



March 2020

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50th Earth Day - Mark Your Calendars for an Early Celebration!



April 22 marks the 50th year of Earth Day. MCBP, partnering with the Town of Ocean City and the Ocean City Surf Club, will be hosting our 11th Annual Earth Day clean up on **Saturday, April 4th** to celebrate. We have always held this event prior to the actual day so you can participate in another area events on that day.

Join us at the Ocean City Town Hall Gazebo on 3rd Street beginning at **10:00 am** to register and receive your supplies and commemorative t-shirts, while supplies last. At registration you can provide your area of choice to clean up or we will provide you an assignment. Contact sandis@mdcoastalbays.org, 410-213-2297 ext. 106, for more information.

MAEOE Conference



The annual Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Conference was held in Ocean City this February. One of the largest state environmental education conferences in the nation, MAEOE brings in over 500 teachers, educators, and scientists from the surrounding states for four days of expertise and resource sharing, networking, and communicate advancements in student and community impact. MCBP had the pleasure of sending three of their staff members, Liz Wist, Chandler Joiner, and Virginia Parker. This year, MCBP also offered Educator Scholarships, and were honored to support the attendance of two local Worcester County public school teachers, Mandi Wells (Stephen Decatur High School) and Ashley Streebig (Snow Hill High School).

JA Inspire Career Fair



On Thursday, February 27, Liz and Chandler attended JA Inspire at the Ocean City Convention City. JA Inspire is a hands-on career exploration opportunity for approximately 3,000 eighth graders from across 6 Eastern Shore counties led by Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore. Career mentorship is not always readily available to students at home and JA Inspire offers students the opportunity to learn about careers from knowledgeable mentors in time to plan their high school curriculum. MCBP attended the event and offered students an opportunity to get hands-on with a microplastics challenge and learn about various organisms through with dissection scopes.

Bishopville Dam Removal Project



An early participant in the annual spring spawning run of alewife was observed in late February at the Bishopville Dam Removal Project. This ocean dwelling fish was able to navigate to upstream freshwater spawning areas thanks to the series of step pools at the old Bishopville mill dam. This is year 6 of successful fish passage and we look forward to many more to come.

Discover Your Watershed

Join us this spring for our first Discover Your Watershed event of the year!

Kickoff spring by joining MCBP on **Saturday, March 28** for our first 2020 Discover Your Watershed event! The Plants, Poetry, and Pollinators adventure will be held from **9:30 am to 12:00 pm** at Greys Creek Nature Park. This DYW event will be focused on planting, pollinator garden maintenance, and orienteering. All DYW events are free for all ages and lunch is provided!

For specific location details and to RSVP, please contact Liz Wist at lwist@mdcoastalbays.org or (410) 213-2297 ext. 110.



Upcoming Discover Your Watershed Events

- June 13, 2020 - Lizard Hill Restoration Site
- October 24, 2020 - Assateague Living Shoreline
- November 7, 2020 - Showell Nature Preserve

Bay Day at Ocean Pines

Mark Your Calendars!

Come out to the 3rd Bay Day at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on **Sunday, May 17 from 11:30-3:30**. Come for an hour or stay all day, we will have something for everyone.

Ocean Pines and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program will be hosting this day of fun, hands-on activities, and educational exhibits that highlight how watershed residents can make a positive impact in our Coastal Bays! There will be St. Martin River boat tours on the OC Swim Call, beverages from the Burley Oak Beer Truck, a food garden, kids activities, live music by the George and Pat Bilenki Duo, hands-on demonstrations, nature crafts, dozens of educational booths, a DIY workshop pavilion, and an interactive art piece- just to name a few!



Seal Stewards Update

A slow season for seals...

Last year was a record breaking year for seal haul outs and this year has been record breaking for the least amount of seal haul outs in Ocean City. Our one visitor, a tiny harp seal, hauled out on 67th street Sunday, February 23rd. Right in front of a hotel filled with cheerleaders. Thanks to our Seal Stewards, she was kept safe until a plan was made to collect her as she was determined by National Aquarium staff to be underweight and dehydrated. She is currently in rehab and has been named Amelia.

More seal sightings have occurred on Assateague and the State Park team helped the Aquarium collect a small gray. Please help MCBP and our partner, the National Aquarium, spread the word - keep seals safe, give them their space. Proper viewing is 150 feet.



Terrapin Survey

Join us for the annual Terrapin Survey!

Join us from **Tuesday, May 26th to Saturday, May 30th** for this year's Terrapin Survey. Survey from land, boat, or kayak to help us determine the population status of diamondback terrapins in our Coastal Bays!

Trainings will be offered **Wednesday, May 13th** and **Tuesday, May 19th** from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** at the MCBP office. A third training date will be offered on **Thursday, May 21st** from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** To sign up or for more information, please contact Katherine at kphillips@mdcoastalbays.org or at 410-213-2297 ext. 109.

