

## *Watershed Stewards Academy October 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*

#### **Watershed Stewards Academy Short Course (Zoom)**

*Multi Session Starting Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 6 -8pm*

This adult level course is designed to give prospective Stewards a sampling of the WSA Program without committing to the requirements of the full program. Also great as a refresher course for current Stewards.

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

#### **Hawk Migration Lecture & Bird Walk**

*Saturday, October 12, 2024, 10 – 11:30 am*

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

Become citizen scientists for World Migratory Bird Day and Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Global Big Day events, when our local bird observations will be added to the eBird database. Hawk Migration will be discussed in a one-hour lecture offered by Green Team's John Canoles in the downstairs classroom of the Environmental Center at Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. After the lecture, participants may engage in a 30-minute guided birdwatching hike on the grounds of the Museum and City Promenade.

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

## **Alternative and Innovative Septic Systems**

*Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm*

For home sites that present challenges to the design and operation of a septic system, such as high-water table, poor soils, and small lots, there are several tools designers may be able to employ to allow for a septic system. Options will be discussed in this webinar.

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

## **Registration for the Virtual 2024 Chesapeake Watershed Forum is open!**

We are offering a selection of hybrid sessions at this year's Forum!

Virtual registration is free and includes access to all the hybrid sessions and Whova, our conference app. You may access the live-streamed sessions via Whova and participate on Zoom.

*Friday, October 18, 2024*

- Tracking Progress of Restoration Practices (3:30 PM)
- Anacostia River Restoration and Environmental Justice (3:30 PM)

*Saturday, October 19, 2024*

- Cultivating an Urban Oasis for All (1:30 PM)
- Riparian Forest Buffer Maintenance: The Real Story (1:30 PM)
- Project Management for Enduring Success (3:00 PM)
- Impact of Climate Change on Mental-Health (3:00 PM)
- Resiliency Through Partnerships: Building Community Trust (4:30 PM)
- Non-Traditional Funding Streams for Organizational Sustainability (4:30 PM)

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

## **Dam It: Partnering With Beavers to Restore the Planet**

*Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 7:00 pm*

Can we learn to embrace the much-maligned beaver? In his book "Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter," environmental journalist Ben Goldfarb reveals that our modern conception of a healthy ecosystem is wrong, distorted by the fur trade that once eliminated millions of beavers from North America's waterways. The consequences were profound: Ponds drained, wetlands dried up and species from salmon to swans lost vital habitat. Today, a growing coalition of "Beaver Believers"—including scientists, farmers, and passionate citizens—recognizes that ecosystems with beavers are far healthier than those without them.

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

## **Amphibians 101**

*Sunday, October 27, 2024, 10 am – 3 pm*

*Location: 6908 Belair Rd, Natural History Society of MD*

Amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, efts, and caecilians) are incredibly diverse and incredibly imperiled. According to the IUCN, 43% of the world's amphibians are in catastrophic decline or already extinct, more than birds and mammals combined.

This course will cover:

- basic amphibian biology
- anatomy
- conservation and emerging fungal threats
- captive care and housing from basic to advanced

Special emphasis will be placed on the amphibians native to Maryland. The course is designed to support professional animal care staff, nature center staff, and amateur herpetologists, although it is open to anyone interested in amphibians.

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***

### **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 contests. 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](#).

### **Severn-Danza Park Litter Clean Up**

*Saturday, October 26, 2024, 9 am – 11 am*

*Location: 726 Donaldson Ave, Severn*

Join the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy to help clean up litter at Severn-Danza Park. We will provide trash bags, grabbers, and gloves. Dress so you can be comfortable in the weather, close-toed shoes are encouraged. Bring anything else you may need; water bottle, snack, bug spray or sunscreen.

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

### **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](#).

### **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!



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

### **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](#).

### **Chesapeake Bay Trust's EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Implementation Team Funding Program**

*Deadline: Monday, October 21, 2024*

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, with support from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, seeks services for technical assistance to support key Chesapeake Bay Program goals and outcomes. This year, there are seven (7) Scopes of Work identified as priority projects.

Scope of Work	FFY24 Scope Title	Maximum Bid Amount
---------------	-------------------	--------------------

- Scope #1: Data Review and Development of Multi-Metric Stream Health Indicators (Phase 3B: Physiochemical Metric Analysis) \$75,000
- Scope #2: Development of a Chesapeake Bay Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program \$85,000
- Scope #3: Increasing Effectiveness of Landowner Engagement to Accelerate Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed \$95,000
- Scope #4: Beyond Bean Counting: Assessment of Best Management Practices (BMP) Tracking and Accounting Procedures for More Holistic Restoration Goals \$100,000
- Scope #5: Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis \$45,000
- Scope #6: Training and Technical Assistance on Network Science \$90,000
- Scope #7: Hypoxia Collaborative: Sampling Strategy and Design for Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment \$100,000

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

### **Funding and Technical Assistance for Urban and Community Forestry Projects**

*Deadline: Wednesday, October 23, 2024*

We're seeking projects that will build equitable climate resilience and access to nature by increasing and improving the condition of a community's tree canopy to address the challenges of flooding and extreme heat, community health concerns, and access to green jobs.

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

### **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***

#### **Salt Watch - Izaak Walton League of America**

Join the Salt Watch community science initiative! Road salt is everywhere during the winter months. It keeps us safe on roadways and sidewalks, but can pose a threat to wildlife, infrastructure, pets, drinking water, and more. Road salt, especially when used in excess, washes into our storm drains, our streams, and even into our drinking water during snow melt and rain fall.

The Izaak Walton League of America's Salt Watch program mobilizes community scientists nationwide to monitor local waterways (and even tap water) for road salt pollution and to advocate for smarter road salting practices. Getting involved is easy – simply go to our Salt Watch site and request a free Salt Watch kit, which will be mailed to your address! Each Salt Watch kit comes with four test strips, instructions for taking a sample, and instructions submitting the data to our online database, the Clean Water Hub.

Our website also has additional information and resources about road salt pollution, ideas for reducing road salt at home and in the community, flyers, template letters to the editor, letters to representatives, and more!

Visit [Salt Watch](#) to get started today!



## *Employment Opportunities*

[Deputy Director of HR & Culture](#) | ShoreRivers | Easton

[Urban Trees Program Coordinator](#) | Chesapeake Bay Trust

[Postdoctoral Researcher: Watershed Science/Coastal Disease Ecology](#)

[Legal Intern \(Summer 2025\)](#) | Environmental Law Institute | Washington DC

[Legal Intern \(Spring 2025\)](#) – Environmental Law Institute | Washington DC

[Environmental Education and Community Cleanup Coordinator](#) | Alice Ferguson Foundation | Accokeek

[Environmental Education and Camp Coordinator](#) | Alice Ferguson Foundation | Accokeek

[Environmental Scientist \(3+ Years Experience\)](#) | Coastal Resources, Inc. | Annapolis

[Director, Chesapeake and Coastal Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) | Maryland DNR

[Urban Forestry Crew Chief](#) | Casey Trees

[Planning Administrator](#) | Anne Arundel County DPW BWPR

[Education and Outreach Specialist](#) | NOAA

[Director of Development](#) | Lancaster Conservancy

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

[Communications and Marketing Director](#) | Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park

[Program Assistant, Restoration](#) | Chesapeake Bay Trust

[Director of Communications and Marketing](#) | University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

[Education Naturalist](#) | Baltimore City Rec and Parks

[Chesapeake Geospatial Project Manager](#) | Chesapeake Conservancy