



Prince George's County Newsletter

September 2020

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News & Updates

As we face the uncertainty of this health crisis together, please know that your well-being is of the utmost importance to all of us at the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Prince George's County Department of the Environment. We understand how tough the situation is that you and your loved ones may be facing. We understand how difficult it has been for everyone who must attempt as much normalcy as possible while following the latest reopening guidance. We also realize there are many entities right now on the front line of COVID-19, and we respect the needs of those entities and are very grateful for their work to keep our population safe and healthy.

We continue to spend this time working hard to keep the Prince George's County grant-supported projects and the Rain Check Rebate programs going and to make sure that the Chesapeake and other natural resources keep improving. In the meantime, we would like to offer you an update on the programs and share their resulting success stories through our monthly newsletter. There is much to appreciate in the beauty of natural resources and those working hard to protect them.

Chesapeake Conservation Corps Celebrates 2020 Graduates and Welcomes Incoming Class



This past month, the Trust was proud to remotely graduate the 2020 cohort of the [Chesapeake Conservation Corps](#) and welcome our 2021 cohort. As Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio of [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) said, "In these tough times, more and more of us are realizing the importance of our natural resources as use of parks and other outdoor resources increases."

Created by the Maryland Legislature to invest in the state's young people, the Chesapeake Conservation Corps program invests in the state's young people, providing valuable job skills training and promoting the green economy in Maryland. The program matches young people ages 18-25 with nonprofit and government organizations for one-year terms of service, focused on improving local communities and protecting natural resources. The incoming class of 2021 consists of 37 Corps members, with four members working with the following organizations in Prince George's County:

- [University System of Maryland, Environmental Finance Center](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge](#)
- [Anacostia Watershed Society](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center](#)

Thank you for all your hard work class of 2020, and welcome class of 2021!

[Learn More about the Chesapeake Conservation Corps](#)

Promotores Lead the Way for Environmental Action



Last month we highlighted a 2015 project carried out by Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, working through their Chispa Maryland (Chispa) program. Chispa received an award through the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) to engage members of the County's Latino community in environmental stewardship and establish leadership through a train-the-trainer model. This project graduated a total of 13 promotores - trained individuals who take on an educational and leadership role for their communities.

One promotora, Candida Garcia, was recently highlighted in [Bay Journal](#). Since 2016, Candida has organized a community garden at Rosa Parks Elementary in Hyattsville, been on the front lines of a zero-emissions school bus campaign and partnered with Chispa to apply for a COVID-19 relief grant.

Congratulations, Candida! We celebrate the work you're doing to improve and protect our natural resources.

[Read the full Bay Journal Article](#)

Pollution Prevention and Water Quality go Hand in Hand



Did you know last week (September 21 -27) was the 30th anniversary of [Pollution Prevention Week](#)? Pollution Prevention Week focuses on educating and mobilizing government agencies, industries, and individuals to each play their part in reducing and preventing pollution.

One way individuals can play a part is by reducing the amount of trash we generate. [Plastics are the second highest category of trash](#) produced in the U.S., so cutting down on single-use plastic products is a great first step. Below are a few of the ways we can cut down on our use of plastic products.

- Bring your own cloth bags to the [store]
- Go to the farmer's market and purchase fresh fruits and veggies (not packaged in plastic)
- Clean with baking soda and vinegar instead of cleaners packaged in plastic
- Store all your food in glass containers.
- If you purchase something bottled in glass, clean it and reuse it!
- Compost your trash, reduce your use of plastic trash bags

The ideas above are just a few small steps you can take to generate less plastic waste. The full list of tips and ideas from Reef Relief can be found [here](#).

[Read the full Blog Post](#)

Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Kathy Somoza at ksomoza@cbtrust.org to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



Events and Opportunities

Watershed Wednesday Happy Hour - Oh Deer!

Wednesday, September 30 - 5:30pm to 7pm
Anacostia Watershed Society, Zoom

In this presentation, we'll hear from Bill Browning from Arlington Regional Master Naturalists about how the deer population cycle has occurred, and what it means for our parks, forests, and neighborhood. [Learn More](#)

How to Organize a Cleanup

Wednesday, September 30 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
Alice Ferguson Foundation, Zoom

Join the Alice Ferguson Foundation for this workshop to learn how you can organize a trash cleanup in your community as an individual, family, or neighborhood event. [Learn more](#)

Minds in the Gutter: Urban Leaf Litter and Stream Health

Thursday, October 8 - 7pm to 8pm
Natural History Society of Maryland, Zoom

Most leaves drop in the fall and find their way into storm drains and into streams. Join expert Ken Belt and the Natural History Society to learn what happens when forestry meets engineering and stream ecosystems. [Learn more](#)

Unlocking the Mysteries and Marvels of Bird Migration

Friday, October 22 - 7pm to 8pm
Natural History Society of Maryland, Zoom

Learn about examples of amazing migrations, from raptors to shorebirds to songbirds, and the magnificent creatures that complete these journeys. [Learn more](#)

Get Paid to Go Green: Funding for Conservation Practices

Tuesday, November 10 - 6pm to 8pm
Sustainability Matters, Online

Thought about planting a pollinator meadow or riparian buffer, but daunted by the expense? Find out how to get state and federal programs to cover most of the cost of eco-friendly improvements to your land! [Learn more](#)

Due to COVID-19's impact on our region, many in-person events have moved to remote meetings, were postponed, or were cancelled. As information becomes available, the County's updates and resources are [here](#).

Stay safe and healthy, Prince George's County!

ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the streams, rivers, 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 \$120 million in grants and projects that have engaged over 2 million dedicated individuals in efforts that are making a difference for all of 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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