

Watershed Stewards Academy February 2025 Newsletter

Hello Watershed Stewards!

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

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Click here for [WSA's Facebook Page!](#)

To access this private group from the main Facebook page, click on 'More' and then 'Group' to request to join the group.

Continuing Education

Common Drinking Water Contaminants and How to Treat Them

Wednesday, February 19, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm

There are many contaminants that can occur in drinking water depending on the source. We will discuss the most common ones including bacteria, metals, nutrients; where they come from and how to know if they are present and how to treat them. The quality of water we drink is important to our health and this webinar will discuss key steps to ensure good drinking water quality. University of Maryland Extension, Water Quality Specialist, Dr. Andy Lazur will discuss these practices and answer any questions.

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

PAXCON 2025

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Location: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD

The Patuxent River Conference (PAXCON) is the premier forum uniting scientists, environmental educators, natural resource managers, and anyone passionate about the health and future of the Patuxent River. To know and understand the Patuxent River is to take one more step towards its protection. The 2025 Patuxent River Conference's theme: Our River, Our Livelihood, is centered in exploring the status, stressors, and use of the many River resources, as well as their protection for future generations. Join us as experts, thought leaders, and passionate individuals converge to share their insights, ideas, and stories. This event promises a dynamic lineup of presenters. Attendees can interact with presenters, exchange ideas, and connect with participants who share a common goal: a healthier Patuxent Watershed.

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

Winter Woody Plant ID Training Course

Monday thru Wednesday, February 10-12, 2025, 8:30 am – 5 pm

Location: 8561 Ocean Gateway, Easton

Winter Woody Plant ID is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to identify woody plants in their natural habitat during the winter season. By the end of the course, participants will better understand how to differentiate between species and confidently identify woody plants in winter. Woody species will be identified through lectures, field trips and field/lab keying. Students will examine twigs, bark and other leafless characteristics.

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

Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement Installer Training Course

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 8 am - 5 pm

Location: 1200 First Street Northeast, Washington, DC

Are you looking to expand your professional skillset in environmental design/construction? Consider expanding your opportunities to include permeable pavers by attending a training course on Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavers (PICP). Washington DC's RiverSmart Homes program is partnering with the Concrete Masonry and Hardscapes Association to offer a one-day certification course to any who are interest. The first half of the day will be a training course in a classroom on the benefits, installation process, and maintenance of permeable pavers, followed by the exam in the afternoon that earns you a PICP Record of Completion, which is needed to become an approved RiverSmart contractor.

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

CBLP Level 1 Registration 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 – January 28 & 30

Field practicum options:

Feb. 12 | Chevy Chase, MD

Feb. 21 | Lower Allen Township, PA

Feb. 28 | Norfolk, VA

Feb. 27 | Seaford, DE

March 7 | Centerville, VA

In Person Option – 2 full days – 1 classroom and 1 in the field:

Feb. 11-12 | Chevy Chase, MD

February 20-21 | Lower Allen Township, PA

February 27-28 | Norfolk, VA

March 6-7 | Centerville, VA

Snow dates listed online

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

Neighbors for Native Plants Course in Owings Mills

Saturdays, March 22, 29 and April 5, 2025, 9am – 12pm

The Neighbors for Native Plants training course educates participants on the ecological significance of native plants in supporting native wildlife and fostering healthy ecosystems. The curriculum covers topics such as identifying native and invasive plants and provides practical instruction on the removal and proper disposal of invasive species. Upon completing the course, participants will be certified to perform invasive species removal and environmental restoration work at NeighborSpace of Baltimore County sites.

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



Upcoming Events

Winter Tree Walk

Saturday, February 1, 2025, 10am – 12pm

Location: 9827 Ravenhurst Road, Middle River, MD

Join NeighborSpace and Natural Resource planner, Francis Smith, for a winter tree walk. Learn winter tree ID skills and facts about trees growing in this 14-acre urban forest.

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

Sacred Roots: Trees For Sacred Places Virtual IPC Learning Lab

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 7 – 8 pm

Join Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake on Thursday February 6, 2025 at 7pm and discover the powerful connection between faith and environmental stewardship through the gift of trees! Hear from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and explore how your congregation can transform its space with tree plantings that nurture creation and combat climate change. Listen to inspiring stories and learn how your faith community can make a lasting impact.

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

Free Film Screening: Proteus brings together history, art & science

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 3 – 4:30pm

Location: Horn Point Laboratory, AREL Building, 2020 Horns Point Road, Cambridge

Be part of a free screening of the film Proteus, an animated documentary exploring the nineteenth century's engagement with the undersea world through science, technology, painting, poetry and myth. The central figure of the film is biologist and artist Ernst Haeckel, who found in the depths of the sea an ecstatic and visionary fusion of science and art.

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

Turtles of Maryland Workshop (Baltimore, MD)

Saturday, February 15, 2025, 1 – 3 pm

Location: 6908 Belair Rd, Natural History Society of MD

Maryland is home to 17 types of turtles. Of those, 12 species are threatened by habitat loss, and 9 are experiencing population decline. All four sea turtle species found in Maryland are protected by the Endangered Species Act. In this presentation, you'll learn how to tell turtles apart, and you'll learn about dangers that turtles face, about native species and habitats, and about common non-natives in the state. Of course, no presentation on turtles would be complete without live turtles.

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

Great Backyard Bird Count Citizen Scientist Event with Bird Habitat Family Class and Walk

Saturday, February 15, 2025, 11am – 12:15pm

Location: Harford County, 100 Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace

Become a citizen scientist by taking part in the global Great Backyard Bird Count at the Environmental Center, and discover the fascinating world of bird habitats with this family-friendly class. From woodlands to wetlands, learn about the vibrant ecosystems that birds call home. The class will conclude with a guided birdwatching hike on the grounds of the Museum and City Promenade.

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

The Future of Climate Change: What Three Generations of Climate Scientists Revealed

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 7 pm

Join us for a special panel with three generations of climate scientists at the Smithsonian. Meet Bert Drake, creator of the 1980s experiment that began it all; Pat Megonigal, the current director of the Global Change Research Wetland; and Jaxine Wolfe, a technician studying wetland “blue carbon” around the globe. Find out what we know for certain, what mysteries remain, and why wetlands may be one of Earth’s greatest hopes for resisting and withstanding climate change. Part of SERC’s 60th anniversary webinar series.

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

Symposium on Emerging Contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay

Friday, February 21, 2025, 9am – 6pm

Location: Morgan State University, East Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore

As partners across the Chesapeake Bay watershed work to strengthen and accelerate progress made towards restoration goals, understanding and addressing emerging contaminants will play an increasingly important role in these efforts. Join Morgan State University, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for a groundbreaking symposium highlighting cutting edge research, innovative solutions, and collaborative strategies to tackle these challenges.

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

Nature’s Blueprint: Designing for Resiliency with Native Plants

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 9:30am – 12pm

Location: 730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis

Brought to you by Unity Gardens, covering a range of topics of interest to home and institutional gardeners. Topics will include rainscaping and stormwater management, green infrastructure, drought tolerant planting, designing gardens for form and function, and landscaping imperatives for watershed communities. Unity Gardens gives grants to Anne Arundel County based community organizations for the installation of native plant gardens.

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

Identifying Trees in Winter

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 9:30am – 12:30pm

Identifying trees and shrubs in winter requires a shift in perspective. This beginner-level workshop at Horn Point will provide an understanding of tree structure, growth patterns, and diversity of plant life throughout the year,

and turn winter walks into engaging quests of discovery. The day will include a walk in the beautiful Horn Point waterfront forests and fields.

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

Climate Summary

Friday & Saturday, February 28 & March 1, 2025, 8am – 4pm

Location: Rosenstock Hall, Hood College, Ferndale Avenue, Frederick

This year's summit will feature:

- 24 panel speakers
- 3 keynote addresses
- Small group sessions on native gardening, home energy efficiency, electrification, how to be a climate solutions advocate, and more
- Learn about our Green Schools program and participate in activities for students
- Networking opportunities with more than 400 attendees, including elected officials, business owners, educators, residents, and community leaders
- Visit the exhibit hall filled with 50 nonprofits, local businesses and government agencies

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

WSA's 14th "Spring Into Action" Annual Conference

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 9 am – 4:30 pm

Location: Maritime Conference Center, 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights

Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) is a non-profit organization training community leaders to drive change for sustainable landscapes and clean waters in Anne Arundel County (AACo) and we have a truly exciting conference planned for you this year!

This event is designed to explore topics most relevant to restoring communities and improving local waterways. Whether you're a Watershed Steward, stormwater professional, or just interested in environmental restoration, this conference has something for everyone!

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

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Tuesday-Thursday, March 4, 5 & 6, 2025

A celebration of the connection between land and water. "Surf and Turf" embarks on a captivating journey from the inland mountains and headwater streams of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to the wide-open, salty expanse of the Bay itself.

This powerful environmental tale weaves together the healing power of nature, hope, and an unexpected alliance, showing us how two seemingly different worlds can unite for a shared cause.

Discover how we can all find a way to sit at the same table, share our stories, and strive together for clean air, clean water, and a brighter future.

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

Faithful Green Leaders Training

Tuesdays, March 11th, 18th, and 25th, 7 - 8:30pm

Learn how to establish and grow a green team at your congregation, learn about exciting environmental education programs to engage your congregation, learn how to develop an action plan for your Green Team and ways to enhance your communication skills to help spread the word.

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

Implementing Climate Resilient Living Shorelines in Maryland

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 12 - 1:30pm

This webinar will cover the history of shoreline erosion control practices and how traditional techniques have evolved in recent years. What is a 'living shoreline'? How can we enhance habitat, water quality, access, and prepare for climate impacts at the same time? We will cover the Shoreline Conservation Service and discuss which technical and financial assistance opportunities are currently available through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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

Ospreys on the Patuxent

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 7 pm

Join us to learn about ospreys, the often-seen “fish hawk” of local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, with Patuxent River Park's senior naturalist Greg Kearns. Roughly one-fourth of the ospreys in the continental U.S. nest in Chesapeake Bay. But the birds suffered massive declines in the 1950s and 60s due to widespread use of the pesticide DDT. In this talk, Kearns will discuss osprey biology, his banding program with the public, reintroduction efforts, how this once-imperiled bird became a conservation success story and how ospreys are doing today. Part of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's 60th anniversary webinar series.

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



Funding and Material Support

Urban Trees Grant Program - Chesapeake Bay Trust and 5 Million Trees for Maryland

Virtual Information Session: Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, 12-1pm

Deadline: Thursday, March 6, 2025

We welcome requests for tree planting projects in urban underserved communities. The goal of the Urban Trees Grant Program is to green communities; enhance quality of life, human health, and community livability by improving air quality, and reducing urban heat island effect; and mitigate some of the effects of climate change.

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

Chesapeake Bay Trust - Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant

Deadline: Rolling

Funds activities such as tree plantings, rain gardens, stream cleanups, and storm drain stenciling.

To see a longer list of potential projects, read the full Request for Proposals (RFP).

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

Maryland Native Plant Society Research Grants

Deadline: Monday, March 31, 2025

The Maryland Native Plant Society is funding research grants of up to \$4,000 for empirical, hypothesis-driven research relevant to Maryland's native plants. Projects that concern plants or habitats outside Maryland will be considered if the project results will add to the body of knowledge about plants and habitats in Maryland, or if an appreciable portion of the plant specimens or research sites come from or are located in Maryland. The project may also concern the effects of invasive non-native plants on Maryland native plants and habitats.

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

Unity Gardens Spring Grant Cycle Open Through March 1, 2025

Deadline: February 28, 2025

Unity Gardens will be awarding grants to community organizations in Anne Arundel County, Maryland for the installation of native plant gardens. Awards are granted to homeowners associations, faith-based organizations, school and scout groups, parks and public spaces, garden clubs and other qualified non-profit groups.

Two types of grants are available – one, our “classic” grant of up to \$1000 for the installation of native gardens with any mix of plant types, and second, a larger “super grant” of up to \$3000 for plantings comprised primarily of native trees and shrubs. These Super Grants are a recent addition to our grant program and reflect both the importance and additional costs of adding more native trees and shrubs to our landscapes.

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

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program

Deadline: Monday, March 10, 2025

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, US EPA Region III, Chesapeake Bay Program, and WV DEP are excited to announce that the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program is now open!

This grant program aims to help communities: Reduce stormwater runoff, Increase urban green spaces, Improve local water health and the Chesapeake Bay, and Enhance community quality of life and livability.

Example projects include green streets, rain gardens, green roofs, pollinator gardens, white papers/tools on green infrastructure, and more!

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

The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program is Now Open!

Deadline: Thursday, March 20, 2025

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program is a partnership between the Trust, the Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, and the City of Annapolis. This program will fund projects to reduce pollutants through the implementation of watershed restoration practices. Projects must accomplish on-the-ground restoration that treats rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces at a cost-effective price or demonstrate the accomplishment of another metric that will help the County and City meet local water quality and runoff reduction improvement goals. Applications under this award program that demonstrate sound

design and cost efficiency in meeting this goal will be most competitive. To demonstrate this, applicants will be required to provide sound technical designs and project budgets.

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](#).



Items of Interest

Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award – Submissions now open!

Submissions Deadline: Saturday, February 21, 2025

The Best Urban BMP in the Bay Awards contest (BUBBAs) recognizes the best practices and programs being implemented in the urban environment across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Presented by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, with support from our sponsors, The BUBBAs shine a light on local innovators using creative approaches to protect and restore local watersheds. While other low impact development (LID) competitions focus on the design of new stormwater practices, CSN wants to also recognize on-the-ground techniques being used to tackle difficult stormwater problems. Put simply, the goal of the BUBBAs is three-fold: Recognize innovators in the field who are using new and creative techniques to treat runoff and protect streams; Share these innovative techniques with other communities who could benefit from the lessons learned; and Inspire interaction among our 11,000+ member network of stormwater professionals throughout the Bay watershed and beyond.

Categories this year are:

Habitat & Streams

Residential Stewardship Practice

Resilient/Renewed: Green Infrastructure, Stormwater Controls, & Retrofits

Education & Outreach Impact

Stormwater Program Pioneers

For more information or to nominate yourself or someone else, click [here](#).



Employment Opportunities

[Director of Sponsored Programs](#) | University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Restoration Science

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Elemental Analysis for Sediment Sourcing and Tracking

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Summer Field Technician

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Envir. Literacy Climate Curriculum Analysis and Public Access Development

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Innovating Data Visualization Workflows

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Tracking Federally Protected Lands Through Time

[C-StREAM Fellowship Program](#): Tributary Basin Summary

[Habitat Development and Conservation Planning Project Coord.](#) | American Conservation Experience (ACE)

[Executive Director](#) | Baltimore Community ToolBank

[Environmental Specialist/Senior Environmental Specialist](#) | Maryland Environmental Service (MES)

[Communications & Marketing Manager](#) | Casey Trees

[Office Manager](#) | Casey Trees

[Water Resources Engineer](#) | Biohabitats (Baltimore, MD)

[Summer Interns](#) | The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and the Chesapeake Research Consortium

[Lead Horticultural Support Tech.](#) | Mont. Co. Dept. of Parks-Horticulture, Forestry and Envir. Educ. Div.

[Seasonal Conservation Landscaper](#) | Spring & Summer UpLift Crew Members & Leader - Howard EcoWorks

[Maryland Director](#) | Chesapeake Bay Commission

[Butterfly House/Environmental Education Internship](#) | Ladew Topiary Gardens

[Landscaper/Horticulturist- Install./Maint. Crew Member](#) | Lauren's Garden Service and Native Plant Nursery

[Forests Projects Field Specialist](#) | The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance)

[Summer 2025 Ecosystem Restoration Science Internship](#) | Underwood & Associates

[Water Resources Professional I](#) | The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP)

[Director of Finance and Administration](#) | Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy

[Market Manager](#) | St Michaels Farmers Market

[2025 Elizabeth Brown Memorial Summer Internship](#) | ShoreRivers

[Summer 2025 Communications Internship](#) | ShoreRivers

[Part Time Educator](#) | Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park (AMM)

[Deputy Department Budget and Procurement Manager](#) | Montgomery Parks

[Environmental Education and Interpretation Summer Internship](#) | Maryland Coastal Bays Program

[Summer 2025 C-StREAM Fellowship](#) | Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC)

[Grants Administrator](#) | City of Annapolis

[Environmental Science Summer Intern](#) | MD Coastal Bays Program and National Park Service (NPS)

[Environ. Education Internship High School Students – Summer 2025](#) | Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park

[Environ. Education Internship For College Students – Summer 2025](#) | Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park

[Summer Camp Lead Educator](#) | Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park

[Project Manager](#) | The Nature Conservancy – MD/DC

[Program Specialist II \(Tree Montgomery Program\), Grade 21](#) | Montgomery County Government