



Maryland Coastal Bays Program

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events (click on each for more details)

- [Living Local Educator Training](#)
- [Discover Your Watershed](#)
- [Adult Education - A Closer Look at Our Coastal Birds](#)
- [25th Anniversary Celebration](#)
- [Photo Contest](#)

Director's Notes

How do you like our new format?

So our first attempt of a new newsletter format presented a tiny challenge, literally. So here is an amended newsletter to keep you – our cherished supporters - up-to-date on what's going on with the Coastal Bays Program. We want to make sure that you are aware of opportunities to get involved.

There's quite a bit going on as we gear up for the summer. We start our bi-monthly eco-tours with the OC Bay Hopper (www.ocbayhopper.com) next week and our Adult Education series continues to roll along in full swing. Our staff is out monitoring the water quality all along the Coastal Bays and we've just installed nesting platforms for some of our colonial nesting birds that are in dire need of nesting habitat. This is the first time this has been tried in the Mid-Atlantic region and we are keeping our fingers crossed that terns and skimmers will be nesting on them over the next couple of months. And for those who may not be aware, June is the month that we monitor horseshoe crabs. Perhaps one of the most fascinating and oldest species inhabiting our waterways.

And, in case you did not know, 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. Read about our Coastal Bays Heroes in this issue. This is a continuing series about the folks that helped to get this program established and set the objectives for these last 25 years. We owe a great deal of thanks and gratitude to these far-sighted individuals and we're excited to spotlight some of their extraordinary work.

Finally, we are in the final stages of planning our 25th Anniversary celebration. Please mark your calendars for September 30, 2021 when we will be holding a movie night at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery. We'll be showing the film "The Biggest Little Farm", everyone's favorite documentary of a local family working to maintain a 200-acre farm outside of Los Angeles. There will also be food, music, a silent auction, activities for kids, and, of course, wine.

We hope to see you there. But in the meantime, let us know if you would like to get involved in any of the activities we have coming up in the next few months. There's a lot of exciting things to do. Lots of cool things to see and so much history and nature to explore in Maryland's Coastal Bays. We're here to help you learn about this unique and important place. Let us know if we can help.

Coastal Bays Heroes

This is the fifth in a series of articles celebrating our "Coastal Bay Heroes" – those who have contributed to the establishment and ongoing work of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.



Gwynne Schultz has more than 30 years of experience in coastal and ocean resource management and policy issues.

During her tenure with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Gwynne led Maryland’s efforts to establish the multi-state Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) and served as a founding Management Board member and past chair. She was also the State Co-lead on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) during the development of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan. The RPB was honored as a recipient of the 2017 Peter Benchley Ocean Award for “Excellence in Solutions.”

Schultz co-chaired the “Not Up the Creek” conference held a few years prior to the beginning of the Coastal Bays Program. Without the public interest shown during this conference, there may not have been the effort put forth for a National Estuary Program.

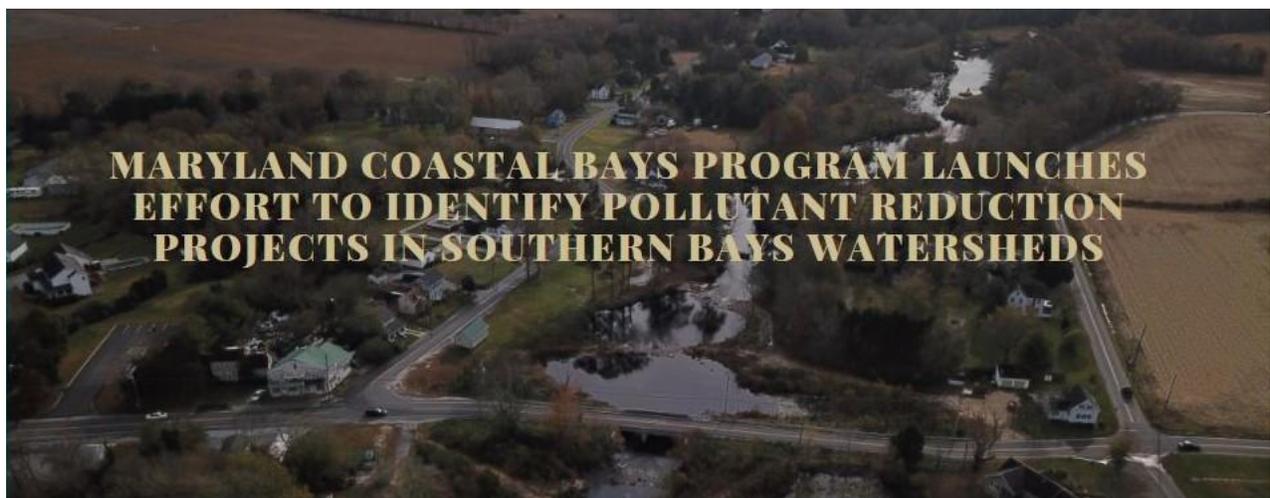
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Sandy Coyman was a very active and influential board member of the program.

Coyman was the Director of Worcester County Department of Comprehensive Planning department which dissolved in a department consolidation. As head of that department, he worked to make Worcester County a leader in planning and helped Worcester County win a 2006 award for its’ nationally recognized comprehensive plan.

He also oversaw the implementation of land protection programs such as the Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area program, the county’s Agricultural Land Preservation Program, and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. These programs have permanently protected over 8,000 acres of farms and forests in the county since 2000.

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Earlier this year, MCBP received a grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust for a project to identify, prioritize and develop concept-level designs for non-point source nutrient reduction Best Management Practice (BMP) opportunities in the southern sub-watersheds of Newport, Sinepuxent and Chincoteague Bays.

With the assistance of consultants from Straughan Environmental and Ecotone, the effort will involve outreach to diverse stakeholders in the watershed, computerized geospatial analyses and on-the ground field assessments to identify public and private properties suitable for the implementation of restoration and conservation projects that will provide cost-effective opportunities to reduce the loading of polluting nutrients and sediments into the Coastal Bays waterways.

Examples of target opportunities include wetland and stream and ditch restoration, placement of grass or forested buffers, native tree planting, stormwater management, and shoreline stabilization. Projects that also provide for the enhancement of wildlife habitat, such as wetlands creation for waterfowl, will be particularly attractive.

Do you have or know of a property with a stream, ditch or shoreline that is eroding? Do you have non-productive farmland due to flooding or saltwater intrusion? Do you want to attract waterfowl or quail to your land? If so, please contact MCBP Watershed Coordinator Steve Farr (sfarr@mdcoastalbays.org) to explore opportunities to enhance your property and reduce the flow of pollutants into the Coastal Bays.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is Looking for a Boat

Preferably a skiff or similar type for our work on the water. Whether we are collecting water samples, monitoring oyster reefs or collecting marine debris, having the right boat makes the job safe and efficient.

If you have a boat like this or know someone who does, and would consider donating it to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, we would love to hear from you. Please email Sandi Smith at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org and let her know . Thank you for helping us protect, conserve and enhance the coastal bays of Maryland.



Assateague Outfitters Expands!



We are excited to announce that we have expanded our largest fundraising initiative, Assateague Outfitters, the concession at the National Seashore of Assateague Island.

Next week we will be opening a Bike Rental/Snack Souvenir Shack next to the visitors center. This will increase exposure for our Rental Stand, Beach Hut and Beach Rental Stand located on the island, as well as provide additional revenue.

Next time you visit the park, stop by and see our new venture. Check us out at assateagueoutfitters.com