

Maryland Coastal Bays Program: Notes from the Field

Bay-friendly Backyards

Welcome to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program's (MCBP) new virtual learning program *Notes from the Field*. This Monday's "Bulk Resource" page is on Bay-friendly Backyards. Provided is a conglomeration of relevant materials from credible sources for anyone to use as a knowledge resource on this subject. The majority of what we have shared is Maryland-based resources, and we encourage you to further research on the subject as there are countless other fantastic sources. The resources we have compiled are broken down into three categories; relevant websites, videos, and activities & lessons.

MCBP exists to protect and conserve the waters and surrounding watershed of Maryland's five Coastal Bays; Assawoman, Isle of Wight, Newport, Sinepuxent, and Chincoteague.

The saying, "All drains lead to the ocean" (or in our case, the bays), is completely true. Regardless if we live on the water or not, our environmental impacts at home can affect the Coastal Bays: washing our cars, fertilizing our yards, picking up after our pets. Therefore, each and every one of our community members has a part in caring for our bays; one of the easiest ways being right from our own backyards. At MCBP, we encourage individual homeowners to take responsibility for the health of our Coastal Bays, and we support this with programs and events that spread knowledge about at-home best management practices. The following resources supplement these programs/events to provide additional information about practices to make your home and yard more environmentally friendly.

Relevant Websites

Organization	Description of Resource	Link	Who
Maryland Coastal Bays Program	List of native plants to Worcester County, MD, with habitat and wildlife uses	https://mdcoastalbays.org/content/docs/Native_Plants_of_Worcester_County.pdf	Adult
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Explanation of conservation landscaping benefits & a native plant guide for the Ches. Bay watershed	https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf	Adult
Macaulay Library from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology	Wildlife media archive, research animals you find in your backyard. Citizen science.	https://www.macaulaylibrary.org/	All ages



University of Maryland Extension	Home and Garden Information Center: resource for home, garden, plants, pests	https://extension.umd.edu/hgic	Adults
National Wildlife Federation	Garden for Wildlife page: how to create and certify your garden at home, school, and community	https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/create	All ages
Bat Conservation International	Why Bats are Important	http://www.batcon.org/why-bats/bats-are/bats-are-important	High school - Adult

Videos

Organization	Description of Resource	Link	Who
TED-Ed	For a seed to start growing, its embryo must emerge from its hard coat. In nature the embryo is aided by frost and animal digestion -- but humans can help too. Mary Koga offers some tips to spur your sprouts (and don't forget the bleach!).	https://ed.ted.com/lessons/got-seeds-just-add-bleach-acid-and-sandpaper-mary-koga	All ages
TED Talk	How to Grow a Forest in Your Own Backyard	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjUsobGWhs8	Adult
Illuminated Films	The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Animated Short Film. Visual resource to teach about metamorphosis and local butterfly species	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NqK-Sm1YY	Toddler - Elementary
Chesapeake Bay Program	Take Action: How to Install a Rain Barrel - Installing rain barrels is a very effective method of helping to reduce urban/suburban stormwater runoff pollution	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfORd5kZhmk	Adult
Bat Conservation International	What to Know About Bat Houses	http://www.batcon.org/resources/getting-involved/bat-houses	All ages



Activities and Lessons

Organization	Description of Resource	Link	Who
Lower Shore Land Trust	Resources to assist building a pollinator garden and gaining certification	https://www.lowershorelandtrust.org/pollinators	Adults
The Cornell Lab: K-12 Education	Science and Nature activities for cooped-up kids: See Week 1: Diversity of Birds	https://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/science-nature-activities-for-cooped-up-kids/	K - 8th
University of Maryland Extension	Why and How to Test Your Soil!	https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/soil-testing	All ages
National Geographic Kids	Make a Bird Feeder	https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/make-a-bird-feeder/	All ages
Project BudBurst	Make observations of plant life cycle events	https://budburst.org/educators	All ages, Families
USA National Phenology Network	Become an observer of changes right in your own backyard!	https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook	All ages, Families
Children and Nature Network	Article on nature activities to get through the Coronavirus Pandemic by Richard Louv	https://www.childrenandnature.org/2020/03/16/10-nature-activities-to-help-get-your-family-through-the-pandemic/	All ages
Green Education Foundation	Adopt-A-Plant lesson: make observation and journal about plants in your own yard	http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/institute/lesson-clearinghouse/343-Adopt-a-Plant	Elementary - Middle
Happy Little Farmer	Tiny ones can learn to grow their own plants on this learning app	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/happy-little-farmer/id564100079	Ages 3 - 5
National Environmental Education Foundation	Pollinator Backyard Activity Guide	https://www.neefusa.org/resource/pollinator-backyard-activity-guide	Ages 7 - 11

