

***Watershed Stewards Academy***  
***October 2026 Newsletter***

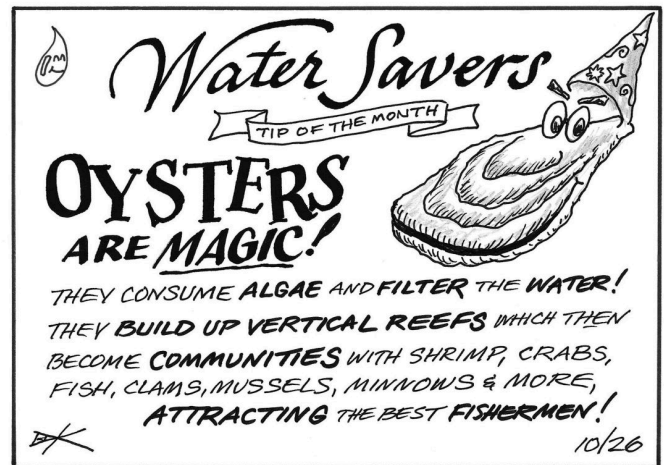
Hello WSA Stewards,

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.



### ***Continued Education***

#### **Natives at Noon: Lunch & Learn Webinar Series**

Hello! I'm your host, Lisa Kuder, from UMD Extension. Join us on the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 as we delve into various topics related to native plants. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned professional, this series provides an opportunity to expand your knowledge and engage with experts in the field. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, these sessions are an excellent way to earn Continuing Education Units. Although the presentations are free of charge, registration is required to attend. Don't miss this chance to enhance your understanding of native plants while enjoying your lunch.

- **Sacred Grounds: Moving from Behavior to Action by Growing Joy**, October 7, 2026, Register [here](#).
- **Creating Food Forests**, November 4, 2026, Register [here](#).

#### **Fall 2026 Working Forest Field Tour: Frederick County**

*Monday, October 19th, 2026*

Join experts from University of Maryland Extension and Maryland DNR's Forest Service to explore and learn from five different forested property owners across Frederick County.

You will get the chance to see the following:

A recent timber harvest

Effects of invasive plant controls (mechanical and chemical)

A state-led tree planting project

A working sawmill and wood processing operation

Participants will learn from private forest landowners how they have managed their properties for different goals over time. Participants will also learn about conservation cost-sharing opportunities from DNR Foresters and

UMD Extension Personnel. Lunch and travel between stops allow for plenty of fellowship and opportunities to learn from other participants and natural resource professionals.

This is a van-pool event! Participants will meet at the Urbana Park and Ride and join others in a van to travel between sites.

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



## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program: City of Hyattsville Walking Tour**

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Location: David C. Driskell Community Park, Hamilton Street, Hyattsville

Please join the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the City of Hyattsville to learn more about this Program through an application workshop and walking tour of completed Rain Check Rebate projects. The Chesapeake Bay Trust partners with Prince George's County, Department of the Environment to administer the Rain Check Rebate Program. This program offers rebate incentives for installing 'Rain Check' approved stormwater management practices at your residential property. We invite you to join us for an in-person application workshop session learn more about the program, followed by a tour of past completed Rain Check Rebate projects in the City of Hyattsville.

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

### **Celebrate the Bogs of the Magothy River Greenway (Pasadena MD)**

*Sunday, October 4, 2026, 10 am - 3 pm*

*Location: 20 N Shore Rd, Lake Shore*

Join the celebration of bogs of the Magothy Greenway sponsored by the Magothy River Land Trust, the Center for Ecosystem Restoration, Underwood and Associates and Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration. Take a guided tour of the Magothy Greenway bogs. Lend a hand to the bog cleanup event at noon. Check out bog plant displays and other educational material for kids and adults.

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

### **Ecosystem Science for the Future of the Chesapeake Bay**

*Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026, 5:30 pm (in-person & online)*

*Location: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum*

The Chesapeake Bay's future depends on understanding the connections among its people, wildlife, waterways and changing landscapes. In a live event hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, learn how SERC science is helping build a more resilient Bay with our director, William "Monty" Graham.

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

### **Horn Point Laboratory Open House**

*Saturday, October 10, 2026, 11 am – 4 pm*

*Location: 2020 Horns Point Road, Cambridge*

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Horn Point Laboratory will host its annual Open House. The event is free and will take place rain or shine. Visitors of all ages can learn about the cutting edge environmental science research Horn Point Lab scientists conduct in the Chesapeake Bay and across the world's oceans, through interactive exhibits and activities designed and led by scientists themselves.

Activities include:

- A visit to one of the East Coast's largest oyster hatchery
- Interactive science displays and activities
- Tour the research vessel Rachel Carson
- Children's crafts and scavenger hunt
- Free t-shirts for children
- Food vendors
- Stroll the lab's scenic campus with views of the Choptank River

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

### **Community Conservation Bus Tour**

*Saturday, October 10, 2026, 9:30 am - 3 pm*

*Location: 6322 Dogwood Rd, Baltimore*

Are you a community member in urban Baltimore County looking to create or protect green space? Join us on October 10 for a free bus tour to learn how you can work with NeighborSpace! Participants will visit four NeighborSpace sites and have the opportunity to speak with staff members and community partners. Lunch will be provided.

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

### **2026 Montgomery County H2O Summit**

*Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 11 am - 4 pm*

*Location: 2425 Reddie Dr, Wheaton*

Registration is now open! This year's theme, 'Catching it at the Source', focuses on the upstream actions and community partnerships that help keep our waterways clean. Learn from experts in the field and connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for protecting our precious water resources. Join us as we explore innovative ways to make our community waterways more resilient. At the summit, you'll listen to talks from peers and professionals in the field, learn about new innovations and updates in watershed management, foster future collaboration and partnerships, and more!

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

### **Prince George's County Forestry Board's Tree Tour**

*Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9am – 3pm*

*Location: Darnall's Chance Historic Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro*

Join us for a fun and educational walking tree tour hosted by the Prince George's County Forestry Board! The event will include an interpretive tour of Big, Champion, and Historic Trees within the Town of Upper Marlboro. A tree planting demonstration will complete the tour.

Please register as soon as possible, as the event is limited to 30 participants.

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Continuing Education Units (CEU's) and Maryland Licensed Tree Expert Credits have been applied for and are pending approval- registered participants will be notified as soon as these are approved by the ISA and MD. DNR.

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

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

*Saturdays, [October 17<sup>th</sup>](#) and [November 7<sup>th</sup>](#), 2026, 10am – 12pm*

*Location: Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Hawkins Trailhead), Hawkins Road, Annapolis*

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.

For more information or to register, click on the dates above.

## **Protecting Our Tree Canopy from Invasive Vines**

*Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, 7-8:30pm ET (online only)*

Invasive vines like English ivy, bittersweet, wisteria and Japanese honeysuckle can stress and ultimately kill trees. In our October webinar, Nina Fisher and Ginger Woolridge, co-founders of Save Our Trees in Maryland's Anne Arundel County, will discuss the most prevalent invasive vines in Maryland, how to remove them and how to prepare your yard for autumn and winter.

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

## **SOAK IT UP! 4th Annual Fundraiser for Howard EcoWorks**

*Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 6 - 9 pm*

*Location: Main Street Ballroom- A Fêtelwell Venue, 8307 Main St, Ellicott City*

Fundraiser – an evening of live music, great food and drinks, networking, games, raffles, and a celebration of the people and programs making a difference in our communities. This year, Soak It Up! is especially meaningful as we celebrate our 10th anniversary and the growth and development of Holly Hills, Howard EcoWorks' 16-acre property in Glenwood, MD. Last year's fundraising efforts helped make the foundations for Holly Hills possible. This year, we're working to transform the property into a functional, operational space that can serve as a hub for environmental education, workforce development, community engagement, and conservation.

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

## **Watershed Walk: Cattail Creek Stream & Shoreline Restoration (Severna Park, Maryland)**

*Saturday, November 7, 2026, 9 - 10:30 am*

Join the Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration and Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy for BWPR's final Watershed Walk of 2026. This tour will showcase the Cattail Creek Stream & Shoreline Restoration in #SevernaPark. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore a local community-led restoration project, so don't miss out!

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

## **ShoreRivers Rendezvous**

*Sunday, November 8, 2026, 1 – 4 pm*

*Location: Talbot Country Club, Country Club Drive, Easton*

Join us for our annual fall Rendezvous, a gathering of ShoreRivers' friends — both new and deep-rooted — who value the beauty and bounty of our rivers and creeks, and the shores that trace them. Sponsorships, ticket sales, and our enticing silent auction will help support healthier waterways through ShoreRivers' focused mission of science-based advocacy, restoration, education, and engagement.

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

### **Chesapeake Bay Green Entrepreneur Roundtable: Soil**

*Thursday, November 19, 2026, 3 pm - 4:30 pm*

Please join us on Zoom to hear from several entrepreneurs addressing ecological and collective health in communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This space is intended to highlight environmental entrepreneurs, helping to connect them to resources, build awareness of their work, and amplify their current needs (including funding, partnership-building, customer introductions, team-building, and more).

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

### **Teach for Nature: Become a Certified Nature-Based Educator**

*Tuesday, Jan. 12 - Feb. 18, 2027, 7 - 9 pm*

Ready to bring more wonder, exploration, and hands-on learning into your teaching? Our six-week online Nature-Based Teacher Certification course equips educators with practical strategies to connect learning with the natural world, no matter their setting. The fall cohort is perfectly timed to help you start the school year with fresh ideas and confidence. Classes meet conveniently online Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, making it easy to learn, connect, and grow alongside fellow educators. Expert presenters explore a range of topics while time with colleagues in cohorts holds space to exchange ideas.

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



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

### **FY27 Watershed Assistance Grant Program**

*Deadline: Wednesday, December 9, 2026*

The Watershed Assistance Grant Program is a partnership between the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). The program provides funding for the design of watershed restoration and protection projects, as well as watershed planning and program development projects. Design requests are accepted for a variety of nonpoint source best management practices (BMPs), including stream restoration and stormwater BMPs. Planning and program development requests may include watershed characterization, surveys, assessments, action plans, studies, program development, financing strategies, and other efforts that build local capacity and advance future restoration.

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

### **Clean Water Montgomery Grant Program**

*Deadline: Friday, November 13, 2026*

The Clean Water Montgomery Grant Program funds public outreach and stewardship projects, community-based restoration water quality implementation projects, water quality monitoring projects, and litter reduction projects in the Anacostia River Watershed. Projects should educate and engage residents in watershed improvement while achieving measurable impacts and sustainable behavior change. Creative and innovative proposals are encouraged. Together, these efforts will restore and protect the local rivers and streams of Montgomery County.

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

## **Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant**

*Deadline: Rolling*

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with Prince George's County on the Prince George's Community Gardens Mini Grant Program. This mini grant supports the creation and need for community gardens that provide resources to the Prince George's County community while supporting the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan. What this funds: The development of new community gardens as well as the growth of existing community gardens that plan to expand regenerative practices. Please see the RFP for types of community gardens that can be supported. Who can apply: Nonprofit organizations, Prince George's County municipalities, watershed organizations, community associations including Homeowner Associations, faith-based organizations, schools and institutions, and Green Teams.

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

## **The Anne Arundel Community Tree Planting Mini Grant Program is Accepting Applications for Small Tree Planting Projects**

*Deadline: Rolling*

Let's grow Anne Arundel County, one tree at a time! The Anne Arundel Community Tree Planting Program is accepting applications for small community grants (up to \$5,000) to plant trees and boost tree canopy in neighborhoods, parks, and public spaces throughout Anne Arundel County including the City of Annapolis.

These community projects are helping:

- Add more trees where they're needed most
- Build local stewardship
- Restore and protect our urban and suburban tree canopy
- Raise awareness about tree health and benefits

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

## **Urban Trees Mini Grant Program is now open – Chesapeake Bay Trust and 5 million Trees for Maryland**

*Deadline: Rolling*

The Urban Trees Mini Grant Program is part of the Maryland General Assembly's initiative to plant 5,000,000 native trees across the state by 2031. This grant program welcomes requests for tree planting projects in urban, underserved communities that cost up to \$10,000. The Urban Trees Mini Grant Program aims to empower communities with the resources they need to plant trees, and thereby transform their neighborhoods into healthier, greener environments for current and future generations. 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 and Restoration 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. To see a longer list of potential projects, read the full Request for Proposals (RFP).

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*

[Business Development Manager](#) | Ecological Restoration and Management, Inc.

[Climate Finance Specialist](#) | National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL)

[Grid Specialist – Energy & Climate](#) | National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL)

[Stormwater Management Inspector](#) | Cecil County, MD

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

[Climate Crew Network Coordinator](#) | Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition

[Education Program Manager](#) | Howard County Government, Robinson Nature Center

[Restoration Project Manager](#) | Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy

[Director of Restoration](#) | Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy

[Education Administrative Coordinator](#) | Nature Forward

[Part-time Administrative Assistant](#) | Catoctin Land Trust

[Crew Member for Sustainable Landscaping Company](#) | Arterra Landscapes

[Community Resilience Coordinator](#) | State of MD DNR

[Environmental Management Staffer](#) | Healthy Landscapes Goal Team