



*Protecting Today's Treasures for Tomorrow*



# Solutions eNewsletter

January, 2010

## Director's Message

The staff of the Coastal Bays Program hopes you enjoy our new eNewsletter *Solutions*. Using electronic media not only allows us to reach a wider audience in an instant, it also cuts down on the amount of paper we use. This electronic newsletter is just one way we continued work to protect and preserve the Coastal Bays in 2010.

Through education and outreach programs, restoration projects and involvement with the business community, builders, residents, visitors and government leaders, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program works to improve water quality, protect habitat and enhance forests and wetlands.

Thanks to your support we accomplished a lot in 2009. Read on for more details and to learn about what we plan to accomplish in 2010.

## Happy New Year!

We are excited to start a new decade with a new and improved website. The site has been completely updated to include an interactive map, a photo and video page and an up to the minute calendar to keep you informed of upcoming events. Please check out the new site designed by D3 Corp at [www.mdcoastalbays.org](http://www.mdcoastalbays.org)

## Citizen's Advisory Committee

We are in the process of reinventing our CAC. Please join us at the **Ocean Pines Library on Jan. 27 at 7 pm** where we hope to learn what the public would like to see the Coastal Bays Program work on this year and in the future. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact [Anita](#)

*Dave Wilson, Jr.*

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### Osprey Triathlon Raised More than \$43K

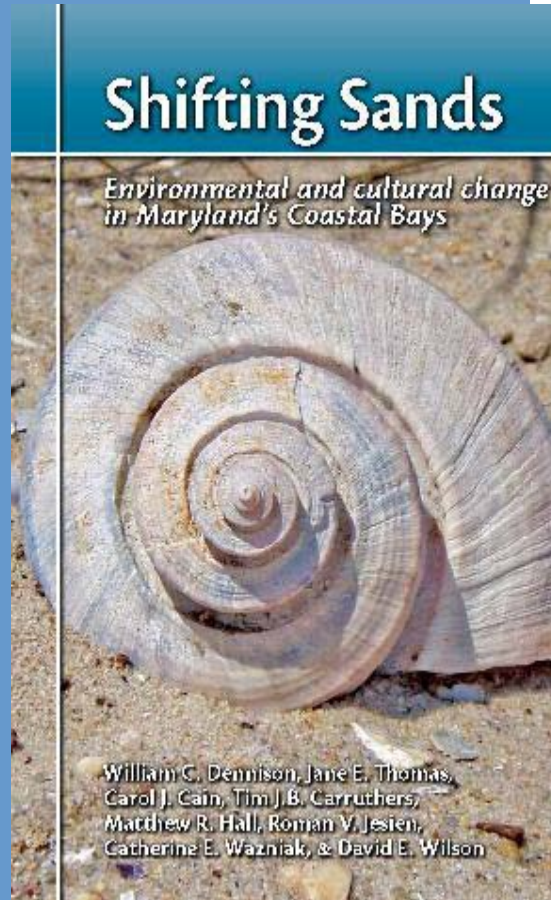
Despite threatening weather, more than 400 athletes from across the region competed in the 10th Annual Osprey Sprint Triathlon at Public Landing on Oct. 3 to benefit the



Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation.

The \$75 entrance fee and generous local sponsorships helped raise more than \$43,000, which will be used for restoration, monitoring, and education in the coastal bays watershed. Despite the cloudy and threatening weather, hundreds of spectators gathered to cheer on

[Ferguson](#) for more information.



Referring to both the dynamic nature of the barrier islands forming the coastal lagoons of Maryland's Atlantic Ocean coastline and also the changing cultural landscape, *Shifting Sands* is a richly illustrated, multi-authored introduction to the Coastal Bays. Three of the authors - Dave Wilson, Dr. Roman Jesien and Carol Cain are Coastal Bays staffers.

**Wilson, Jesien and Cain will discuss the book at the Ocean City Library on 100th Street on**

racers during the half-mile swim in Chincoteague Bay, the 15.2-mile bike course and the 3.1-mile run on the roads surrounding the rural countryside of southern Worcester County.

The 10th annual Osprey Sprint Triathlon was sponsored by



Seacrets, M & T Bank, Bahia Marina, Thrasher's Fries, Gismondi Insurance, Taylor Bank, Francis Scott Key Motel, OC Wasabi, Sun Signs, Delmarva Power, Barcoding Inc., Ocean City Chiropractic Clinic, Halls Restaurant, the Original Greene Turtle, Bike Sports, Pepsi, Home Depot, Coastal Builders, Atlantic General Hospital, Mike Truitt of Merrill Lynch and Worcester County Tourism. Thanks also to Hi-Tide Marine, Todd Burbage and Kool Ice and Seafood for donating goods and services and to local artist Kirk McBride who donated the logo design for our 10th anniversary race. T-shirts sporting the new logo will be sold during the race and at the pre-race dinner Friday night at Sunset Grille in West Ocean City. A final thanks to the Worcester County Public Works Department and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

For complete race results visit [www.compuscore.com](http://www.compuscore.com)

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**Jan. 27 at 1 pm. The public is invited to attend.**

Click [HERE](#) for information on how to purchase a copy of *Shifting Sands*.

### Ayres Creek Kayak Launch

The Town of Ocean City has agreed to retain the liability for the old town dump on Lewis Road, and allow the MD Coastal Bays Program and partners to convert it into a low-impact, high-quality kayak launch.

This project will greatly enhance our regional tourism and recreation opportunities. The site will be linked to a new water trail that will connect Ayres Creek to Newport, Sinepuxent and Chincoteague Bays, the county boat ramp at South Point, Assateague Island National Seashore, Assateague State Park and the Ocean City Commercial Harbor.

### Special Message

Since 1996 our focus has been to protect and enhance the health of the bays behind Assateague and Ocean City, and our method to accomplish these goals has always been to reach common ground through listening and learning. Our work represents a consensus of the best means needed to preserve the economic and ecological prosperity of the coastal bays in the next century.

Consensus building groups seek to achieve overwhelming agreement after



This scientifically rigorous report card is to inform you of the relative health of the Coastal Bays.

Although the overall score for the Coastal Bays was a C+, there were distinct differences among reporting regions.

Click on the Report Card to read the entire document.

sincere efforts are made to meet the interests of all stakeholders.

Advocacy groups work differently and seek to influence the political and regulatory process through lobbying efforts. There is an important place for this, but it is not with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Despite angering a few on the extremes, we will continue to build a consensus to provide a forum for stakeholder interests for mutually acceptable solutions.

### Rezoning A Success

The Coastal Bays Program and all those who want to preserve our watershed for future generations are pleased with actions taken by the Worcester County Commissioners regarding rezoning, which we believe is pivotal to preserving and protecting our precious natural resources.

Although initially concerned with parts of the proposal, we are pleased county staffers and the planning commission worked together to form compromises that address both property rights and conservation and that the majority of commissioners approved those recommendations.

Approval of these regulations will ensure that rezoning is more consistent with the 2006 award winning Worcester County Comprehensive Plan.

Crucial to that effort was the favorable vote for the zoning maps, which were approved in a 6-1 vote. These maps

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**New Fundraiser  
a Success!**



This holiday fundraiser was a great success for a first run, with artists from across the region donating a portion of their proceeds to the MCBP.

Funds raised from Arts 4 Clean Bays will go to supporting core programs, including improving water quality, restoring and preserving habitat and educating citizens about the ecological beauty and value of the Maryland Coastal Bays.



Special thanks to Ken Taylor of the Wainwright Tire Center who donated the the building on Broad Street in Berlin.

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**Highest Population of Horseshoe Crabs in Maryland**

are a crucial part of the comprehensive rezoning plan, which will determine where growth takes place within the next two decades.

Click [HERE](#) to view the final maps.

Thanks to our Donors

Thanks to Queen of the Bays, Vera McCullough of Ocean City, who recently donated generously to the Coastal Bays Program!



Thanks also to the organizers of the 2009 Ocean City Tuna Tournament, who donated \$2,000 to the MCBP!

Donate Today!

It's now easier than ever to donate to Coastal Bays Program. Click [HERE](#) to donate securely online.

A recently released study - Horseshoe Crab Spawning Activity in Maryland's Coastal Bays: 2002-2009 reveals the highest population counted to date in the state. This annual count is organized by the MD Coastal Bays Program and includes training. Analyses of survey data from the past seven years has been reviewed and presented to DNR staff, the Atlantic National Marine Fisheries Commission and at the 2009 Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Conference.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report, compiled by MCBP staffer Carol Cain and Steve Doctor of the Fisheries Service.



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### **Showell Restoration Project Completed**

We are thrilled to announce that our wetland habitat restoration project at a 89-acre conservation easement in Showell is now completed. The habitat restoration enhances an already productive riparian corridor, while maintaining critical flood control functions. The project showcases some of the techniques in restoring streams and wetlands in the landscape, and was funded by the Maryland Department of Environment and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

For more information about this project and other conservation and restoration projects



### Staff

**Executive Director**

[David Wilson](#)

**Technical Coordinator**

[Carol Cain](#)

**Outreach Coordinator**

[Anita Ferguson](#)

**Programs Manager**

[Kate Diffenderfer](#)

**Staff Scientist**

[Dr. Roman Jesien](#)

**Office Manager**

[Cristy Layton](#)

totaling 547 acres, click [HERE](#).

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### Coastal Stewards Program

In 2009, eleven Coastal Stewards were hired and trained to work as interpreters at Assateague and other local parks and museums. Throughout the summer, Coastal Stewards shared information about the coastal nature and heritage of the Delmarva Peninsula, and encouraged tourists to visit parks and museums. Coastal Stewards learned about "green" jobs, and networked with leaders in federal, state, and local government, non-profit organizations, and businesses. This MCBP sponsored program was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



Coastal Stewards with 1st District Congressman Frank Kratovil.

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### Education Coordinator

[Carrie Samis](#)

### Development Coordinator

[Sandi Smith](#)

### Partner Links

[Town of Ocean City](#)

[Town of Berlin](#)

[Worcester County](#)

[Assateague Island National Seashore](#)

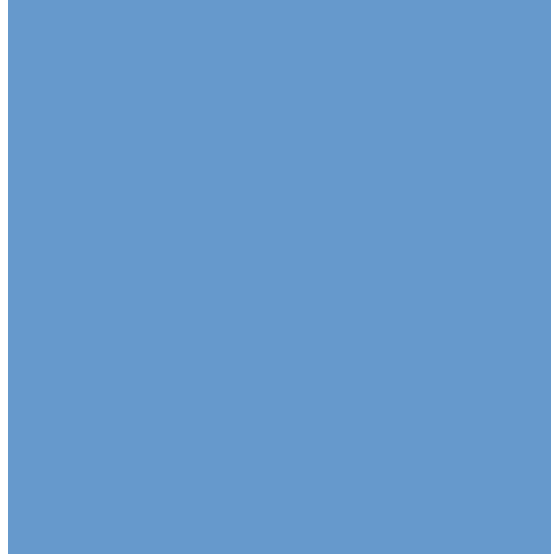
[MD Department of Natural Resources](#)

[National Estuary Program](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Rene Laffite, a summer intern with the MCBP , participated in a bird banding last summer on an island near the Route 90- bridge in Ocean City.

About a dozen people from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as several volunteers, traveled to the small island with a goal to band juvenile Royal Terns.



**Protecting Today's Treasures for Tomorrow**

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