

Watershed Stewards Academy January 2025 Newsletter

Happy New Year Watershed Stewards!

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
emcgarry@umd.edu
301-226-7400

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

Best Ways to Protect Your Septic System and Save Money

Wednesday, January 15, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm

A septic system is the most expensive appliance or system in a home! There are several practices you can do to help your system work effectively, last longer, and therefore save you money. 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](#).

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](#).



Upcoming Events

Studying Maryland's Ice Age Peoples in Baltimore County and Beyond

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 7 - 8:30 pm

Location: Oregon Ridge Nature Center Auditorium 1355 Beaver Dam Rd, Cockeysville

This presentation will provide an overview of the Paleoindian Period (13,000-10,000 years before present) in Maryland based on data from the statewide Maryland Fluted Point Survey and recent excavations organized by the Maryland Historical Trust.

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

Seed Swap Festival

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 11 am – 3 pm

Location: Mount Rainier Nature Center, 4701 31st Pl. Mount Rainier, MD

Join Prince George's Parks and Recreation and Anacostia Watershed Society to celebrate National Seed Swap Day! Exchange seeds with your neighbors and meet local organizations as you prepare for spring and diversify your garden.

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

Nature Connections: Nature's Glow

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 1 – 4 pm

Location: 6908 Belair Road, Baltimore

You may have just put away your Christmas lights but we still can light up your night! There are many animals, plants, minerals, and algae that glow in the dark. Some, like scorpions and calcite, only appear different under ultraviolet light. Others, like dinoflagellates and fireflies, are visible to the naked human eye. This may sound like an otherworldly phenomenon, but most can be found right here in Maryland! Join the Natural History Society for an afternoon of luminescence and fluorescence in nature.

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](#).



Funding and Material Support

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

Virtual Information Session: Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, 6-7pm or 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](#).

Youth Environmental Education Grant Program Accepting Applications – Chesapeake Bay Trust

Deadline: Thursday, January 16, 2025

The Youth Environmental Education Grant Program was established to provide accessible funds to schools, organizations, and agencies for youth environmental education opportunities and educator support. To accomplish this goal the program funds projects that involve youth and students investigating a local environmental issue, problem, or phenomenon through indoor and outdoor research culminating in developing solutions and taking action in their school or community – also known as the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) model. Funds can cover a multitude of items including costs for field trips, fieldwork,

transportation, substitute fees, and supplies for projects. This grant program also supports the construction of outdoor classrooms, school-yard habitats, or community-based improvements.

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

Reid Temple A.M.E. Church – Engineering Design for Stormwater Mitigation Project (NFWF Planning & Technical Assistance Grant)

Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2025

Reid Temple African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church (Reid Temple) has secured funding for the engineering design of multiple green infrastructure improvements at the physical church location and property at 11400 Glenn Dale Blvd, Glenn Dale, MD in Prince George’s County. This project would add stormwater retrofit practices to the property, with the objective of reducing and treating impervious areas through pervious and porous green alternatives that will yield the following outcomes upon implementation: 1) reduced localized flooding and icing; 2) increased erosion control and infiltration; 3) improved aesthetics of the property; 4) improved safety due to flooding and icing hazards; and 5) improved mental health and well-being through access to green space.

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

NOW OPEN – Pooled Monitoring Initiative’s Restoration Research Award Program

Online Information Session: Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 12 - 1pm. Register [here](#).

Due date: Thursday, January 23, 2025

The Chesapeake Bay Trust has funding available for our research questions around effectiveness of stormwater and stream restoration programs at the watershed/catchment scale (Q1, Q2); effectiveness of restoration practices at the project scale (Q3a/b, Q4, Q5a/b/c); social science research questions to accelerate adoption of BMPs and help quantify targeted outcomes (Q6, Q7a/b/c); and trade-offs in resource improvements incurred by restoration practices and the resulting net ecological change (Q8).

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

Request for Proposals – Stormwater BMP Designs

Christian Liberty Church, has received funding through the State of Maryland's Resiliency through Restoration Initiative, is seeking proposals for the design of several stormwater BMPs at our two campuses located at 25 E Chestnut Hill Ln, Reisterstown, MD 21136 and 2603 Baker St, Baltimore, MD 21216. Designs need to be completed and fully permitted within one year. The full RFP can be downloaded at <https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/jobs>. Proposals are due no later than January 10, 2025.

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

[Project Manager III](#) | Climate and Energy, Frederick County Division of Energy and Environment

[Research & Policy Intern \(Summer 2025\)](#) | Environmental Law Institute

[Research Associate \(2025 – 2027\)](#) | Environmental Law Institute

[Executive Director](#) | Scenic Rivers Land Trust

[Grant Manager \(Part-Time\)](#) | Potomac Conservancy

[Green Infrastructure Projects Coordinator](#) | Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance)

[Project Accountant](#) | Environmental Law Institute (ELI)

[Dam Safety Associate Director](#) | American Rivers

[Jug Bay Summer Internships \(3\)](#) | Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

[Development Manager](#) | Severn River Association (SRA)

[Restoration Associate](#) | Severn River Association (SRA)

[Field Station Educator](#) | Chincoteague Bay Field Station

[Summer Internship Opportunities](#) | Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

[Marine Biologist Internship](#) | The Cooperative Oxford Lab and Chesapeake Research Consortium

[Environmental Literacy Planning Internship](#) | NOAA Ches. Bay Office and Ches. Research Consortium

[Place-Based Partnerships Internship](#) | NOAA Ches. Bay Office and Ches. Research Consortium

[Data Programming Internship](#) | NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Chesapeake Research Consortium

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

[Ecological Technician](#) | Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)

[Education & Curriculum Specialist](#) | Historic Annapolis

[Summer Environmental Educator](#) | Nature Forward

[Summer Environmental Internship](#) | Nature Forward

[Assistant Nursery Manager](#) | Delmarva Native Plants

[Dr. Beth McGee Science Fellow](#) | Chesapeake Bay Foundation

[University & Research Assistant Coordinator](#) | Chincoteague Bay Field Station

[Program Assistant](#) | NeighborSpace of Baltimore County

[Urban Forest Manager](#) | City of Takoma Park

[Farm Crew – Full Time](#) | Chesapeake Bay Foundation

[Communications and Marketing Intern](#) | Choose Clean Water Coalition

[Public Engagement Spring Intern](#) | SERC

[Director of Education](#) | Nature Forward

[Green Infrastructure Projects Coordinator](#) | Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance)

[Summer Camp Counselor](#) | Association for Nature-Based Education