



Chesapeake Bay Trust

bay stewards newsletter

What's happening in your community?

Bay Stewards Newsletter

January 2022

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--- COMMUNITY NEWS ---

Impacts and Projects Throughout the Chesapeake Region

Winter Salt Watch



Road salt is everywhere during winter months. It keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks, but did you know that road salt can wash into our local waterways and negatively impact our wildlife, vegetation, trees, **and even our drinking water?** Water treatment plants are not equipped to filter out the extra salt and as a result it can end up in your tap water and even corrode your pipes.

In 2017, a Clean Water Fellow at the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) noticed a large pile of road salt sitting directly next to a storm drain. Once in the drain, that salt would head for the Muddy Branch, a small stream that flows through Maryland and feeds into the Potomac River. Looking into the issue, the Fellow quickly discovered that the world of road salt is a complicated one. Inspired by the success of their Save Our Streams community science program, IWLA launched [Salt Watch](#) to mobilize the community once more and monitor chloride (salt)

levels in local creeks and streams.

Since 2018, volunteers from 24 states have submitted over 10,000 chloride readings. The goal of these citizen scientists and IWLA is that salt will be used in smarter ways and in smaller quantities moving forward.

We can all do our small part to make sure our Chesapeake waterways do not suffer from excessive salt levels this winter. IWLA tells us 3 easy precautions we can take:

- 1.** Salt is really powerful when it comes to preventing ice from forming – all you need for a 20-foot driveway is ONE mugful (12 oz) of road salt.
- 2.** You do not have to feel "the crunch" for salt to do its job. Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water so snow and ice can be more easily removed. Putting more salt on a surface does not make snow and ice melt faster or eliminate the need for plowing or shoveling.
- 3.** Watch out for de-icers labeled as "eco-friendly" or "pet-friendly"! Read the package more closely: If there is chloride in the product (sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, etc.), it is still a salt!

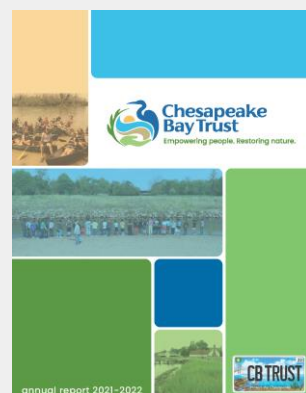
If you would like to test the chloride levels in your local waters, [take the Salt Watch Pledge](#). IWLA will send you a FREE kit with everything you need to find out whether road salt pollution is a problem in your local stream.

[Click here to learn more and to order a Salt Watch Test Kit](#)

Each year, the Chesapeake Bay Trust reports on its activities, accomplishments, financials, and impact.

[2021 - 2022 Annual Report](#)

View our most recent Annual Report to find projects in your area that have contributed to the restoration and protection of the entire Chesapeake region.



New Year, New Projects

A new year means there are many exciting new projects to fund across the Chesapeake Bay region and community groups are ready to do the work! For every project that we fund, there are three more equally deserving projects in need of funding. Consistent monthly contributions help us meet this increasing demand. With your monthly donation, you can empower communities to take an active role in the restoration and protection of our region's natural resources all year long.

[Become a Monthly Donor](#)

--- AROUND THE BAY ---
 Stories and News from the Chesapeake Region

[West Virginia farm receives the 2022 National Organization of Professional NRCS Employees Farm of the Year award](#) - U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Maryland DNR asks public to report turkey flocks during winter study](#) - WRDE-NBC (Milton, De.)

[Winter in the woods: flora and fauna find ways to survive](#) - Bay Journal

[Chesapeake Conservancy ensures long-term restoration of the Bay](#) - Easton (Md.) Star Democrat



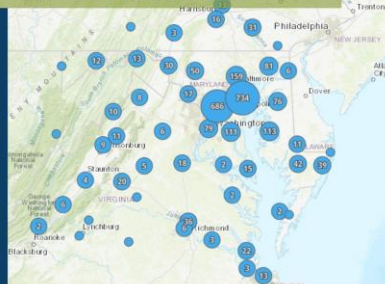
GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

With the support of our funding partners and donors, the following programs are open and accepting applications. These programs fund our grantees' hands-on restoration, outreach, and environmental education projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

[Programs Currently Open for Applications](#)

CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST

AWARDED PROJECTS INTERACTIVE MAP



FINDING PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Our Interactive map currently displays over 2,000 awards throughout the watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny River. Updated annually, the map allows you to search projects by area, funding partner, and/or environmental topic. Find projects in your community or see what's happening across the region!

[Explore the Map](#)

MVTA Annual Meeting for Tag & Title Agents Serving Maryland

The Trust was honored to take part in the Maryland Vehicle Titling Association's successful Annual Meeting at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City attended by nearly 100 Maryland tag and title agents from across the state. Tag and titling agencies throughout Maryland make a positive contribution to the environment with the bay plate program.

Read the [full press release linked here.](#)



Ring in the New Year with Chesapeake Bay Trust Merch!

YOUR PURCHASES FUND PROJECTS AROUND THE CHESAPEAKE REGION and empower community-based groups with the resources they need to protect and improve forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more in their own communities.

[Shop Our Cold-Weather Items!](#)

[Shop Other Bay Inspired Items](#)

Treasure the Chesapeake 2023

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 4, 2023

BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

[Learn More About Treasure the Chesapeake or Register as a Sponsor](#)

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2022 TREASURE THE CHESAPEAKE SPONSORS



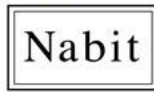
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Charlie Conklin, In Recognition of the Many People and Organizations Volunteering at the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

ROCKFISH SPONSORS

Anonymous Donor in Honor of the Congregations Engaged with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Bacchus · Blue Water Baltimore · Calvert Marina · Center for Watershed Protection
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Martin Poretzky · Tara Potter · Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. · Yumkas, Vidmar, Sweeney & Mulrenin

ABOUT THE TRUST

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the bays, streams, rivers, forests, parks, and other natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration.



Since 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$100 million in grants and projects that engage hundreds of thousands of dedicated individuals in efforts that are making a difference for all our local systems—Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny.

For nearly two decades, the Trust has received the highest possible "4-star rating" from Charity Navigator, the nation's leading independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations.



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