



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2021



Upcoming Events You Don't want to Miss!
(click on each for more details)

- [Living Local Farm Visits](#)
- [Discover Your Watershed](#)
- [Trail to Restore the Shore](#)

Director's Notes

A Note from the Director

It's October and it's Time to Plant

I've never been more thankful for autumn. This past summer was, well let's just say, plain awful. Too hot and too dry at times. It seemed to go on forever. But autumn kicked off with a wonderful start. Our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Movie Night at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery was great. Beautiful fall weather, nice wine, excellent music, an engaging movie and fantastic company. Thanks to all those that came out to support the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and a special thank you to Windmill Creek. These folks sure know how to throw a party. What a great venue.

Now that fall is upon us, it's time to turn to things autumnal. I know, you may be thinking corn harvest, pumpkins, bonfires and s'mores. Well, those are all fall-like and nice, but here at MCBP we're thinking trees. Fall is the best time to plant a tree. October particularly. The days are still warm and a newly planted tree has time to acclimate to it's surroundings before winter really sets in. It gives the tree time to set out a few little fibrous roots into the new soil surround it. Time to gently prepare for the long winter ahead. And if you are thinking of planting a tree - think about planting a native. Our native trees and shrubs are certainly some of the most striking trees - particularly in the fall. And think of all the caterpillars that will call that tree home come spring and summer. Caterpillars that will keep a chickadee brood fed so it can entertain you at the feeder next winter.

It's October and it's time to plant. Take a look at your homestead and think how one, or maybe five, native trees and shrubs can enhance the beauty and value of your yard. Think about a cedar, or a hickory. Maybe a willow oak or a sweet bay magnolia. And think of all the birds and insects and other critters that will benefit by your efforts. Believe me, it is well worth it.

If you need more information on native trees, shrubs and plants, check out one of my favorite go-to sites

Kevin

Coastal Bays Heroes

This is the eighth 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.



Bob Abele

Bob Abele was both the original chairman of the board of directors for the program and also co-served as the first vice chairman with Carolyn Cummins on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

He began his involvement with the fledgling MCBP in 1996 before it became a recognized National Estuary Program when he was lured into the well-organized but “not yet up the creek” conference in Ocean City concerning Maryland’s often forgotten coastal bays. In June 1996, he was part of a group gathered outside BJ’s South in Ocean City for the MCBP authorization signing by federal, state, Worcester County, Ocean City and Berlin officials, which formed the basis for moving the program forward to become a National Estuary Program.

Abele chaired the Coastal Bays Foundation’s Board of Directors until 2010 and, with other board members, guided the developing MCBP from its infancy. He was also active in the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, which identifies specific issues and recommends corrective actions for the long-term sustainability of the coastal bays. He was also a founding member of the Maryland Coastal Bays Fishery Advisory Committee, a diverse group working to focus on issues related to fishing in the coastal bays. Bob was awarded the Maryland Coastal Bays Program Osprey Award in 2013 for his extensive work over nearly two decades on behalf of the local estuaries and ecosystems.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Abele from a young age had enjoyed camping, fishing and boating near the Adirondack Mountains. He graduated from Clarkson University and began a 31-year career with DuPont as a mechanical and industrial engineer. Starting in 1987, Abele spent most of his weekends and vacations at a bayside condominium in Ocean City and moved to Ocean Pines for good in 1992. He was active in the community ever since, having served on the OPA Board from 1996 to 1999.

We lost Bob in 2016 but his legacy lives on.

Bainbridge Park Restoration Project

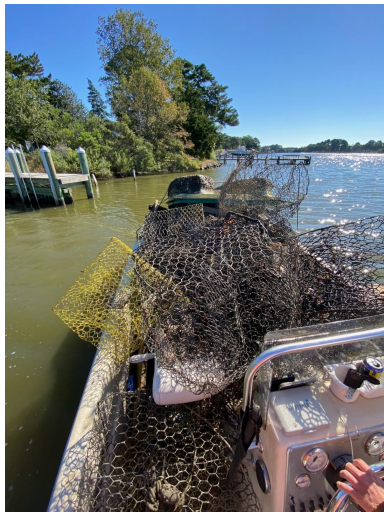


Dozens of local people pitched in at Bainbridge Park in Ocean Pines on Monday, helping to plant new vegetation around the pond area.

The planting was among the final phases of Bainbridge Pond improvements, said to bolster water quality and reduce instances of flooding in the area.

Participating on Monday were the Ocean Pines Public Works Department, the Ocean Pines Garden Club, representatives from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Vista Design, Inc., and local college students and other volunteers. Click [here](#) for full story

Marine Debris Program Funding



MCBP has received additional EPA grant funding to focus specifically on marine debris in our bays for 2021 and 2022.

Last year MCBP received funding from Keep Maryland Beautiful and working with a group in Florida and the Department of Natural Resources, the Marine Debris Plunder event was created. Over 100 volunteers collected over 3 tons of debris including many abandoned crab pots.

This year's plunder attendance was down; however, over 1 ton of debris was collected from our bays and volunteers are now banding together to formulate a plan for better attendance and an outreach program leading up to an event for next year.

Anyone interested in joining this initiative please reach out to Sandi at sandis@mdcoastalbays.org.

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 us at mcbp@mdcoastalbays.org and let us know . Thank you for helping us protect, conserve and enhance the coastal bays of Maryland.



Maryland Coastal Bays Program | www.mdcoastalbays.org

