

Watershed Stewards Academy November 2024 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.



Featured WSA Steward

George Wiggins graduated from Harford County's first Watershed Stewards Academy in 2018 and has been a huge asset to the program ever since. George came to us with a degree in earth science, and continues in the environmental field after college working with several water and wastewater plants. George's WSA capstone project, along with Teri Myers and Rose Braue, was to partner with the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center in developing and delivering educational programming on invasive plant identification and removal.

George helped construct and continues to maintain rain gardens at Tollgate Park, Churchville Rec Center - Glenville Building, and Mariner Point Park. He has worked to assist in visioning new WSA programs, and helped create a junior WSA program, but it was shut down due to Covid, and has educated the public at events like the Annual Wade In at Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, Harford County Farm Fair, and Fall Fest at Eden Mill Nature Center. He has participated in tree planting at Harford Glen Environmental Education Center; in removing invasive oriental bittersweet and native species plantings with students at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center; in cleanup and plantings at Aberdeen Middle school; and has attended many conferences and meetings as a Master Watershed Steward for Harford County.

George volunteers at countless events and shows up at countless meetings. He's always willing to do anything and will do it at the last minute too. You don't have to ask him, he just volunteers. Thank you, George, for all you do for the Watershed Stewards Academy!



Fall Fest at Eden Mill Nature

Continuing Education

Drinking Water – to Filter or Not Filter

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm

Whether it be an unpleasant smell, scale, or a health risk contaminant, fortunately there are numerous water filtration units to effectively treat these contaminants. This webinar will present options for homeowners to treat their drinking water.

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

Improving Forest Health of Small-Acreage Properties through Service Provider Training and Landowner Education

Monday, November 18, 2024, 12 pm

Join the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology for a webinar with Jonathan Kays of the University of Maryland (UMD) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He will present a webinar on his Hughes-Center-funded research project, “Improving Forest Health of Small-Acreage Properties through Service Provider Training and Landowner Education.” As indicated in the recent Technical Study of Forests and Forest Cover in Maryland, forests in Maryland are increasingly fragmented. Forest fragmentation has led to increasing pressure to educate landowners, volunteers, foresters, and green industry professionals to care for these Properties.

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

Become a Certified Maryland Tree Steward

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 12 & 13, 2024, 6 – 8 pm

Participants must attend all sessions to be certified.

The Maryland Tree Steward certification program will equip you with skills to be able to work with neighbors, organizations, and local public agencies within your own communities to organize and lead tree planting projects, assess potential tree planting sites, care for existing tree canopy, and access a variety of technical and financial resources to bolster their work.

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

Pines of Maryland: Evolution, Habitat, Threats and ID

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 1 – 4 pm

Location: 6908 Belair Rd, Natural History Society of MD

How many pine tree species do you think grow wild in Maryland? According to the Maryland Biodiversity Program, the answer is 11. (Four are non-native.) These evergreen conifers may be one of the first trees one learns to identify as a child, but can you differentiate between a loblolly and a pitch pine? In this workshop you will take a deep dive into the fascinating natural history of pines. Topics include: The origins of pines, their evolution, and their relationships to other trees; Specific Maryland pine forest habitats; Identification of pines found in Maryland (native, naturalized, or planted); Pine pests and diseases.

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



Upcoming Events

Healthy Forests Workday: Invasive Plant Removal at Bacon Ridge Natural Area

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9 – 11 am

Location: 1700 Hawkins Road, Crownsville

Protect the Health of YOUR Local Forest: Join us at Bacon Ridge Natural Area in Crownsville to spend a morning removing harmful invasive plants from along the trails! Scenic Rivers' Healthy Forests Program engages community volunteers to help protect the long-term vitality of our largest conservation easement located within Bacon Ridge Natural Area. We will focus on vines, shrubs, and grasses. These aggressive invaders threaten vegetation at all levels of the forest from the ground up into the forest canopy.

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

B&A Trail - Remove invasive vines from trees (Severna Park)

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9:30 – 11:30 am

All volunteers from novice to expert are welcome. Newcomers will be taught to identify and remove invasive vines from trees.

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

Chesapeake Bay Trust Hosting Jones Falls – Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities *Hybrid* Information Session and Application Workshop

Monday, November 4, 2024, 6 – 7:30 pm

The application workshop will be a time for you and your organization to discuss your project and begin (or continue) crafting an application. We'll have team members from the Trust online and in-person to assist you with reviewing application materials, answering questions, and brainstorming ideas.

For more information or to register for the Zoom meeting, click [here](#).

For more information or to register for the in-person meeting, click [here](#).

1531 W North Ave, Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Library- Pennsylvania Ave Branch – Meeting Room

Apply to Choose Clean Water Coalition's Young Professionals of Color Mentorship Program

Application Deadline: Friday, November 8, 2024

Running from January to December 2025, YPC aims to help Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) working in the environmental field achieve their career goals while addressing the racial diversity gap within the Chesapeake Bay restoration movement. This program provides mentorship and professional development opportunities to support the retention of BIPOC colleagues in the region by tackling the structural barriers they face.

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

Windsor Hills Conservation Trail Cleanup

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 9am – 12pm

Location: 4530 Fairfax Road, Baltimore

Please join us in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park for a trash cleanup and invasive plant removal community event. Please meet us at the Windsor Hills Conservation Trailhead at the intersection of Clifton and Fairfax Rds in Baltimore. Come and enjoy a great morning connecting with nature and great people!

Calling Annapolis Volunteers! Conservation Landscape Planting in Quiet Waters Park

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 1 pm

WFMW+4C, Hillsmere Shores, MD 21403

Members of Watershed Stewards Academy Class 16 are planting a conservation garden next to the Concert Stage/Pavilion in Quiet Waters Park and looking for volunteers to help! Join us that day to plant a variety of native shrubs and perennials, such as winterberry holly, butterfly milkweed, black-eyed susan, and more. Gloves and tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite planting tools.

If you can attend or have questions, please email micheleberry24@gmail.com

Anacostia Watershed Society Race for the River 5k

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 8 am – 12 pm

Location: Buddy Attick Lake Park, Crescent Road, Greenbelt

This is more than just a race – it's a vibrant celebration of our commitment to restoring and protecting the Anacostia River and its surrounding watershed! Whether you want to compete in the 5k race, enjoy a more leisurely fun run/walk, or enjoy food and music, there's something for everyone. Lace up your running shoes, bring your friends and family, and join us for a day filled with fun, community spirit and a shared commitment to a healthier river!

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

Maryland's Marvelous Black Bears

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 7 - 8:30 pm

Learn about the fascinating world of Maryland's black bears, exploring their biology, behavior and the unique ecological role they play in the state's forests.

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

Jug Bay Citizen Science Summit – Exploring Current Citizen-Led Herpetological Research

Saturday, November 23, 2024, 10 am - 3 pm

Location: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Wrighton Road, Lothian

Jug Bay has an incredible Citizen Science legacy with some programs running continuously for 30 years and counting. Our annual Citizen Science Summit convenes research volunteers by theme to present research findings and thinktank on new questions to pose to the Sanctuary. Featured projects will include our Eastern Box Turtle Habitat & Population Study, Eastern Box Turtle Telemetry, Vernal Pool Monitoring, and Salamander Road Crossing Surveys.

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

Hissssstory and Current Knowledge of Snake Fungal Disease (Zoom)

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 3:30 pm

Snake fungal disease (SFD) is a threat to snake health worldwide, affecting wild and captive snakes in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. This disease is caused by fungi such as *Ophidiomyces ophidiicola*, with other fungi such as *Paranannizzipsis* spp. also emerging. SFD appears to impact all snake species, regardless of life history or taxonomy, and it typically presents as skin abnormalities. In this webinar, we will present the history and epidemiology of SFD and related fungal diseases in snakes, as well as recent research advances and ongoing knowledge gaps regarding these diseases.

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

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](#).



Funding and Material Support

Grant Funding Available – Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 4pm

Technical Assistance Workshop – Thursday, November 7, 2024, 5 – 6:30 pm, Register [here](#).

This grant program from the Prince George's County Government and the Chesapeake Bay Trust funds on-the-ground restoration activities that improve communities, improve water quality, support the County's Climate Action Plan, and engage Prince George's County residents in the restoration and protection of the local rivers and streams of Prince George's County.

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

Chesapeake Bay Trust's Watershed Assistance Grant Program is Now Open!

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2024

Virtual informational workshop: Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 6 pm

Program Overview: The Watershed Assistance Grant Program is a partnership between the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). This program offers grants for the design of watershed restoration and protection projects, as well as for planning and programmatic development projects.

Design requests are accepted for a variety of nonpoint source best management practices (BMPs), including stream restoration and other stormwater BMPs. Planning and programmatic project requests may cover watershed characterization, surveys, assessments, action plans, studies, program development, or financing strategies that enhance local capacity.

Up to \$100,000 for the design of stormwater BMPs

Up to \$150,000 for the design of stream restoration practices

Up to \$75,000 for watershed planning and programmatic development

We encourage you to reach out early to discuss your project ideas!

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

Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, December 12, 2024

This grant program funds on-the-ground restoration activities that improve communities, improve water quality, support the County's Climate Action Plan, and engage Prince George's County residents in the restoration and protection of the local rivers and streams of Prince George's County.

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

NEW Jones Falls – Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Applicants can request funds for a range of project types. Generally, requests will fall into one of the following project types:

- Outreach, education, and engagement on environmental topics and natural resources in the community
- Environmental action projects that improve the environment/natural resources in the community
- Watershed/environmental restoration projects

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

Clean Water Montgomery Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, November 14, 2024

The Montgomery County Government and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce a grant program to support watershed restoration and outreach projects throughout Montgomery County. This program aims to promote initiatives and projects which will improve water quality in Montgomery County's local streams and waterways through public engagement, education, and on-the-ground restoration.

For more information, 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

[Montgomery Parks Vegetation Field Crew Member](#) | M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks

[Conservation Educator Internship](#) | Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District

[Assistant Professor of Biology/Environmental Science and Studies](#) | Washington College

[Green Infrastructure Projects Assistant](#) | Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | Washington DC

[Director of Development | Casey Trees](#) | Washington DC

[Senior Crew Leader](#) | Howard EcoWorks

[AmeriCorps Program Leader](#) | Howard EcoWorks

[Human Resources Assistant](#) | Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

[Program Assistant](#) | Land Conservation Program | Leonardtown

[Program Officer- Outreach and Education](#) | The Chesapeake Bay Trust

[Grants Manager – Division of Energy and Environment](#) | Frederick County Government

[Environmental Literacy Assistant](#) | Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center- AA County Public Schools

[Natural Resource Planner III](#) | DNR, Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays

[Assistant or Associate Research Scientist](#) | Collaboratory Coordinator

[Senior Program Administration Officer](#) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | Annapolis

[Senior Engineer \(TMDL Support\)](#) | Anne Arundel County DPW Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration

[Assistant Director, Research, Review and Policy Division](#) | MD Department of Planning (MDP) | Baltimore

[Stormwater Management Engineer](#) | City of Annapolis

[Director of Institutional Giving](#) | Chesapeake Conservancy

[Principal/Senior Greenhouse/Nursery Technician](#) | Montgomery Parks

[Natural Resources Planner I](#) | Maryland Department of the Environment

[Ecosystem Assimilation Project Leader – Administrator II](#) | Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

[TWO CRC Environmental Management Staffer Positions](#) | Chesapeake Research Consortium

[Landscape/Horticulturist- Installation/Maintenance Crew](#) | Lauren’s Garden Service and Native Plant Nursery

[Senior Director of Major Giving](#) | Chesapeake Bay Foundation

[Director of Philanthropy](#) | Johns Hopkins Institute for Planetary Health (IPH)

[Environmental Protection Specialist](#) | DC Department of Energy and Environment

[Spring Science Writing Internship](#) | Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

[Environmental Educator](#) | Sultana Education Foundation

[Communications and Events Manager](#) | Casey Trees

[Vice President for Development](#) | Potomac Riverkeeper Network

[Coalition Coordinator](#) | Waterkeepers Chesapeake

[Agriculture Projects Associate](#) | Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

[Chesapeake Bay Program’s Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting Team Staffer](#) | CRC

[Chesapeake Bay Program’s Climate Resiliency Workgroup Staffer](#) | Chesapeake Research Consortium

[Planner III/IV- Development Review Coordinator](#) | Montgomery Parks