



Invasive Species: Understanding the Problem and Finding Ways to Address the Issue Together

December 5, 2023 (11am to 3:30pm)

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Join us for a robust conversation about invasive species—learn what common invaders we see across the watershed and the problem they pose, how invasive species are regulated, what maintenance practices have worked, what hasn't worked, and how we can manage invasives properly through action and education. The focus of this conversation will be on vegetative invasive species; however, we acknowledge that there are other invasive organisms that threaten our environment and economy that could be worthy of their own conversation. Our goal is to have a more holistic understanding of the problem and come away from the discussion with new management perspectives and techniques. The Chesapeake Bay Trust aims to leave this discussion with ideas we can implement into our grant-making to improve project sustainability and hope that attendees will gain the same.

Agenda

11am to 11:05 am: Introduction, Review Meeting Goals, and Ground Rules

What do we hope to accomplish today? What are the ground rules? What is the meeting format and how do attendees contribute to the discussion?

- Whitney Vong, Program Officer, Chesapeake Bay Trust

11:05 am to 11:40 am: Overview of Invasive Species Problem Observed in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and in Maryland

Learn how pervasive the problem is across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the state of Maryland and what common invaders observed are.

- Bud Reaves, Anne Arundel County Forester, Maryland Invasive Plant Council Member
- Daniel Root, Forest Health- Forest Legacy Program Coordinator, Maryland Forest Service
- Q&A for speakers!

11:40 am to 12:05pm: Invasive Species Plant Law and Regulation

Learn from members of Maryland's Invasive Plant Advisory Committee on the invasive plant law and how the law is regulated from a nursery inspector perspective.

- Kimberly Rice, Plant Protection & Weed Management Program Manager, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Steve Bell, Plant Protection & Weed Management Nursery Inspector, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Q&A for speakers!

12:05 pm to 12:10 pm: Quick 5 minute break!

12:10 pm to 12:45 pm: Highlighting Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) Across the Watershed

Learn how different PRISMs across the watershed are engaging their region regarding invasive species management.

- Elizabeth Mizell, Executive Director, Blue Ridge PRISM
- Jared Parks, Land Programs Manager, Lower Shore Land Trust
- Sara Tangren, National Capital PRISM Coordinator, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Q&A for speakers!

12:45 pm to 1:10 pm: People Powered Restoration

Learn how different restoration sites require different types of management techniques and how you can engage your own community in people powered restoration! This session will explore the partnership between the National Park Service and Rock Creek Conservancy and how they work together to educate and engage the public.

- Ana Chuquin, Botanist, National Park Service
- Ashley Triplett-Peltzman, Program Director, Rock Creek Conservancy and Katy Swiere, Community Engagement Coordinator, Rock Creek Conservancy
- Q&A for speakers!

1:10 pm to 1:40 pm: Thirty minute break! Eat some lunch and stretch your legs!

1:40 pm to 2:35 pm: Importance of Invasive Species Management in Practice

Learn from groups that actively deal with invasive species in their every day work and lessons they have to share.

- Steve Darrow, Natural Resources Superintendent, Empire Landscaping, LLC
- Lauren Hubbard, Owner, Native by Design, LLC

- Nick Myers, Maintenance Supervisor, Land Studies Inc.
- Eric Fishel, Forest Program Manager, Baltimore Green Space
- Q&A for speakers!

2:35 pm to 3:10 pm: Looking to our Future Environmental Stewards

Learn how youth and professionals are being engaged in invasive species curriculum and tackling the problem hands-on.

- Tanya Marushak, Teacher Specialist, Office of Environmental Literacy at Arlington Echo
- Beth Ginter, Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council
- Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Owner, EcoHaven, LLC
- Q&A for speakers!

3:10 pm to 3:30 pm: Open Q&A Session with Speakers and Closing Remarks

Biographies (ordered by agenda)

Bud Reaves (ipreav00@aacounty.org)

Bud Reaves hails from Baltimore, MD and graduated from West Virginia University's School of Forestry and Natural Resources with a bachelor's degree in Forest Resource Management. Bud's career took him first to southern West Virginia's McDowell County where he fought forest fires and helped landowners with timber sales. Bud has been working in Anne Arundel County since 1994 as a forester, initially with MD DNR Forest Service, and is currently the County Forester for Anne Arundel County Department of Inspections & Permits. Since 2004 Bud has been a consulting forester helping landowners with management plans and timber harvests. Bud is also on the adjunct faculty at Anne Arundel Community College where he teaches Forest Conservation. Bud is a SAF Certified Forester and Maryland Licensed Forester, as well as an ISA Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist. Bud is currently Chair-elect of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF), Chair of the Anne Arundel County Forestry Board, and serves on the Maryland Invasive Species Council.

Daniel L. Root (daniel.root@maryland.gov)

Daniel Root has been with the Maryland Forest Service for a year and a half. Prior to joining the Maryland Forest Service, he served in the United States Army for 17 years. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in forestry with a minor in wildlife management. He became interested in Forest Health during an internship with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and focused his coursework towards understanding its concepts. Daniel manages the state Forest Legacy program which assists private landowners in conserving their forested lands. He also manages the Forest Health program and is eager to build the state program to better serve Maryland's citizens and local organizations and turn the tide of invasive species and native plant decline. Daniel believes that the importance of Forest Health is at the pinnacle of the Stewardship field and encompasses every aspect of Forestry.

Kim Rice (kimberly.rice@maryland.gov)

Kim Rice has been the Program Manager for the Plant Protection and Weed Management (PPWM) program with the Maryland Department of Agriculture for 6 ½ years but has been with the department for 23 years. She started with the agency as a field technician working with the plum pox virus survey and was hired as an entomologist soon after. Most of her career has centered around invasive pests, working for over 10 years on the emerald ash borer program, and now spotted lanternfly. She was also the State Survey Coordinator prior to her promotion to Program Manager.

The PPWM program areas include nursery and apiary inspection, plant pathology and entomology labs, greenhouse, bio-control, noxious weeds, ginseng management and invasive pest surveys (CAPS and PPA 7721).

Steve Bell (steven.bell@maryland.gov)

Steve Bell is a Maryland Dept. of Agriculture Nursery Inspector and the Ginseng Management Program Manager, who's territory includes both Southern and Western Maryland. Steve has been with MDA since 2010, first working as an Agricultural Inspector with the Emerald Ash Borer Program and performing

various state and federal plant pest surveys. Prior to working for MDA, Steve spent 10+ years in nursery sales and landscape installation.

Elizabeth (Beth) Mizell (beth@blueridgeprism.org)

Beth Mizell is the Executive Director for Blue Ridge PRISM. Beth brings to Blue Ridge PRISM her unique experience of being actively involved in cooperative weed management areas in Florida and Indiana. In those organizations, she served in key leadership roles gaining valuable experience in organizing and operating CWMA's and insights into the potential for CWMA's to make a big impact for conservation. Prior to moving to Virginia in 2016 and starting a small native plant consulting business, Beth was a Land Steward with The Nature Conservancy for 14 years caring for natural areas and restoring rare natural communities. She has extensive experience in natural areas management and restoration, invasive plant species management and control, native plant propagation, and gardening/landscaping with native plants. Beth is a Level 1 Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional and holds a license as a Virginia Commercial Pesticide Applicator.

Jared Parks (jparks@lowershorelandtrust.org)

Jared Parks comes to the Lower Shore Land Trust from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) located in Easton, MD. He spent nearly 11 years with ESLC where he successfully completed nearly 70 conservation projects preserving over 12,000 acres of land. Prior to working at ESLC, Jared held multiple field-based wildlife research positions largely focusing on avian ecology and habitat management in Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, and Wisconsin. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from Lawrence University in Wisconsin and a Master of Environmental Studies from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Jared serves as a Board member for the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership and is an avid birder and gardener.

Sara Tangren (invasive.slayer@gmail.com)

Sara Tangren works for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments where she serves as the Coordinator of the National Capital Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. In addition to invasive plants, her areas of specialization include native landscaping, native seed production, the native plant and seed production industry, meadow making, and rare plant conservation. She received her Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Maryland.

Ashley Triplett-Peltzman (ashley@rockcreekconservancy.org)

Ashley Triplett-Peltzman is the Program Director for Rock Creek Conservancy, the philanthropic and stewardship partner to Rock Creek (National Park). In this position, she is tasked with developing the first Forest Resilience Framework for Rock Creek Park and overseeing people-powered restoration programs for the improved health of the Rock Creek watershed. Ashley holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science/Zoology from Michigan State University and a Master of Science from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in Wildlife Biology. Her past work with USDA APHIS involved leading

community outreach and practical environmental education programs, leveraging research methodology and geospatial technology to identify environmental degradation, and identifying restoration solutions to restore historical environmental health.

Ana Chuquin (Ana_Chuquin@nps.gov)

Born and raised in Peru, Ana Chuquin immigrated to the United States to pursue a college degree in sciences. She graduated with degrees in Natural Resources Management and Biology from the University of Maryland and Towson University respectively. Currently, Ana serves as a Botanist for Rock Creek Park (ROCR). Ana has been a National Park Service employee for fourteen years. During her time working for NPS, Ana has been part of the National Capital Region (NCR) – Invasive Plant Management Team. She has worked for the Integrated Pest Management Program at the Washington Office (WASO,) where she assisted solving vegetation management issues service wide. Ana has worked for Resource Management at ROCR since 2011. At ROCR, Ana works on vegetation management, including managing flora research, management of invasive plant infestations, and management of restoration projects. She designs projects, organizes and guides intra-agency groups, contractors, non-governmental organizations, partners and volunteers on the treatment of non-native, invasive plants, and restoration projects that emphasize biodiversity principles. She enjoys working with volunteers leading the Park’s weed warrior program and working with the Park’s partner groups on vegetation restoration projects.

Katy Swiere (kswiere@rockcreekconservancy.org)

Katy Swiere (she/her) is the Forest Community Engagement Coordinator at Rock Creek Conservancy, where she manages the vegetation of over 33 acres of parkland, hosts weekly volunteer events, and coordinates the Conservancy's Weed Warrior program in conjunction with the National Park Service. She is a DC Master Naturalist, and volunteers with various environmental organizations in the District of Columbia. Katy grew up in southeast Texas and graduated with a degree in Environmental Policy from Pomona College in 2021. She is passionate about environmental justice, environmental education, and food sovereignty.

Steve “Shaggy” Darrow (sdarrow@empirelandscape.com)

Steve “Shaggy” Darrow has been involved in non-native invasive (NNI) removal for over 10 years. He began his career after graduating from Frostburg State University with a bachelor's degree in Ethnobotany. He now oversees the Natural Resources division at Empire Landscape.

Lauren Hubbard, Ph.D. (laurenhubbard100@gmail.com)

Lauren Hubbard works with property owners and organizations, providing sustainable landscaping services including design, coaching, small scale installation, and project management, as well as operating a nursery offering local ecotype native plants. She is the President of the Maryland Native Plant Society with a particular interest in the preservation of genetic diversity in our native plant

populations. She holds a Ph.D. in Plant Biology and is a certified Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional, Montgomery County Weed Warrior Supervisor.

Lauren has contracted with the Muddy Branch Alliance, Howard Ecoworks and Urban Ecosystem Restorations to support numerous Chesapeake Bay Trust grants by providing grant writing, reporting, design and maintenance plans, and community outreach services.

Nick Myers (nick@landstudies.com)

Nick Myers has been with LandStudies for almost 11 years after returning from graduate school at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He's been involved in ecological restoration since 2001 and has worked for private restoration companies, local parks, and non-profits for much of that time. His "offices" have been in wetlands, prairies, and forested sites across seven different states. He is really good at getting equipment stuck in the mud and has a large quarter jar for talking about plants un-asked.

Eric Fishel (eric@baltimoregreenspace.org)

Eric Fishel leads all of our programming related to forest stewardship. Eric is a conservation biologist specializing in urban ecology of birds. Eric grew up just outside of Baltimore in Owings Mills, MD, and attended Johns Hopkins University where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology while working as an intern and naturalist with the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, and Marshy Point Nature Center.

After college, he spent the next 11 years working on a variety of avian conservation research projects in seven states and seven countries. In 2016, he received his Master's degree in natural resources from the University of Missouri studying the impacts of land management practices on breeding bird and plant communities in an urban residential area.

Tanya Marushak (tmarushak@aacps.org)

Tanya Marushak is the teacher specialist focused on secondary grades. Her primary responsibilities include working with content coordinators to develop curriculum, host student interns, facilitate the county Envirothon, develop and run professional development for teachers, develop/support programs to increase student interactions with professionals in the environmental field, and work to support teachers as they implement environmental literacy projects and programs in their classroom.

She began working as an environmental educator at the Carbon County Environmental Education Center in 1992 and has been active in the field ever since. Tanya has a B.S. in Biology with a focus in Environmental Science and a minor in Geology from Millersville University in Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of Maryland. She has completed research projects in Brazil, the desert southwest, Italy, and Costa Rica.

Beth Ginter, MPSLD, CBLP (beth@cblpro.org)

Beth Ginter became Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's (CCLC) first executive director in January 2020. Based in Silver Spring, Maryland, and working across the mid-Atlantic region, CCLC educates and supports professionals to implement sustainable landscapes and green infrastructure practices for a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay watershed. She helped develop and direct CCLC's Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification initiative from 2015-2019. Previously, Beth was the founding principal of a landscape consulting & design firm, and she directed scientific communications programs in the corporate sector. She earned a Masters in Sustainable Landscape Design at The George Washington University and a B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis (autumn@ecohavenllc.com)

Autumn Phillips-Lewis is the owner of EcoHaven, LLC, an ecological services company that offers a wide variety of ecosystem management and restoration solutions. Since founding the company in 2019, Autumn has worked with county and state agencies, private landowners, and non-profit organizations on numerous invasive species management projects. Many of these projects have involved securing funding, acquiring permits, and collaborating with stakeholders to achieve conservation goals. Autumn is also the Land Manager at the American Chestnut Land Trust and is responsible for managing over 3,500 acres of forest, meadow, and marsh habitat. In this role, Autumn has coordinated many invasive species control efforts involving volunteers and Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps members. Autumn is also a certified pesticide applicator in Maryland and is the Chair of the Calvert County Forestry Board. She has a BS in Environmental Science from Elizabethtown College and a MS in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University.

Convening Planning Lead. Whitney Vong, Restoration Program Officer, Chesapeake Bay Trust
(wvong@cbtrust.org)

Whitney Vong is a Program Officer with the Restoration Team at the Chesapeake Bay Trust. She manages programs that focus on increasing tree canopy within Anne Arundel County, a county losing forests faster than almost any other in Maryland. Additionally, Whitney manages the Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Team Funding Program, which helps fund projects that advances outcomes identified in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Graduating from the University of Maryland, College Park with B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy with a concentration in Biodiversity and Conservation Biology and a minor in Geographic Information Systems, Whitney is passionate about restoring our ecosystem to ensure that our world's biodiversity can continue to exist.

A note of gratitude: Thank you so much to all the wonderful presenters for dedicating your time to share your knowledge, expertise, and experiences with everyone! Your hard work and passion made today possible! Thanks, also, to the attendees for sharing your thoughts and ideas with the group. Appreciate everyone for being a part of the conversation!

The convening was organized by the Chesapeake Bay Trust as part of our Strategic Plan Initiatives to convene experts as a way to identify solutions to critical issues and identify paths of actions in our work using the latest best practices and science. Learn more about the Trust at: <https://cbtrust.org/>