

*Watershed Stewards Academy  
April 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!

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Hello Watershed Stewards,

I am writing to share a few messages related to the Francis Scott Key Bridge tragedy.

For those of you who are wondering what you can do, we will share volunteer clean-up opportunities as they are organized. The best thing you can do to help now, is to report any changes in the water you notice. Please see the below guidance from two partners:

Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration:

You can help with tracking pollution incidents to responsible agencies using any of the following resources:

Report pollution incidents to the Maryland Department of the Environment's 24-hour hotline at 866-633-4686

Report oil or chemical spills to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802

Blue Water Baltimore:

Our thoughts are with those directly affected by the tragic collapse of the Key Bridge today. There are multiple issues we are deeply concerned about, from potential fuel leaks to the amount of debris in the water, but the Coast Guard, local fire departments, and other agencies are rightly focused on the search and rescue efforts at this time. Pollution abatement is the next step.

We have been in contact with the Maryland Department of the Environment about potential impacts and how best to respond. We need your help.

Please keep an eye out for any changes in the water and report anything you might notice – strange odors, discoloration, dead fish – to Blue Water Baltimore's pollution reporting hotline online at [bluewaterbaltimore.org/report](http://bluewaterbaltimore.org/report) or by phone 443-908-0696

Please remember the dangers of working with petro chemicals or other toxins without proper training and personal protective equipment. There have been instances in the past where well-meaning, concerned residents caused more harm than good, and put themselves at risk, by leaping in before they had proper direction or resources.

I echo the sentiments shared by others and am keeping the victims' families and the many other affected lives in my thoughts. Thank you to Dawn Hegarty, a Patapsco River Watershed Steward, for allowing me to pass along the below message:

"We are WSA Strong ♥️ Thanks to AACO Watershed Steward Academy! We are thankful for the much needed awareness & resources in our Northern Anne Arundel County, Patapsco River Watershed. The River needs our help more than ever. The River has carried us through 100's of years & has been a faithful servant of unwanted pollutants by the big industry revolution and continues to carry the weight, for our actions, as she so desperately flows for the keeper of life, as we know it. Our Patapsco River is mourning, as we hear her cries."

A quote from the American Rivers:

"Without the Patapsco River, America wouldn't have its National Anthem. Baltimore wouldn't have its Inner Harbor and Maryland wouldn't have its first state park. Talk about a powerful river."

Dawn's words encapsulate the compassion and dedication that Watershed Stewards bring to our waterways and communities. AAPRA (Anne Arundel Patapsco River Alliance) in particular is a small and mighty group of Stewards who have already done so much to reduce pollution in the Patapsco watershed over the years. Their efforts have made it a cleaner and more resilient river. We at WSA are so grateful for each of you and the difference you make.

Sending lots of compassion!

Francesca King

Anne Arundel WSA



### ***Featured Steward***

We would like to highlight one of our "Super Stewards": Radhika Wijetunge. She received a Service Award and in recognition for her outstanding service and support of the Howard County Watershed Stewards' Academy. She is a Master Watershed Steward, Class 4 (2016); Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy, University of Maryland Extension and an Engineering Specialist, Howard County Department of Public Works (Bureau of Environmental Services - Stormwater Management Division). Her WSA group's capstone project was to do storm drain stenciling at Thunder Hill in which they were able to involve a Cub Scout Pack in the process, enhancing community engagement and interest.

As a Master Steward, Radhika has continued her work in helping with storm drain stenciling at a number of schools and participating in a few community stenciling projects. Other types of WSA projects she has helped with include planting of trees and live stakes. For the last 3 years, Radhika has taught a class in Project Management as part of the WSA curriculum and has mentored 3 class groups through their "behavior change"

capstone projects. These groups have made presentations to various stakeholder groups, open community, schools, and homeowner associations discussing stormwater runoff.

Radhika has also been part of the Stream Waders group of Stewards - and has often brought along a number of boy scouts to help and to participate in stream cleanup activities. She's participated in several Howard County GreenFest events, recently leading the rain barrel giveaways for the County. Radhika has involved both WSA and Master Gardener's groups in these giveaways at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. For the past 5 years, she has participated in the WSA information webinars to help increase interest in the WSA programs overall, and the Stewardship Academy, in particular. Along with Terry Matthews (UME WSA program coordinator), she has delivered presentations about HoCo WSA at two conferences (Tricon in Ocean City, and a CWEA Stormwater Conference held at the Maryland campus of the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies).



In addition to all of this, Radhika performed Homeowners' Interview and Site Assessments for several years for the WSA. There is natural overlap in the work she does as part of her employment with the Howard County Department of Public Works and that of the WSA; in fact, often interacting with the same County citizens through both activities.

## *Continuing Education*

### **Microplastics – Concerns and What Can We Do About Them**

*Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 12 – 12:40 pm*

Plastics are everywhere and can contaminate surface and ground water used for drinking. We will discuss risks to people and the environment and what we can do.

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

### **The Woods in Your Backyard online course - Spring 2024**

*April 8 - June 17, 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. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress.

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



## ***Upcoming Events***

### **DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Training**

*Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 12 – 1 pm*

A certified water quality monitoring volunteer helps collect water quality samples from 24 sites weekly from May – September. Sampling is done Wednesday, with Thursday mornings as a backup for inclement weather. Each site is sampled for bacteria, water temperature, air temperature, pH, and turbidity. Do not worry if these terms are unfamiliar; all will be taught in the training.

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

### **Ospreys On The Patuxent**

*Friday April 5, 2024, 6 pm*

*Location: Drum Point Club. 465 Overlook Dr #465, Lusby*

Join us to learn about Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), the often-seen “fish hawk” of local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Alex Pellegrini will discuss Osprey biology, his experiences banding Ospreys, re-introduction efforts, and how this once-imperiled bird became a conservation success story. Alex is a Naturalist for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) at Patuxent River Park in Prince George’s County, MD and a Farmland Raptor Program Coordinator for the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.

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

### **Magothy River Assn presents the State of the Magothy (Arnold MD)**

*Friday, April 5, 2024, 6:30 - 8:30 pm*

Sally Hornor will present the Magothy River Index for 2023, a report card for water quality monitoring results. Caitlin Sporik, PE, of Baylands Environmental Consulting will discuss stream restoration activity on the Mill Creek subwatershed. MRA activities for the year will be presented.

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

### **Join the Alliance for our 24-hour tree planting relay A.K.A Treelay**

*Friday and Saturday, April 5th to April 6th, 2024*

After a successful 2022 Treelay, the Alliance is excited to embark on another 24-hour tree planting adventure! The Alliance and dedicated volunteers will plant thousands of trees in just 24 hours. Come plant trees with us during Treelay! Volunteers are not expected to attend for the full 24-hours. There are many volunteer shifts available to break up the relay. Feel free to sign up for one or more and attend for however long you'd like.

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

### **24-hour tree planting relay! – Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024, 7 – 9am*

*Wakefield Valley Park, Westminster, MD*

Join the Treelay, our 24-hour tree relay planting marathon! At this site, we will be installing live stakes along the park's streambank. Upon successful registration for this event, the exact event address will be sent to the registrant in their confirmation email.

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

### **Project Clean Stream – Jug Bay**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024, 10 am – 1 pm*

*Location: 1426 Mt Zion Marlboro Rd, Lothian*

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary is partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for Project Clean Stream. Every year, thousands of volunteers come together to pick up trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, parks and neighborhoods as part of the Alliance's Project Clean Stream. Join Volunteer Coordinator Debra Gage to pick up trash along the Patuxent River at our Patuxent Wetlands Park.

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

### **Climate Chronicles Workshop**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm*

This workshop is dedicated to storytelling, specifically tailored to assist individuals in crafting their climate narratives for advocacy purposes. The goal is to elevate the voices of marginalized groups including women, children, and people of color. This initiative encompasses various projects extending until April 2025.

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

### **Battersea on the Bay 30th Anniversary River Cleanup 1994-2024**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm*

*Location: 10602 Cannonview Court, Fort Washington*

Battersea on the Bay backs onto Broad Creek and from our early cleanup in 1994 as where we pulled 120 tires from the Creek, until 2024, the Community has been invested in protecting the environment and enjoying the beauty of the river. On April 6th we will hold our Annual Clean Up for the Battersea on the Bay Community with support from local businesses.

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

### **Opening Day at Chesapeake Natives**

*Saturday, April 6, 2024, 10 am – 3 pm*

*Location: 9640 Rosaryville Road, Upper Marlboro*

Our fabulous volunteers will be available at the sale to help you find the right native plants for your space. We grow local ecotype native species (LENS) from native seed gathered in the wild in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. LENS have coevolved with insects in the Bay ecosystem and so bloom at the times best for local populations, maximizing their contribution to the food web. A list of our inventory can be found here:

<https://chesapeakenativesinc.square.site/sale-dates>

### **Join ShoreRivers Clean-Up Days**

- Clean Anne's County Day at Matapeake Park - Sunday, April 7, 2024 10 am – 12 pm



Matapeake Park, Romancoke Road, Stevensville – Register [here](#).

- Clean Anne’s County Day at Gibson’s Grant – Sunday, April 7, 2024, 1 - 3 pm  
Gibson's Grant Clubhouse, Pool and Barn, Carriage Heath, Chester – Register [here](#).
- Clean Anne’s County Day with Centreville Rotary – Sunday, April 7, 2024, 1 - 3 pm  
Millstream Park, Centreville – Register [here](#).
- Clean Anne’s County Day with Corsica River Conservancy – Sunday, April 7, 2024, 1 - 3 pm  
Centreville Wharf, Watson Road, Centreville – Register [here](#).
- Grasonville Oyster Shell Pile Clean Up - Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 10 am - 12 pm  
Grasonville Disposal Area, Gravel Run Road, Grasonville - Register [here](#).
- Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area Clean Up, Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9 am - 11 am  
Turner Creek Park, 13761 Turners Creek Rd, Kennedyville – Register [here](#).

### **Freshwater Ecosystems** (Zoom lectures and field trips)

*April 9 thru June 4, 2024, TU, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT*

*Member Fee \$330.00, Nonmember Fee \$380.00*

This course will focus on the unique habitats and properties of freshwater streams, lakes, and vernal pools – where myriad vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, algae, fungi, and bacteria live. We will examine their adaptations to life in freshwater; feeding habits and food webs; strategies for survival and reproduction; and interactions between them and their habitat. Because human activities have had a significant impact on freshwater resources, we will look at measures being taken for mitigation and restoration.

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

### **Hunting 101 Workshop**

*Thursday, April 11, 2024, 8:30 am – 3 pm*

*Location: Point Pleasant Farm at 23000 Wells Point Ln, Bozman, MD*

Interested in learning how to become a hunter, but don't know where to start? Then this workshop is for you. The workshop is geared to folks with little to no knowledge about hunting, but who would like a primer on the topic before diving into getting a hunter education certificate. The workshop will provide a chance to learn about wildlife biology, hunting tactics, and gear that aren't covered in the hunter education course.

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

### **Project Clean Stream**

*Kicks off Friday, April 12, 2024*

Project Clean Stream (PCS) is the largest trash cleanup initiative in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Last year, we collected 45,392 pounds of trash - that's 22.7 tons! Every year, thousands of volunteers come together to pick up trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, parks, and neighborhoods as part of the Alliance's Project Clean Stream. The Alliance works with site captains to coordinate local cleanup events and provide supplies such as trash bags and gloves. Know of a trashy area? You can report it [here](#).

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

### **Lauren’s Garden Service @ Howard County Greenfest Native Plant Sale 2024**

*Saturday, April 13, 2024, 10 am – 3 pm*

*Location: Howard Community College, SET Building*

We'll have a great selection of native plants available for you, including many of your early-blooming spring favorites. Our planned inventory will be shared to our Facebook event page soon!

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

### **Climate Change Is A “Drag” – A Rally for our Climate and Forests**

*Sunday, April 14, 2024, 12:00 pm*

*Location: Washington Monument, 15th Street Northwest, Washington, DC*

Come join us for a fun and impactful event to protect our forests and combat climate change. This rally will feature speakers, live music, and a special performance by environmentalist drag queen Pattie Gonia. Join us for a chance to meet Pattie and take pictures before we march from the Washington Monument to Freedom Plaza and call for urgent action on climate change!

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

### **Building Forest Resiliency at Catoctin Mountain Park**

*Sunday, April 14, 2024, 1:30 - 3 pm*

*Location: Oregon Ridge Nature Center Auditorium, Cockeysville, MD*

Our beloved Eastern forests face multiple stressors that jeopardize their long-term health and viability. What can be done to restore and preserve our forests? Join us to learn about promising efforts at Catoctin Mountain Park to build forest resiliency. Lindsey Donaldson, Catoctin's Chief of Resource Management, will share strategies and best practices the park is employing as well as preliminary results.

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

### **ShoreRivers' Annual State of the Rivers**

*Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 5:30 – 7 pm at Betterton Fire Hall in Betterton, MD*

*Thursday, April 25, 2024, 5:30 – 7 pm at The Packing House in Cambridge, MD*

*Monday, April 29, 2024, 5:30 – 7 pm at Cult Classic Brewing in Stevensville, MD*

*Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 5:30 – 7 pm at Garfield Center for the Arts in Chestertown, MD*

Join us to learn about the health of your local waterway. This series of free presentations is held each spring to inform the public about the health of our Eastern Shore waterways and our progress toward protecting and restoring local rivers.

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

### **Become a Chesapeake Steward**

*Cambridge, Maryland - Thursday evenings from April 18 to May 9, 2024 – Register [here](#).*

*Prince George's County, Maryland - Thursday evenings from April 18 to May 9, 2024 – Register [here](#).*

*Registration deadline April 10, 2024*

Join us for an exciting six-week journey exploring the wonders of Chesapeake Bay science! Dive into topics like air and water quality, fisheries, oyster restoration, regenerative farming, and litigation. Engage in meaningful discussions and connect with neighbors who share a passion for environmental conservation. Each session features guest speakers and experts, with chances for field trips and volunteer experiences.

## **Fort McHenry Wetland Field Day Event**

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

The Field Conservation team of the National Aquarium will be hosting a field day at the Fort McHenry Wetland. This area is a man-made wetland opened in 1999 as a mitigation project for the Fort McHenry tunnel that runs underneath it. It is one of two living shorelines in the city of Baltimore, and it's my main task to keep the area clean and healthy for the hundreds of animals that live there throughout the year and programming for Baltimore City youth and visitors. After the winter storms, the wetland is again filled with debris and trash from the rivers that flow into the Chesapeake and surrounding areas. If you are available to help with the cleanup, please register [here](#). For more information, see this [link](#).

## **Lauren's Garden Service Earth Day Celebration 2024**

*Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 am – 5 pm*

*Lauren's Garden Service and Native Plant Nursery, Triadelphia Road, Ellicott City*

LGS, Westwood Unique Furnishings, and the Laura Jones Team of Long & Foster are celebrating our third Earth Day Celebration at Westwood! The first 50 purchases in the Native Plant Nursery get a free plug of *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*, Narrowleaf Mountain Mint.

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

## **Citywide Invasive Species Removal**

*Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm*

Join us for a fun and rewarding day as we work together to remove invasive plants throughout the city. These invaders threaten our native wildflowers and trees. By pulling them out, we'll create a healthier habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. **No experience necessary!** We'll provide gloves, tools, and expert instruction.

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

## **Environmental Center Open House**

*Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 am - 3 pm*

*Location: 100 Lafayette Street, Havre de Grace*

Discover the wonders of nature and experience science in action in the Environmental Center at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum during an Earth Day Open House event.

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

## **Overlook Park Stream Cleanup**

*Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 am - 12 pm*

*Location: 1300 Overbrook Rd, Towson, Northwood, MD*

Bags and gloves provided, or bring your own. Nature/birding walk for adults and kids every half hour. Will pull non-native invasive Garlic Mustard as well. Co-sponsored by the Idleylde Community Association Greening Committee and the Green Towson Alliance.

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



## **Friends of Stony Run Wyman Park Project Clean Stream AND Baltimore Weed Warrior Event!**

*Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 am – 12 pm*

*Location: 3718 Tudor Arms Ave, Baltimore, MD*

Join Friends of Stony Run for Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Project Clean Stream . This is the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region! Cleanups take place across the entire Chesapeake watershed, in all six Bay states and DC.

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

## **Spring Bee Talk & Walk**

*Sunday, April 21, 2024, 1 to 3 pm*

Howard County Bee City and Robinson Nature Center are holding a Spring Bee Talk & Walk with the inimitable Clare Walker on We'd love to see you there! This is a wonderfully engaging, interactive session that's appropriate for adults and kids (aged 10 & up) alike. Here is the registration link, and attached is a flier and a social media graphic in case you'd like to help us spread the word.

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

## **Oregon Ridge Nature Center CleanUp**

*Sunday, April 21, 2024 1- pm, Register [here](#)*

*Sunday, May 12, 2024, 1-3 pm, Register [here](#)*

*Sunday, June 9, 2024, 1-3 pm, Register [here](#)*

We need your help to restore habitats and remove invasive plants in the park! A brief overview of some of our offenders will be presented and we will begin to manually remove them along the Red Trail at the future site of the Woodland Restoration Garden. We will branch out into other areas of the park, hoping to encourage the return of our lovely native plants. Tools will be available, but you are welcome to bring your favorites along with work gloves.

## **Enhancing Soil Health and Rewilding Our Landscapes One Stream at a Time**

*Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 12 – 1 pm*

Join us for Chesapeake Stormwater Network's Winter/Spring Webinar Series! Stream and floodplain restoration has become a billion-dollar industry in the United States (US) and is a popular management practice in the mid-Atlantic US. Floodplains are being restored to enhance hydrologic connectivity, reduce sediment erosion, and enhance runoff nitrogen removal via processes like denitrification. While these restorations have yielded important water quality benefits, much of the restoration focus is on enhancing stream form and function and very little attention is given to soil health on the restored floodplains. Compacted soils and poor soil conditions can undermine ecosystem functions and services and prevent the restoration from attaining its full potential. In this webinar, we will discuss how floodplain soil health can be protected and enhanced and present specific strategies and practices that need to be implemented.

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

## **Biodiversity (Zoom lectures and field trips)**

*April 24 thru May 22, 2024, W, 6 – 8pm*

*Member Fee, WAITLIST ONLY, \$240.00 - Nonmember Fee, WAITLIST ONLY, \$290.00*

You've heard that biodiversity is important but what does that really mean in your backyard or our local parks? Instead of identifying local plants or animals in isolation this class explores how they are interconnected and dependent on each other. Looking at unexpected local diversity, both rare and abundant, from wasps and millipedes to sedges and orchids, we will explore the complex topic of how we 'measure' diversity.

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

### **Liberty Village Spring Clean Up**

*Saturday, April 27, 2024, 2 – 5 pm*

*Location: 3901 Maine Avenue, Gwynn Oak*

Welcome to Liberty Village! We believe it takes a village to raise our children. We're having a youth basketball showcase at 11am followed by a grand Spring Clean Up starting at 2pm. Liberty Village is attached to Garrison Elementary School located at 3901 Maine Avenue, Gwynn Oak, Maryland. Come help our young athletes, students, seniors and young adult residents plant flowers, paint, and pick up litter in care of Central Forest Park.

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

### **Citywide Clean-up Day**

*Saturday, April 27, 2024, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm*

The City of District Heights is participating in the County's annual Growing Green with Pride Clean-up Day. This activity will be led by the Department of Public Works. Participants' information will be shared with the city's public works coordinator. Register for this event before April 15th.

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

### **Annual St. Mary's River Waterfront Clean Up!**

*Sunday, April 28, 2024, 1 – 3 pm*

*Location: 18751 Hogaboom Lane, Lexington Park*

Join the St. Mary's River Watershed Association, the St. Mary's River Yacht Club, and Historic St. Mary's City to clean up the shores of the St. Mary's River! We will meet at the Historic St. Mary's City visitor's center and split up into teams. Teams will travel to Chancellor's Point, Church Point, and along the shoreline picking up litter and other debris.

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

### **BioBlitz at Mallows Bay Park**

*Sunday, April 28, 2024, 11am - 2pm*

Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary is joining the City Nature Challenge! The City Nature Challenge is a global citizen science event with a focus on urban areas. Residents throughout the Washington DC metro area will be exploring local parks, backyards, and neighborhoods to observe the wild plants, fungi, and animals that share our environment. As part of the challenge, the sanctuary will hold a BioBlitz at Mallows Bay Park, MD, a free event where participants collect as many species observations as possible.

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

### **Lauren's Garden Service will be at Robinson Nature Center's Native Plant Palooza**

*Sunday, May 5, 2024, 12 – 4 pm*

*Location: 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia*

We'll have a great selection of native plants available for you including perennials, shrubs and trees. Our planned inventory will be shared to our Facebook event page soon!

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

**Introduction to Butterflies and Moths** (In person lectures and field trips)

*May 6 thru June 17, 2024, M, 7 – 9pm*

*Location: Woodend Sanctuary*

*Member Fee \$270.00 - Nonmember Fee \$320.00*

Butterflies and moths are often the first insects the public thinks of when they think of insects at all, but they are much more than monarch butterflies and luna moths. In this class we will explore how to identify butterfly and moth families; their evolution, life history strategies, and unique adaptations; and the vital role they play in local ecosystems. Field trips and class projects will focus on observing immature stages of Lepidoptera, rearing butterflies and moths for ID purposes, and surveying for adult Lepidoptera in the field.

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

**Registration Is Open for the 2024 Choose Clean Water Conference!**

*Monday thru Wednesday, May 20-22, 2024*

*Location: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City*

We have a fantastic agenda of sessions, workshops, plenaries, and field trips. Topics covered will include septics, agriculture, stream restoration, plastics, stormwater management, DEI, Zombie mines, communications, and more. But of course, we're most looking forward to spending time together as a Coalition, building and cultivating critical relationships to equip and inspire conference attendees to accelerate their work for clean water.

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



***Funding and Material Support***

**2024 – MSRA Jim Gracie Memorial Scholarship**

*Deadline: Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Open to all students pursuing degrees or training in fields promoting natural resource preservation, stream restoration, and the environmental sciences. Applicants should be able to show and demonstrate their passion for nature and the natural environment and should be enrolled in a degree seeking program or training program for these fields. The successful applicant should be able to articulate in their application how they connect with the environment, how their passion and study aligns with the values exhibited by Jim, and how receiving a scholarship award will help in achieving their academic and career goals.

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

## **DOEE and Chesapeake Bay Trust's Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program**

Deadline: *Thursday, March 28, 2024*

This grant program provides funding for innovative, community-oriented and inspired projects aimed at improving water quality in the District of Columbia. This program can fund activities that raise awareness or bring about behavior change, educational events/workshops, maintenance of runoff-reducing green infrastructure, restoration of habitat, litter or pollution reduction, or other projects that are within the project areas of the Request for Applications and fit the goals of this grant program. Projects should be inspired and supported by the priority community within the District.

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

## **NFWF Now Soliciting Proposals for the 2024 Small Watershed Grants Program**

Deadline: *Wednesday, April 3, 2024*

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Through the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program, delivered in partnership with EPA and the CBP partnership, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

For more information or to apply, 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*

### **Restoring Nature Series**

Telling the stories about the restoration of the waterways of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays, utilizing regenerative techniques to replicate nature's tools. This is about the restoration of Jabez Run, which is the headwater of the Severn River on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. This historic river runs right past the shores of the U.S. Naval Academy and has been severely stressed by polluted runoff from storms.

[Episode 1](https://youtu.be/fPvQTijcVj0) – <https://youtu.be/fPvQTijcVj0>

[Episode 2](https://youtu.be/d1tM7sFMadc) – <https://youtu.be/d1tM7sFMadc>

[Episode 3](https://youtu.be/RHCaRoYq5M4) – <https://youtu.be/RHCaRoYq5M4>

[Episode 4](https://youtu.be/ScJghG4Ancw) – <https://youtu.be/ScJghG4Ancw>

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## *Employment Opportunities*

### **Maryland Sea Grant Post-Graduate Opportunities**

*State Science Policy Fellowship due 5/20/24, For more information or to apply, click [here](#)*

This unique opportunity will place fellows in coastal sustainability, coastal management, and environmental policy positions within Maryland through partnerships with state agencies and University of Maryland leadership. Fellows will work closely with state agency and legislative leadership to provide science expertise to develop policy relevant to Maryland's progressive program to address state challenges in sustainability and action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It is an exciting opportunity for students interested in applying their research experience and critical thinking skills to advancing science-based, environmental decision-making and policy development in Maryland.

*Science Management and Policy Internship due 4/26/24, For more information or to apply, click [here](#).*

This one to two-year internship will offer experience working with an environmental-focused university organization dedicated to research, education, and outreach. This position will provide fundamental training for interns to transition to graduate school or the private, non-profit, or governmental sectors. As part of the internship, you will be expected to complete 2-3 special projects, participate in several professional development trainings, and contribute to the administration of our main office.

[Agent, Residential Landscape Ecology](#) | University of Maryland Extension

[Database Manager](#) | Nature Forward | Chevy Chase

[Engineer III](#) | Montgomery County Government

[Advancement Assistant](#) | The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)



[Chesapeake Bay Program's Water Quality Goal Team Staffer](#) | Annapolis

[Science Communications and Outreach Internship \(One Student\)](#) | Queenstown

[Russ Brinsfield Agro-Ecology Internship Program \(Multiple Students\)](#)

[Appalachian Trail Emerging Leaders Summit Intern](#)

[Outreach & Engagement Intern](#) | Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

[Experienced Senior Legal Counsel](#) | Washington, DC

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

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

[Program Coordinator for nature-based teacher training](#) | The Eastern Region Assoc of Forest and Nature Schools

[Environmental Protection Specialist](#) | DC Government

[Content Writer](#) | Desired Services Potomac Conservancy

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

[Marketing Assistant](#) | Howard EcoWorks | Seeds of Change

[Native Plant Nursery Assistant](#) | Howard EcoWorks | Seeds of Change

[Sustainable Forestry Specialists](#) | DNR | Forest Service

[Community Forestry Coordinator](#) | DNR | Forest Service

[Native Plant Nursery/Retail Store Associate](#) | Lauren's Garden Service and Native Plant Nursery

[Early Childhood Programs Educator](#) | Robinson Nature Center

[Law Clerk \(Fall 2024\)](#) | Environmental Law Institute | Washington DC

[Event and Sponsorship Manager](#) | Nature Forward | Chevy Chase

[Human Resource Liaison](#) | The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center | Edgewater

[Environmental Literacy Specialist](#) | The Maryland Coastal Bays Program | Berlin

[Education Director](#) | Annapolis Maritime Museum