

## *Watershed Stewards Academy September 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

[emcgarry@umd.edu](mailto:emcgarry@umd.edu)

301-226-7400



### *Continuing Education*

#### **Drinking Water Contaminants**

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm*

Both public and private well water supplies may contain minerals, metals, etc. that can cause either aesthetic or health concerns. In this webinar, common contaminants and their treatment will be presented.

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

#### **The Woods in Your Backyard - Online Course**

*Monday, September 9, 2024 thru November 18, 2024*

Our self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks. The online format lets you access the content when it's convenient for you, without worrying about attending evening classes or weekend workshops. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. Based on the guide of the same name, the course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality.

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



## *Upcoming Events*

### **RePlant Anne Arundel and Annapolis: Plant Trees this Fall!**

Join us in cooling and beautifying outdoor spaces by planting trees! WSA aims to plant 100 trees at congregations in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis through our RePlant program this fall season. We're looking for 10 congregations to plant 10 trees each to help meet this goal.

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

### **31st Annual Maryland Land Conservation Conference**

*Wednesday & Thursday, September 4 & 5, 2024, 9 am – 6 pm*

*Location: 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis*

This two day event will feature a live podcast discussion, a large exhibit hall, a networking reception, two “talk & tours”, morning yoga, group meetings and SO MUCH MORE! This year’s theme, “Gaining Ground: Plan. Connect. Communicate” examines how planning, stronger partnerships, and better communications can lead to change that benefits all.

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

### **Anacostia River BioBlitz 2024**

*Thursday, September 5th through Sunday, September 8th, 2024*

A bioblitz is a "Census of the Natural World" where over a short period of time, communities go out and document the species they see. The very first bioblitz was even held right here in the Anacostia Watershed at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. This year we celebrate the 8th Anniversary of our spearheading of the Anacostia River Bioblitz.

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

### **Maryland Department of Natural Resources Grants Gateway | Webinar**

*Friday, September 6, 2024, 11am – 12:30 pm*

In this webinar, you will gain a detailed understanding of the different Outcomes and the specific requirements and considerations for each. Staff will outline the details of the funding sources and their eligibility requirements, reporting requirements, and explain how to use some of the tools DNR has available to improve your application. At the conclusion of the one-hour Grants Gateway overview, participants will have the opportunity to join breakout rooms for office hours about the different outcomes.

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

### **Plant a Pollinator Garden**

*Saturday, September 7, 2024, 1 – 4 pm*

*Location: 1905 Gwynn Oak Ave, Baltimore*

Plant a new pollinator garden at Graystone Community Open Space. Volunteers will plant native pollinator-friendly plants in a neighborhood pocket park. Gloves, tools, and refreshments will be provided. Pants, long sleeves, and close-toed shoes are recommended.

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

### **Bladensburg Gardeners!**

*Sunday, September 8, 2024, 1:30 – 2:30 pm*

*Location: Bladensburg Public Library - 4820 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg*

The Prince George's County Audubon Society offers a program that provides free visits to Prince George's County residents interested in adding more native plants to their gardens as part of a grassroots effort to create habitat that benefits birds, butterflies, pollinators, and other beneficial insects. We are holding an event to introduce interested gardeners (and those interested in becoming gardeners!) to the program and give them some tips for getting started in their own yard.

### **The Story Behind the Underground Railroad Exhibit**

*Sunday, September 8, 2024, 3 – 4 pm*

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

Join the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum for an International Underground Railroad Month lecture series detailing our permanent exhibit on the Underground Railroad in the greater Upper Chesapeake Bay region, as well as new research on the history and experience of Black watermen for a future update on our current “Working on the Bay” exhibit.

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

### **Getting to Know the Ancients - Olney**

*Monday, September 9, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm*

Learn more about an ancient part of our flora which preceded flowering plants and has existed since the time of the dinosaurs. Our classroom will be the rich woodlands of Rachel Carson Conservation Park. You’ll learn how to begin identifying ferns in their natural habits and find out more about their life histories.

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

### **Wildlife Ecology (Zoom lectures and field trips)**

*Mondays, September 9 thru November 18, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

Gain an understanding of wildlife research methods, basics of life history, identification, population, community, and ecosystem ecology, management, and animal behavior. Find out how institutional missions and federal laws influence wildlife and habitat conservation, and how humans affect and are affected by wildlife in rural, suburban, and urban environments of the Mid-Atlantic region. Learn about the various threats faced by wildlife including invasive species, climate change, and the loss and degradation of habitats and the actions that individuals and communities can take to benefit wildlife. 3 CEUs

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

### **Lecture: Maryland’s Black Watermen in the Lower Susquehanna and Upper Chesapeake Bay Region**

*Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 6 – 7 pm*

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

Join the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum for an International Underground Railroad Month lecture series detailing our permanent exhibit on the Underground Railroad in the greater Upper Chesapeake Bay region, as well as new research on the history and experience of Black watermen for a future update on our current “Working on the Bay” exhibit.

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

### **Project Clean Stream Kick Off**

*Friday, September 13, 2024, 2 – 3:30 pm*

*Location: 151 West Street, Annapolis*

Kick-off the annual Project Clean Stream weekend with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay with a stream clean-up event in Annapolis. We'll gather at the Alliance's headquarters and walk to Spa Creek Trail.

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

### **Project Clean Stream with Boating in DC**

*Friday, September 13, 2024, 10 am – 1 pm*

*Location: Boating In DC at Thompson Boat Center, Virginia Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC*

We'll hear a safety talk and paddling tips from Thompson Boat Center staff, and then Alliance staff will provide trash bags, grabbers, and gloves. Smaller groups will then be sent onto the water to designated zones to pick up trash from the river in your choice of single or tandem boats. Lifejackets (PFDs) are provided, and staff will be available on the water at all times. Previous paddling/boating experience is not required, and there will be cleanup opportunities for land lovers as well.

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

### **Lecture: Sisters of the Tide: The Untold History of Black Women on the Chesapeake Bay**

*Saturday, September 14, 2024, 3 – 4 pm*

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

Join the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum for an International Underground Railroad Month lecture series detailing our permanent exhibit on the Underground Railroad in the greater Upper Chesapeake Bay region, as well as new research on the history and experience of Black watermen for a future update on our current "Working on the Bay" exhibit.

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

### **Facilitating Engaging Meetings: 2024 Program Dates (Sept & Dec) - Virtual**

Organization: Institute for Conservation Leadership

Do you want to learn how to lead more engaging meetings? Registration is open for September and December dates for our popular virtual program, Facilitating Engaging Meetings! In this three-part series, you will learn facilitation skills alongside a group of your peers. You'll walk away with a new set of facilitation tools, plus a plan to apply what you learned in your own context.

Tuesday, September 17th, 1:30 – 3pm ET

Thursday, September 19th, 1:30 – 3 pm ET

Tuesday, September 24th, 1:30 – 3pm ET

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

### **Non-Native and Invasive Plants of the Mid-Atlantic (Zoom lectures and field trips)**

*Tuesdays, September 17 thru October 15, 2024, 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

What IS the definition of "invasive" and why should we care? Consequences of invasive plants in mid-Atlantic natural areas may be medical, ecological, environmental, or economic. This course will explore the historical and ongoing arrival of invasives, look at their cultural, legal, and ecological significance, and focus time on

identification of major species of concern in the mid-Atlantic and possible control measures. And we'll look at how our choices have far-reaching effects. Two field trips to local parks will reinforce identification skills and emphasize current management issues. 1.5 CEUs

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

### **US Conservation History (Zoom lectures and field trips)**

*Wednesdays, September 18 thru December 4, 2024, 1 – 3 pm*

This course examines the development of natural resources conservation and preservation thought and policy in the United States from the pre-colonial era through the early twenty-first century. The class considers how land and natural resources have been fundamental agents in shaping the lives of the country's inhabitants and, in parallel, how Americans' perceptions of the environment and its resources have shaped the natural world. Field trips will visit sites of local conservation initiatives from different eras. 3 CEUs

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

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

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 4:30 - 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](#).

### **The World is Your Oyster Fest 2024**

*Thursday, September 26, 2024, 5:30 – 9 pm*

*Location: B&O Railroad Museum, West Pratt Street, Baltimore*

Get ready for an unforgettable shell-e-bration at the Bay's biggest bivalve bash! Enjoy the finest local oysters, seafood, and handcrafted drinks. Learn to 'Shuck Like a Pro, cheer for pros competing in the Tito's Handmade Vodka Shucking Competition, and learn why oysters are the answer to Chesapeake Bay restoration. As we mark the ORP's 30th anniversary, this isn't just another festival—it's a heartfelt celebration of the Bay's revival, the resurgence of its native oysters, and the incredible community that made it all possible: You.

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

### **RiverFest- A Celebration of the St. Mary's River**

*Saturday, September 28, 2024, 11 am – 4 pm*

*Location: Historic St. Mary's City, 18751 Hogaboom Ln, Saint Marys City*

Learn 101 ways to protect our waterways through educational exhibits and activities! Kayak, encounter wildlife including raptors and terrapins, and groove to live music all day! Bring a change of clothes for the 2 pm ceremonial Wade-In honoring Senator Bernie Fowler.

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](#).

### **Become a Chesapeake Steward with CBF!**

*Wednesdays, October 2 thru November 6, 2024, 6 – 8 pm*

*Registration deadline: September 27, 2024*

Join us for CBF's adult education program, Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards, or VoiCeS, hosted in Washington, DC. This class is open to residents of DC and its metro areas in Maryland and Virginia. VoiCeS classes are tailored to their host location. The course will feature different speakers each week who are experts in their field. We will learn about a variety of topics impacting the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed. There will also be field experiences offered on Saturdays.

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

### **Autumnfest**

*Sunday, October 6, 2024, 10 am – 5 pm*

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

Join us at the lower level of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and the grounds of the Lighthouse Keeper's House. This free fundraiser includes a native plant, perennial, mum, and pumpkin sale. Take a stroll through Scarecrow Row to see the upcycle scarecrow and pumpkin contest. Pre-registration is required for the Scarecrow and Pumpkin contes. There will also be pumpkin decorating for kids and a raffle for a pumpkin carved live during the fundraiser by a professional carver. Come see the different artisans and craft vendors set up for you.

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

### **Holly Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park – Native Garden Plantings**

*Saturday, October 19, 2024, 8 am – 12 pm*

*Location: 600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis*

We completed Phase 1 – Invasives Removal at Quiet Waters Park – Holly Pavilion on July 22nd and removed over 1000 square feet of invasives. Now the fun part. Please join us for Phase 2 – Native Plant, Shrub, Tree Plantings in front of Holly Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park (inclement weather date Sunday October 20th). We intend to install over 200 native beauties across a 2000 square foot garden so we need all the help we can get!

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





## ***Funding and Material Support***

### **Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program**

*Deadline: Thursday, October 24, 2024*

This opportunity supports environmental improvements and community engagement activities in the Curtis Bay and surrounding communities, as well as the communities of the Patapsco River and Back River Watersheds. 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  
Larger-Scale (>\$30,000) watershed/environmental restoration

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](#).

### **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](#).



## *Other Items of Interest*

A new issue of Branching Out is now available! Read about how new and old can make a positive mix, and about the importance of conserving existing forest buffers. Our two popular online courses, "The Woods in Your Backyard" and "The General Forestry Course," return for the fall. Our "Native Trees of Maryland" looks at the red maple, and "Invasives in Your Woodlands" looks at Japanese hop. And don't forget the events calendar and the Brain Tickler challenge.

The Summer 2024 issue is available here: [https://go.umd.edu/Summer\\_2024](https://go.umd.edu/Summer_2024)

Download your PDF copy from our website: [Branching Out Vol. 32 no. 3](#)

## **Nominate YOUR river for America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2025**

*Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2024*

We want your river to be nominated and get the recognition and support that it deserves. We will select rivers based on the following criteria:

The significance of the river to people, wildlife, and nature.

The magnitude of threat to the river and its communities, especially in light of climate change and environmental injustice.

A decision in the coming year that will impact the river's fate.

To submit a nomination, please fill out and submit the [ONLINE NOMINATION FORM](#)



## *Employment Opportunities*

[Nutrient Management Advisor \(multiple Locations available\)](#) | University of Maryland Extension (UME)

[Natural Resource Specialist](#) | University of Maryland Extension

[Maryland Sea Grant State Science Policy Fellowship](#) | University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

[Stormwater Program Manager](#) | City of Annapolis

[Senior/Lead Greenhouse Horticultural Support Technician](#) | Montgomery Parks | Wheaton

[Environmental Sustainability Coordinator](#) | Montgomery Parks | Montgomery Village

[Garden & Goods Retail Store Manager](#) | Lauren's Garden Service LLC Native Plant Nursery | Ellicott City

[Environmental Educator – Part Time](#) | Alice Ferguson Foundation | Accokeek

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



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

[Environmental Education Assistant](#) - Candidate Experience site Careers (oraclecloud.com)

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

[Fall Naturalist Intern](#) | Calvert County Natural Resources (CCNRD) and Calvert Nature Society

[Assistant Landscape Designer for Sustainable Landscape Design/Build Comp](#) | Arterra Landscapes

[Environmental Justice Journalism Instructor](#) | Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative | Baltimore

[Heritage Livestock Farm Assistant](#) | Accokeek Foundation

[Education Program Associate](#) | Accokeek Foundation

[Natural Resources and Working Lands Analyst](#) | Maryland Department of Planning

[Senior Accountant](#) | The National Aquarium

[Chesapeake Bay Program Fisheries Goal Team Staffer](#) | Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC)

[Whole Watershed Program Officer](#) | MD DNR, Chesapeake and Coastal Service | Annapolis

[Whole Watershed Program Coordinator](#) | MD DNR, Chesapeake and Coastal Service | Annapolis

[Director, Digital Economy and the Environment Project](#) | Environmental Law Institute | Washington DC

[Seasonal Field Educator](#) | ShoreRivers

[Horticulturist](#) | Montgomery Parks | Wheaton

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

[Administrative Coordinator](#) | The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)

[Operations Officer II \(Forestry Plans & Inspections\)](#) | Department of Recreation & Parks

[Land Conservation Assistant](#) | Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

[Donor Engagement Manager](#) | Rock Creek Conservancy | Bethesda

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

[Forester – Charles/St. Mary’s Project](#) | Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service