



January 2021

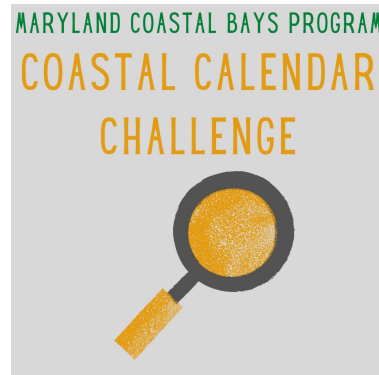
## Maryland Coastal Bays Program Newsletter



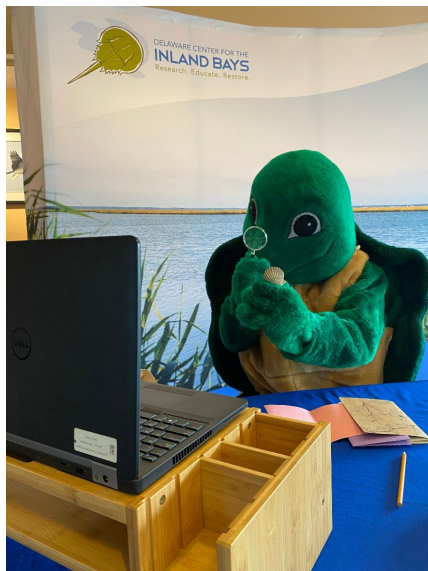
### MCBP's 25th Anniversary

2021 is a special year for the Maryland Coastal Bays Program as it marks our 25th anniversary as a National Estuary Program! Stayed tuned as we announce special events and programs to mark this milestone year! Additionally our 25th anniversary fundraising effort will center on "Saving Our Coastal Bay Birds". We hope you and your family will join in to help us celebrate.

### Coastal Calendar Challenge



Looking for fun ways to interact and learn more about the watershed? Check out MCBP's new **Coastal Calendar**! This calendar is a fun challenge for people of all ages to explore the local area and encourages outside exploration; there is something for everyone!



Journey Up the Coast

### Chesapeake Conservation Corps Now Hiring!



Engage. Educate. Empower.

Last month MCBP's environmental educators made quite the "Journey Up the Coast" to Delaware's Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) to offer a virtual program to youth in both watersheds!

Together with CIB, Liz and Chandler were able to provide educational and interactive activities to students ages 8-13. This free virtual experience was an opportunity for students to explore both unique watersheds from the safety of their homes. Every participant was sent an activity box stocked with materials for lessons on fish adaptations and marsh filtration.

Stay tuned on our website for future virtual offerings this spring. This has not been an easy year for students and educators, and we are so grateful to CIB for their continued partnership and for designing and facilitating this virtual program with us!



Right before Christmas, the MCBP science team installed a remote weather station at the Greys Creek Nature Park. This new station will allow us to record and monitor real-time weather conditions including air and water temperature, water level, wind speed, and rainfall amount! To view the live conditions, click [here](#)!

## Monthly Bay Tip!

A live tree around the holidays just can't be beat, the scent of pine and the joy that comes from stringing the lights up is unmatched, but did you know that once Christmas has passed, your

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is one of many potential Host sites for the 2021-2022 Chesapeake Conservation Corps service year.

In the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, young professionals can gain vital green jobs skills and build a network of connections in the environmental field. This one-year term of paid service places young adults with non-profits or government agencies to work full-time in the environmental field. The host sites provide hands-on professional and leadership experience through on-the-ground work leading and assisting with projects and programs, extensive trainings, and other service-learning opportunities like grant writing.

For the 2021-2022 term, MCBP seeks a motivated team player to assist with both science/restoration projects and environmental education initiatives. For more information on applying for the CCC program, please click [here](#).

### Lower Shore Land Trust Survey



The Lower Shore Land Trust is currently creating a new 5-year strategic plan and need your help! Please take a few minutes to fill out this brief 10 question [survey](#) about the Lower Shore Land Trust and how it can be a better, more responsive, and supportive organization.

tree doesn't have to go to waste?



Perhaps you're ready to ditch the shedding tree that's eating up space in your home, but you're not quite ready to part with the spirit of the season? Consider moving your tree (stand and all!) outdoors to live out the rest of its days. By relocating your live tree outside you're providing a natural structure for small wildlife to shelter themselves. If you're hesitant to let go of that last bit of holly jolly happiness you can replace your artificial decorations with natural ones, such as popcorn garlands and seed coated pinecones, these will act as a safe food source for the creatures who find their way to your tree!

If moving your tree isn't right for you, consider breaking off the branches and adding them to your compost pile, the branches will create a great layer of airflow between the layers of compost helping them break down quicker! Alternatively, mulching your tree is wonderful for both your garden and your compost pile! It's easier than it sounds and doesn't require any special tools, simply snip the branches of the tree into one- and two-inch chunks and scatter away, there's no need for them to look perfect!

Get one last hurrah out of your tree and gather around it for an outdoor bonfire. After letting your tree dry out, it can be used as firewood. Evergreens are quick to burn which makes them ideal for a bonfire. After you've burned the wood from your tree, gather the remaining ashes and spread them over your garden. The ash from the wood contains potassium that will help your garden thrive! It should be noted that while the pine needles on your tree will dry out quickly, it can take a month or two for the wood to dry out enough to use!

If you're truly ready to ring in the new year and throw away any remnants of 2020, Worcester County and the town of Ocean City both offer annual recycling programs for Christmas trees, check online to see when and where you can toss your tree!

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