



October 2020

Maryland Coastal Bays Program Newsletter



John McFalls Retires After 23 Years of Volunteer Water Quality Sampling

John McFalls of Ocean Pines recently turned in his bucket and retired after 23 years from the volunteer water sampling brigade. John was one of the originals in the water sampling program which started in 1997. Data collected by these citizen scientists is used in our annual report card and our five-year health assessment report.

Words don't adequately convey our gratitude for his many years of service to the Coastal Bays, but we thought we would try with a very heartfelt and sincere thank you. It is citizen scientists like John who make our Coastal Bays community a better place. We will miss

October 10th

Marine Debris Plunder



The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is seeking pirates join Captain Jack Sparrow and to plunder our bays by collecting marine debris either by land or sea and bring us your loot to a weigh-in for trophies and prizes.

Pirates must preregister by **October 6th**.

You will receive further

you John!



Graham Street Wetland Planting

Folks from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, EA Engineering, and the Town of Berlin joined forces to plant 23 species of native grasses, wild flowers, shrubs, and trees at the newly constructed Berlin wetland.

The wetland was converted from an old transmission station and collects stormwater from Graham Street and Old Ocean City Boulevard, then releases it slowly into the ground water. Construction was made possible from a grant from the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

instructions at time of registration.

You can pick up debris anytime on the 10th, with weigh-ins occurring from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 12817 Harbor Road Ocean City, MD 21842.

[Learn More](#)

October 24th

Discover Your Watershed



The first Discover Your Watershed event of 2020 will be held at the Bishopville Dam Habitat Restoration Site on **October 24th** from **9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** The morning will include habitat restoration work, such as invasive species removal, as well as an environmental education activity focused on the migratory fish species found in our watershed! Every DYW is completely FREE and all ages are welcome. The entire event will take place outside, so we recommend wearing closed toe shoes you are comfortable getting dirty.

Social distancing perimeters will be in place and registration is limited, so please email cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org to register today! Once registered, you will receive a detailed email with location information. [Learn More](#)

October 27th

Bat Box Bash



Archer Oyster Aquaculture Tour

Last month some of our staff went out with Jess Baunhofer from Archer Oyster Company to take a tour of his oyster aquaculture farm in Chincoteague Bay! We had a great time learning about Hexcyl oyster baskets, tasting some delicious oysters, and observing Jess' techniques.

Aquaculture is the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of fish, shellfish, aquatic plants, etc. in a water environment for human consumption. Basically, it's farming in the water! Oyster aquaculture farms are important to our Coastal Bays because oysters are fantastic water filters and provide excellent habitat for many bay creatures, such as the beautiful Oyster Toadfish and Spider Crab we found!

Thank you Archer Oyster Company for a great day on the Bay!



If you have been looking for a good way to show your Halloween spirit this October look no further than our Bat Box Bash!!

Join us at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines on Tuesday, **October 27th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm** to help support local bat populations! Bats are incredibly important to our watershed because they are key pollinator animals AND they help control insect populations. MCBP want to do our part to help keep our bat populations happy and healthy by providing them with a warm, safe place to live through the winter season.

The Bat Box Bash workshop gives you the opportunity to build and take home your very own four-chamber nursery bat house, which can accommodate a thousand or more bats! Throughout the workshop you will receive information about local bat populations and learn about the importance of bat houses.



Come as an individual or bring your whole family to join in the festivities. This workshop does require an \$80 registration fee. Please email cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org to learn more and to register!

Island Signs Removed from Nesting Islands

MCBP staff spent a day on the water to remove the restricted area signs from the nesting bird islands in the Coastal Bays.

Thank you to our boating community for heeding the signs and avoiding the islands during the sensitive nesting season for our colonial nesting birds, pelicans, and gulls.

Colonial nesting birds have had extremely low recruitment the last few years, so it is important to minimize disturbance during their nesting period.

Monthly Bay Tip!

Did you know that it's often a good idea to clean out any bird homes on your property at the end of the nesting season? While birds will often clean out their old nests themselves, you can give them a helping hand and remove the old nest in early to mid-September.



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Connect with us

