology and history.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Holly Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park – Invasives Removal

Monday, July 22, 2024, 8 am – 12 pm

Hi. I'm Susan Johnson and serve on the Board of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. I'm also one of a three member Capstone Project Team from the Anne Arundel County Watersheds Steward Academy (WSA) – Class 16, assigned to remove invasive plants from in front of Holly Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. We are looking to collaborate with The Alliance's Project Clean Stream network and are seeking about six volunteers to help with invasives removal.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Thermal Evaluation of Upland Stormwater BMPs:

Impact of Design Modifications to Buffer Stream Temperatures in Urbanized Watersheds

Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 12 – 1 pm

Currently, typical stormwater retrofit designs address nutrient and sediment inputs, but do not necessarily include design elements that address thermal impacts, which likely increase stream temperatures during warmer months. Carroll County consists primarily of Use III and IV streams, and to generate a better understanding of what capacity specific BMPs have on reducing thermal impacts to the receiving waters, studies were initiated that looked at the efficacy of these practices at reducing thermal impacts to our waterways. Long-term monitoring was set up at a large sand filter BMP to understand how dry facilities buffered stormwater temperatures from pavement to tailwater.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Wildly Native Tour with Edible Flowers

Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 10 am – 12:30 pm

Wildly Native - Flower Farm and Florist, Broad Neck Road, Chestertown

Come learn about wildflowers with ShoreRivers. You will learn from this amazing team how to use wildflowers in creative ways (including which are edible) and how to identify the weeds.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Lotus Paddle with Sassafras Riverkeeper

Thursday, July 25, 2024, 1 – 3:30 pm

Location: Turners Creek Landing, Turners Creek Road, Kennedyville

Join Sassafras Riverkeeper Zack Kelleher to experience the annual blooming of the American lotus—a hallmark of summertime on the river. If you haven't experienced North America's largest wildflower up close, it's a special tradition each summer that attracts visitors from around the world.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Harford County Watershed Stewards Academy Accepting Applications

Application deadline: July 28 for the program beginning in September 2024 and running through March 2025

The Watershed Stewards Academy trains and supports volunteer community leaders in the protection, restoration, and conservation of local waterways. Graduates of the program will be Master Watershed Stewards and work within their communities to identify pollutants, educate neighbors about stream health, and take actions to improve water quality. Applications are now being accepted for the program which is offered by Harford County Department of Public Works' Watershed Protection and Restoration Office and University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Regenerative Agriculture & Other Fixes to the Food System

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Industrial agriculture has brought us huge monocultures of corn and soybeans. Yearly tillage has robbed the soil of organic matter, and little habitat remains to support the natural enemies of crop pests. These impacts now require the heavy use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer and pesticides to maintain yields, resulting in significant greenhouse gas emissions and massive air & water pollution. How can we change agriculture to maintain soil health and rebuild the biodiversity that can help control pests while reducing carbon emissions, controlling pollution and maybe even sequestering some carbon? Registration

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Eating Invasives with the Chesapeake Culinary Center

Thursday, August 8, 2024, 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Chesapeake Culinary Center, Franklin Street, Denton

Join ShoreRivers for an afternoon at the Chesapeake Culinary Center, an innovative food security and culinary center in Denton. Participants will receive a tour of the center and learn how to cook with invasive species. While enjoying your meal of invasive blue catfish, participants will hear from owner Beth Brewster about how to use cooking as a way to combat invasive species.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Kayaking: Semi-Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping

Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 6-8 pm

Location: 100 Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace

Learn about the rich submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) that can be found in the Bay. SAV gives a bountiful food source to wildlife and helps protect the Bay from contaminants and tidal action. Learn about basic identification of the plants and locations of the SAV's while learning how to survey and map out plant beds.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Registration for Summer CBLP 2024's Level 1 session is now open!

The CBLP Level 1 credential focuses on the design, installation, and management of sustainable landscapes and green infrastructure, taught by regional experts through classroom learning and field-based practicums. We offer both hybrid and in-person learning options.

Hybrid Option – One online session comprised of two half-day interactive online classes via Zoom plus one full day, in person, field practicum. Online classes – July 30 & August 1

Field practicum options:

Columbia, MD | August 15

Washington, DC | August 22

Easton, MD | September 11

Lancaster, PA | September 26

In Person Option – two full days in person – one classroom and one in the field:

Columbia, MD | August 14-15

Easton, MD | September 10-11

Lancaster, PA | September 15-26

Registration is a 2-step process: apply online, await approval, then return to the website to pay and select dates. Discounts are available for companies sending three or more employees to Level 1, and scholarship opportunities can be found on our website. CBLP course attendees may earn continuing education credits from numerous professional organizations- check out our website for the full list.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Pizza and Permaculture with the Eastern Shore Permaculture Institute (Galena, Maryland)

Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 6 - 8 pm

Join ShoreRivers for an introduction to permaculture and a tasty cooking demo (with produce fresh picked from the garden by YOU) at The Eastern Shore Permaculture Institute. Tour this tightly packed eco-demonstration site and learn about our community garden, wildflower meadow, raspberry tornadoes, mushroom logs, bees, chickens, greenhouse, cobb pizza oven, Paw Paws, and much more. More than 50 edible species are on site and will serve as inspiration to take these principals back to wherever you call home.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Rewilding: Regenerating Communities and Ecosystems

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

The removal of large predators and herbivores in the US and Europe has reduced the complexity and stability of natural food webs. This has changed and impoverished ecosystems to the point of near-collapse. Reintroducing predators and/or large herbivores to “rewild” ecosystems has produced some exciting results. Rewilding is not about restoring past communities and ecosystems. Instead, it aims to establish new food webs that can become as stable and biodiverse as native ones. Registration

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Expedition: Learn How to Fly Fish (Galena, Maryland)

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Whether you are an experienced fly fisher or a beginner, this expedition is for you! Join ShoreRivers and Chuck Jolly of Rosehill Farm for an afternoon of fly fishing and enjoying the beautiful scenery on a property right next to Mill Creek, a tributary of the Sassafras River.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Native Plant Palooza at Robinson Nature Center (Columbia, MD)

Sunday, September 29, 2024, 12 – 4 pm

Shop our annual, outdoor native plant sale! Select from a large variety of shrubs, wildflowers, ground covers, trees, and edible native plants. Native plants are more tolerant to local climate, pest species and soil nutrients and require less water, fertilizer and pesticides. They provide food and habitat for local species of butterflies, insects and birds.

For more information, click [here](#).

Night for Nature: A fundraiser in support of Nature-Based Education!

Friday, October 18, 2024, 6 – 9 pm

Location: Boordy Vineyards in Hydes, Maryland

Early bird tickets now available! Join us for our inaugural Night for Nature. Our fall fundraiser includes live music, bespoke foraged fare, and opportunities for giving in support of nature-based education. Night for Nature is a dressy casual event. Bring a friend and celebrate at this beautiful autumn soiree with fellow supporters from across the Baltimore region!

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Funding and Material Support

Grant Opportunity with the Chesapeake Bay Trust – Outreach & Restoration Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, August 22, 2024

The Outreach and Restoration grant program encourages outreach, community engagement activities, and on-the-ground restoration projects that increase knowledge, change behavior, and accelerate stewardship of natural resources that involve residents in restoring local green spaces, waterways, and natural resources.

What this funds: This grant program welcomes applications for projects in the state of Maryland. Applicants can request funds from one of the following tracks.

Track 1: Outreach/Knowledge Building Projects (up to \$50,000)

Track 2: Behavior Change Projects (up to \$75,000)

Track 3: Restoration Projects (up to \$100,000)

Track 4: Outreach and Restoration Projects (up to \$125,000)

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Trust's Anne Arundel County Forestry and Forested Land Protection Grant Program

Deadline: August 1, 2024

The goal of this program is to implement cost-effective reforestation and greening projects and increase the number of acres of protected forested land in the County. Since 2015, over 20,000 trees have been planted and over 250 acres of forest have been protected through this program. Let's continue this momentum and continue to increase and preserve the County's tree canopy!

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

New Grant Opportunity with the Chesapeake Bay Trust – Urban Trees Mini Grant Program

Deadline: Rolling

Communities that would like to implement small tree planting projects are encouraged to seek support and funding through this opportunity. Regions of the State in Which Tree Planting Projects Can Occur: Tree planting proposed must occur in urban areas with low median household income levels, high unemployment, and neighborhoods with housing projects or that were historically red-lined at any time. Local governments, non-profit organizations, community and homeowner associations, faith-based organizations, and more are encouraged to apply.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Trust - Community Engagement Mini Grant

Deadline: Rolling

Designed to support activities that enhance communities, engage residents, and improve natural resources. They fund small-scale activities such as tree plantings, rain gardens, stream cleanups, and storm drain stenciling, among others.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Trust Grants and Opportunities

The Chesapeake Bay Trust's grant-making strategies are shaped by three core objectives; environmental education, demonstration-based restoration, and community engagement. We look to these objectives as basic touchstones for developing our programs, engaging new partners, and communicating about our work.

Click here for more information or to apply, click [here](#).



Employment Opportunities

[Regional Watershed Specialist](#) | University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR)

[Horn Point/Sea Grant Shellfish Aquaculture Outreach Specialist](#) | UMD Ctr for Envir. Science Horn Point Lab

[Executive Administrative Assistant II](#) | UMD Center for Envir. Science, Horn Point Laboratory | Cambridge

[Landscape Ecologist](#) | Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

[Water Resources Planner](#) | Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

[Urban Conservation Specialist 1](#) | Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District

[School Year Educator](#) | Pickering Creek Audubon Center | Easton

[Maryland Sea Grant Law and Policy Fellowship](#)

[Youth Programs Manager](#) | Casey Trees | Washington, DC

[Planning Specialist III](#) | Montgomery County, MD Department of Environmental Protection | Wheaton

[Tree Planting Supervisor](#) | Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service

[Env Protection Specialist \(Restoration Project Manager\)](#) | DC Gov | Washington DC

[Part-Time Administrative Assistant](#) | Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

[Environmental Literacy Assistant](#) | Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, AACPS | Millersville

[Part-Time Environmental Scientist, Chesapeake Bay](#) | EnviroProjects

[Natural Resources Planner V \(Conservation Easement Program Manager\)](#) | MD Dept of Natural Resources

[Maryland Conservation Advocate](#) | Nature Forward | Chevy Chase

[Team Staffer](#) | Chesapeake Bay Program's Habitat Goal

[Restoration Project Manager / Env Protection Specialist](#) | DC Gov

[Senior Director of Development](#) | Rock Creek Conservancy | Bethesda

[Climate and Environmental Educator](#) | Howard County Conservancy

[Nursery Manager](#) | Seeds of Change

[Team Staffer](#) | Chesapeake Bay Program's Habitat Goal

[Program Coordinator](#) | Rock Creek Conservancy | Bethesda

[Special Events and Visitor Center Manager](#) | Montgomery Parks | Wheaton

[Social Media Specialist](#) | Montgomery Parks | Wheaton

[Building Operations Manager](#) | Montgomery Parks | Wheaton