



Chesapeake Bay Stewards Newsletter

May 2020

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NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Dear Chesapeake Bay Trust Steward:

During these strange and difficult times, thank you so much for your continued interest in the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the thousands of grantees we support. Our role in the environmental community, as you know, is as a grant-maker: The dollars invested in us from your Chesapeake license plates, donations, and other sources are carefully divided up among thousands of ongoing environmental education, restoration, and engagement projects undertaken by many dedicated on-the-ground organizations.

Daily, we hear of hardships and moments of inspiration from our grantees. Each story of triumph and challenge makes us appreciate all we DO still have during these tough times: We still have springtime. We still have beautiful flowers blooming. We still have that fresh scent of new growth and spring rains. We still have walks in the neighborhood, or for those lucky enough to have access, in the woods.

Never has the mission of the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the work of our grantees seemed more important than now. With so many of life's busy activities stripped away, we can slow down a bit and remind ourselves of all that the natural world has to offer. As we look towards the times when we can bring back our previous routines and traditions, let's make a concerted effort to take with us some of the habits we established in quarantine and continue our appreciation of and work towards a better environment for all.



And until we can meet again; be well, be safe, and be (safely) outdoors!



Jana Davis, PhD.
Executive Director



Riverbea Community Salutes Neighborhood: "May The Forest Be With You"

It is a problem faced by many homeowner associations: community common areas overtaken by invasive plant growth which seem to invade faster and cover more ground in a shorter amount of time than that spent maintaining our yards! This was the case for the [Riviera Beach Community](#) (RBC) subdivision in Pasadena, Maryland. The land is owned by RBC and this tight-knit community is governed by two different community associations; Riverbea and Riviera Community Improvement Association.

Valuable community public space had essentially become unusable because of overgrowth, neglect, drainage issues, and trash. With an award through the [Anne Arundel County Forestry and Forested Land Protection Program](#), Riverbea was able to replace invasive foliage with native trees and plantings along the pathway to the shoreline, a semi-forested location within the watershed critical area. This project demonstrated the ability of neighbors to take an uncared-for lot and turn it into a beautiful and ecologically friendly environment. Read the full story about this 2020 [PLANT award](#) winning project [here](#).

Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Program Announces Awardees

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, in partnership with [Prince George's County](#), is proud to announce the sixth year of [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) awardees!



The program supports projects that benefit neighborhoods while treating and controlling stormwater. The goal is to improve neighborhoods, improve water quality in the County's local streams and rivers, and engage County residents in stormwater issues.

This year, a total of 14 projects were awarded a total of \$979,056 to support stormwater projects that will engage 5,000 residents, treat over 11 acres of impervious surface, and plant over 1,900 trees and 11,000 native plants that will provide shade, cleaner air, and improve water quality. See the full list of awardees and their projects [here](#).

AROUND THE BAY

Boat Wrap Recycling Program Doubles in Maryland. "It's time to shed the layers. The plastic wrap that protects boats during the winter months is coming off, but much of it in Maryland is not going to a landfill." Watch the [Chesapeake Bay Magazine](#) video [here](#).

A Garden for Healing Patients and the River. "Access to green space has a positive effect on health, from reducing high blood pressure to lowering the number of days in a hospital setting. For MedStar Harbor, a new healing garden at the hospital not only benefits community health, but the health of the Patapsco." Read the [Chesapeake Bay Program's](#) article [here](#).

2018 State of the Bay Report: Resiliency in the Face of Unprecedented Challenge. "...There are heartening signs that the Bay is building resiliency. Bay grasses remain intact and recent studies indicate an improving trend in underwater dead zones over the long term. But the system remains dangerously out of balance. And new challenges like climate change and a federal administration attempting to rollback fundamental environmental protections are threatening success." Read the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation's](#) full report [here](#).

Stewards for streams engages faith community. "Stewards for Streams is a partnership between two nonprofit organizations: ShoreRivers, which protects and restores Eastern Shore waterways; and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, which has engaged over 300 congregations across Maryland in caring for local watersheds." Read the [Dorchester Banner's](#) program announcement [here](#).

Experience Matters: Randolph Grad Spends the Year Working as Part of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps. "I love how the work I do has a positive impact on the environment around me," Cobb-Davis said. "Being part of the solution is really rewarding because I know that it will make a difference in the long run." Read Tyrah Cobb-Davis' [Randolph College](#) story [here](#).

Here's How to Find Optimism in This Moment of Fear and Uncertainty. "Even in this time of fear and uncertainty, hiding amidst the shadows of doubt and gloom are glimmers of hope and opportunity. To stave off the darkness, it's towards these flickers of light that we point you." Read the inspiring [Smithsonian Magazine](#) article [here](#).

New environmental education program to help state waterways. "The State Highway Administration and Living Classrooms Foundation are launching a pilot education program that will encourage activities to reduce pollution to Maryland waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. The program — whose successes will be measured under MDE oversight — is the first of its kind in Maryland and is believed to be the first such program in the bay region." Read the [Cumberland Times-News](#) announcement [here](#).

How the largest environmental movement in history was born. "Ageing protesters still speak of the first Earth Day with reverence. On 22 April 1970, 20 million people took to the streets across the United States to protest environmental destruction." Read the [BBC Future Planet](#) article [here](#).

Hey FishTalk fan, we need your help with distribution! "Do you love finding your free copy of FishTalk at one of our many distribution points each and every month? We're betting you do, but both distributing the magazines and grabbing those free copies has become quite difficult recently." Read online [here](#).

Get Boat-Ready While Waiting Out Coronavirus. "We can't control restrictions on recreational boating or the vast, boring weekends spent under a stay-at-home order. But we can use the time wisely to be ready for a safe boating season." Read all of [Chesapeake Bay Magazine's](#) advice [here](#). And find out more about making a voluntary donation to the Trust when obtaining boating/fishing registrations or licenses [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Because of the rapidly changing environment resulting from COVID-19, The Trust is suspending promotion of grantee and partner events to minimize misinformation.



Venturing out? We've got you covered! We appreciate that not everyone feels comfortable leaving home these days, but with mandatory face covering orders in place, we'd like to provide options for those who do. And all sales support environmental projects the Trust funds making it possible to help the outdoors which helps all our mental and physical health. Shop the whole collection (and check out our gallery of other products) [here](#).



Many dealerships and tag & title agents are OPEN and working to process vehicle sales, deliveries, and registrations. Support area businesses who support the Chesapeake Bay! Find your next car dealership [here](#). Find a Maryland tag & title agent [here](#).





Making Powerful Investments in the Chesapeake

Chesapeake Bay Trust's

Treasure the Chesapeake

**22nd Annual
Celebration**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

**6 - 9:30 PM | 1415 Key Highway
Baltimore, MD 21230**

Join more than 400 community leaders, friends of the Chesapeake Bay, and YOUR clients to enjoy a night on the Baltimore waterfront with an open bar, Chesapeake Bay-themed cuisine, silent auction, oyster bar, and beer garden.

SAVE THE DATE

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is beyond thrilled and deeply touched by the continued support of our Treasure the Chesapeake event sponsors, winery & brewery partners, and auction donors.

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2020 TREASURE THE CHESAPEAKE SPONSORS**

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WAYS TO GIVE

Direct donation:

You can make a direct donation to the Chesapeake Bay Trust [here](#). Or mail your contribution to: The Chesapeake Bay Trust, 108 Severn Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403.

Chairman's Circle:

Created to engage those who want to make it possible for the Trust to meet the increasing demands of restoring and protecting our natural resources. Read more and join [here](#).

Amazon Smile:

You shop, Amazon gives. Bookmark [this](#) link so that all of your eligible shopping benefits The Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Federal, State, and Local Campaigns:

Federal, state, and local campaigns are tailored to meet the needs of employees, including U.S. postal workers, state employees, and U.S. military at home and overseas. Visit your human resources department or campaign coordinator to learn how you can give to the Chesapeake Bay Trust through federal and state campaigns.

Monthly Giving:

At any level, monthly giving is an easy and efficient way to invest in the Chesapeake Bay's recovery. Your monthly gift will ensure that the Trust can provide everyday citizens with the resources they need to accomplish projects that have a measurable, positive impact on the health of the Chesapeake and its rivers and streams. You can easily start, change, or stop your gift at any time. Sign up to make your monthly gift to the Trust [here](#).

The Maryland Outdoor Recreation and Clean Water Fund

Fishers, boaters, and hunters who obtain registration or licenses through Maryland Department of Natural Resources [Compass online registration system](#) can make a contribution to support fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, wetlands, and k-12 student field trips.

Chesapeake Bay License Plates:

Did you know that sales of the Chesapeake Bay license plates support our work in Maryland? You can upgrade to a Bay Plate at any time [online](#), through a [tag agent](#), or in person at the MVA. As a Chesapeake Bay plate owner, you are invited to join our Plate Perks program, giving you preferred parking or discounts at a growing number of businesses!

Shop the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The iconic images of the Bay Bridge, crabs, grasses and blue skies all resonate with Marylanders far and wide and are now available on selected items curated by Trust staff through our online [shop](#).

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 a "4-star rating" from Charity Navigator, the nation's leading independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations.

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