



May 2020

In This Issue

- [Nesting Islands Closed](#)
- [Seal Release](#)
- [Audubon's Backyard Birdathon](#)
- [World Fish Migration Day](#)
- [MCBP Works from Home](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [Virtual Learning Updates](#)
- [Living Local](#)
- [SDMS Service Project](#)

Nesting Islands Closed for Season



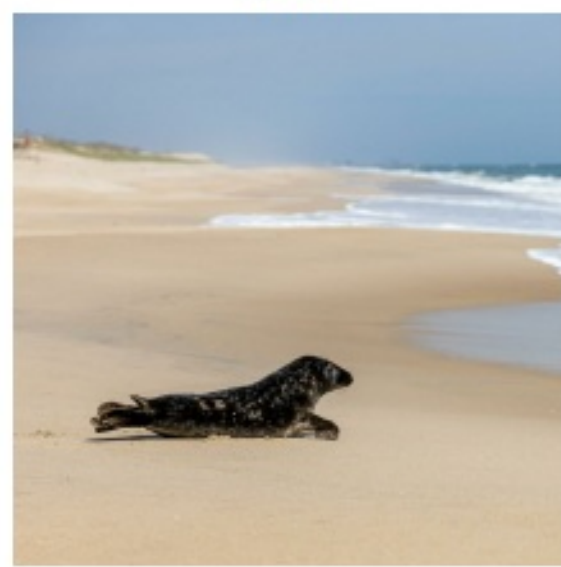
While we were not able to get out on the islands this April, our colonial nesting birds were! Although the islands are currently unsigned, they are closed for nesting season from April 15th to September 15th. So if you get out on the water, please keep off the bird islands and let them do their thing undisturbed!

Bay Day Update



It is with great sadness that our May 17th Bay Day event has been cancelled. We are looking into options for holding the event in the fall, and will keep the public updated based on state guidelines and restrictions. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Seal Release - Huckleberry Finn!



On April 29th, a small group from the National Aquarium Animal Rescue team traveled to Assateague State Park to release their grey seal patient, Huckleberry Finn!

Huck, who we featured late February, was collected by our state Assateague staff, treated for extreme dehydration and malnourishment, and is now back at home in the ocean, 30 pounds heavier and a stronger swimmer than before!

Audubon's Backyard Birdathon Team



Citizen scientists are being recruited to help experts inventory Maryland's flying friends! Click [here](#) for details and rules.

World Fish Migration Day!



Migratory fish are in decline worldwide, as their migratory pathways become blocked by human development and infrastructure. Join in on a Global Swimways Marathon Webinar starting May 14th to learn more about these migratory fish species. Check out this [link](#) for more information!

MCBP Works from Home!



MCBP staff stays safe and meets weekly to keep up on the various activities that we are continuing from our home offices. It's amazing how we can stay connected through technology, but we look for the day when we can get back together and be annoyed by too much noise in the office.

Board of Directors

MCBP welcomes Colby Phillips to our Board of Directors!

The Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation Board of Directors are pleased to welcome Colby Phillips as their newest member. Colby grew up in Annapolis before moving to the Coastal Bays in 1994, where she worked as a sergeant with the Ocean City Beach Patrol for 25 years. She is currently the Director of Amenities and Operations for the Ocean Pines Association. Colby is excited to have this opportunity to work with MCBP and address the important issues at hand, not only in the community at Ocean Pines, but in all of the Coastal Bays watershed.



Virtual Learning Updates!

Notes from the Field...

Friday, May 1st marked the end of the first 5 weeks of MCBP's virtual learning program called *Notes from the Field*. This program was designed to deliver educational resources and materials to the public about a variety of relevant bay topics during the COVID restrictions. Weekly, we provided videos, lessons, activities, and "Ask an Expert" features about the following topics: agriculture, bay-friendly backyards, water, forests, and outdoor observations. Through our website and social media, we were able to reach over 40,000 people in just a few weeks! Please feel free to pursue the resource pages at <https://mdcoastalbays.org/virtual-learning>. We are also excited to announce that we will be beginning Part 2 of *Notes from the Field* next week. The 3-week series will focus around "The Summer Season" including information on boating, bay critters, migratory species, and marine debris. We hope you join us for continued learning and fun.



Living Local

Small Scale, Large Impact

MCBP exists to protect and conserve the waters and surrounding watershed of Maryland's five Coastal Bays, and agriculture is one of the dominant uses of the Coastal Bays surrounding land. The protection and conservation of our watershed must involve the recognition of healthy and sustainable farming practices. The goal of "Living Local: Small Scale, Large Impact" is to educate the Coastal Bays community about the beneficial impacts of sustainable small-scale farming in the Coastal Bays watershed, while also encouraging the consumption of local products.

Thus far, three farm spotlight articles have been released as a part of the Living Local series. The three farms highlighted include Splendid Earth Acres, Masterpiece Flower Farm, and Assateague Farm. To access these articles please visit our website and click the "Living Local" button found on the right hand side of the homepage or click [here](#). These are just a few of the many growing small-scale farms in the Coastal Bays watershed, be sure to follow along as we continue to highlight these inspiring farmers and their practices throughout the coming weeks.



SDMS Service Project

SDMS students engage in community service!

The hard work of our local students never ceases to amaze us. For the past two weeks, 177 8th graders from Stephen Decatur Middle School have been involved in their service projects with MCBP as their community partner. This year has looked quite different from previous, but everyone stepped up to the challenge of completing the work. MCBP provided SDMS teachers with two safe service options for students to engage in at home or in their neighborhood. We created videos for both options, a trash clean-up and using iNaturalist, a plant and animal identification app, in addition to a nature journaling video used for project reflection. We are pleased to report that students have collected 100s of pounds of trash, and photographed over 75 species!! Great job and thank you SDMS!

