

March 2021

Maryland Coastal Bays Program Newsletter



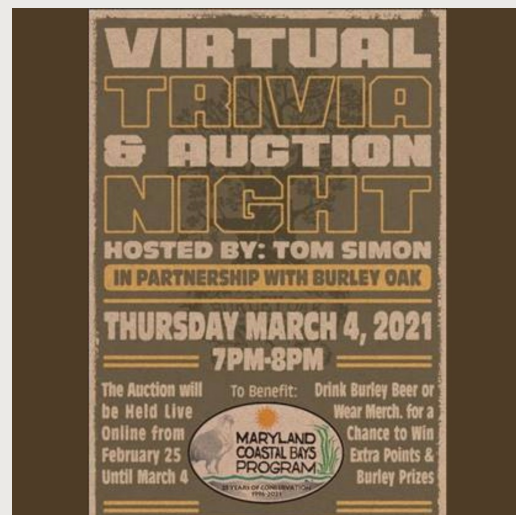
Coastal Bay Heroes

This month, we are featuring the words of our current Board President and past Executive Director **Steve Taylor**. Steve successfully paved the way for our program's initial success, including the very challenging task of engaging the community and partners with a new environmental group. We are fortunate to have our past director continue to pave the way for the future of our program. Pictured here is Steve along with his wife Suzy and past president Bob Abele.

Click [here](#) to read Steve's message.

Burley Oak Virtual Trivia and Auction!

March 4th



How well do you think you know the Coastal Bays watershed? Join MCBP staff and our amazing host, Tom Simon, THIS Thursday from 7-8 pm for a fun, virtual trivia game. The game will be held on Zoom and is free, but registration is required. Please click [here](#) to sign up! And thank you to our wonderful sponsor, Burley Oak Brewing Company.

There is also an online auction to help support our program



Give a Day for the Bays Program

As we head into Spring, for this month's "Give-A-Day" back to MCBP, we encourage you to explore our watershed's local farmer and seafood markets for your spring and summer cravings! Click [here](#) to learn more about the importance of buying food locally.



Colonial Bird Nesting Platforms

With the coming of warmer weather, our sure signs of spring will soon be here. Crocuses, daffodils, forsythia, pine pollen will soon be all around us. Certainly, our returning ospreys are another welcome sign. Populations in Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays have soared since those years when DDT plagued these birds. Their resurgence has certainly been aided by human help in erecting channel markers, and nesting platforms. Other returning signs of spring are not so

and the beautiful watershed we live on. Check out this [link](#) to bid on some great local artwork and packages from local businesses.

Discover Your Watershed

March 20th



Interested in exploring a nature preserve right here in Worcester County?! If the answer is "YES!", then join us for the 1st installment of the 2021 Discover Your Watershed volunteer series at Ilia Fehrer Nature Preserve. Our program focus for this event is Travel and Trails. We will be manually working on the one mile trail, in addition to learning about orienteering and native plants. The day is a completely FREE and will be filled with exploration of the beautiful restoration site. The event is located in Berlin, Maryland and runs from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 20th. Registration is limited! To RSVP, please contact Liz at lwist@mdcoastalbays.org or at 410-213-2297 ext. 110.

Calling All Adult Learners - Adult Learning Series

TBA

fortunate. Bare sand nesting shorebirds such as common terns, royal terns and black skimmers are in terrible shape these past years. Their usually nesting areas, low lying islands, have been lost due to sea level rise, severe storms, and lack of interest in restoring-dredge spoil islands. To provide some nesting habitat in the coastal bays, MD DNR, Audubon - Maryland-DC, Conservation Community Consulting, local contractors, and MCBP have partnered to build a floating island that will provide nesting habitat for these birds. See our website for more information on this new initiative.



This year, MCBP is offering a unique experience called Exploring the Estuary: An Adult Learning Series. This adult education program is designed for +18 year olds and provides an in-depth look into the natural world and conservation issues in the Coastal Bays. Each of the four themed classes is a hybrid that consists of a virtual presentation with an expert in the field and an in-field component with MCBP staff members. Please sign the interest form [here](#) to be first in line when the program launches next week.



Chick Shelter for Nesting Platform

Some of the folks working on the artificial nesting platforms for our endangered coastal birds. Left Marcus Tuah, President of the Salisbury University, Environmental Club shows the finished chick shelters they constructed that will be used to give cover for the newly hatched chicks. And, right, Verena Chase, *Coast Kids Program Director*, Assateague Coastal Trust, will be directing the Coast Kids in painting the shelters. Planned deployment of the artificial island to supplement the quickly eroding island nesting habitat is slated for mid-April if all the stars are aligned correctly.

Fish Monitoring at the Bishopville Dam Restoration Project





Anadromous fish monitoring has begun again at the Bishopville Stream Corridor Enhancement Project! While monitoring was slightly delayed due to heavy rains, we caught several alewife (our target species!) in the very first week of monitoring! This is the 7th year of passage since the project was complete, and we hope to see high numbers of fish passing through.

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Connect with us

