



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



December Newsletter 2021

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

- [Educator Training](#)
- [We Need Volunteers!](#)
- [Adopt a Turtle Garden](#)
- [Swans Gut Creek at Big Millpond](#)

Director's Notes

A Note from the Director

Sometimes it's a good idea to just stop what you are doing, take a look around, reflect on where you are and where you are headed. 2021 was somewhat of a "reflective" year for us. This year marked the Coastal Bays Program's 25th anniversary.

We celebrated and paid homage to some of the pioneers of the program like Carolyn Cummins and Steve Taylor and Jeannie Lynch and Sandy Coyman and.... the list goes on and on.

It was truly insightful to look back over those 25 years and rediscover the energy and purpose that motivated these folks to establish the Coastal Bays Program in the first place. It's also interesting to reflect on what's changed and what has not.

One thing that has never changed is our commitment to clean water and protecting the living resources that inhabit the Bays and the surrounding landscape. The health of the Coastal Bays is often the result of some complex circumstances. Understanding the causes, working with our partners and local communities and helping to implement solutions can take time. But it is time well invested and we intend to continue those efforts to ensure our waters, our fish, our wildlife and our landscapes stay healthy and robust.

[Click here for more](#)

Kevin

Executive Director

Coastal Bays Heroes

This is the tenth 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.



We would be remiss if we did not feature the most influential hero of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Jeanne Lynch.

In 1990, Jeanne was the first woman elected as a Worcester County Commissioner. She was fearless in her efforts to protect our environment. Continually out voted on environmental issues, including most notably a shoreline buffer requirement that was a precursor to today’s Critical Area Program, she persevered with her vision and worked tirelessly to get the attention of the National Estuary Program. She had to convince the four other commissioners, who historically voted against pro-active environmental issues, to apply to become part of the National Estuary Program.

The strong-willed environmental champion was the original voice to call for setting up a National Estuary Program to help protect the coastal bays. She had to convince the EPA that our small estuary was worthy of being included with the larger estuaries like the San Francisco Bay, Tampa Bay and Long Island Sound. Her persistence helped marshal a groundswell of public support and local, state, and federal backing that ultimately created the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Throughout the process of CCMP development, Ms. Lynch continued in a leadership role, serving as the chair of the Management Committee of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program Management Conference, as well as a member of the first Policy Committee, and multiple other committees.

She convinced her colleagues to support Worcester 2000, a community visioning initiative, that presented to the public various scenarios for future land use and identified the needs and desires of residents. This collective vision was important to the development of the Comprehensive Plan that followed in 2006. She also convinced her skeptical county colleagues to support the Rural Legacy Program and agree to a Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area which now encompasses the entire Chincoteague Bay watershed and protects nearly 10,000 acres of farmland, woodland and wetlands. In unison with this, the tireless conservation champion pushed to establish the Worcester County Department of Comprehensive Planning with Sandy Coyman as director and Keota Silaphone and Katherine Munson, among others as staff. This gave the county an opportunity for unprecedented focus on long term planning and restoration and conservation implementation.

Jeanne served as a lone but effective voice for conservation on the board of county commissioners for her entire tenure. Her vision, her strong will and work ethic and ability to mobilize others, brought about significant and lasting change in Worcester County government and for the coastal bays.

Thank You Awesome Oyster Gardeners



MCBP would like to thank our oyster gardening volunteers for another successful oyster exchange that took place in October. With the partnership of the Protectors of the St. Martin River and their oyster gardening volunteers, MCBP was able to collect and plant an estimated 6,500 oysters for restoration purposes!

We would also like to thank the Oyster Recovery Program for donating spat on shell and new materials for the 2021-2022 growing season.

Oysters are a keystone species that provide habitat for several important fishery species, promote biodiversity, and help filter nutrients, toxins, and sediment in our bays. This program aims to increase oysters growing in our bays and educate the public on citizen science programs and the importance of oysters.

To learn more about our program click [here](#). If you have any questions about the program, please contact Carly Toulan at ctoulan@mdcoastalbays.org.

Stranded Spawning Horseshoe Crab Recovery Team



The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is looking for dedicated volunteers to join our Stranded Spawning Horseshoe Crab Recovery Team to help rescue stranded horseshoe crabs. Members of this team will routinely check popular spawning grounds and rescue stranded or flipped horseshoe crabs to prevent mass casualties throughout the Spring and Summer months (May – July).

A training will be held before the spawning season starts and will include how to properly handle horseshoe crabs, how to fill out a basic data sheet to track number of rescued stranded horseshoe crabs, and where to look up tide times for the different spawning locations.

If you would like to join this team or have further questions, please contact Carly Toulan at ctoulan@mdcoastalbays.org.

If you see a flipped or stranded horseshoe crab here is a helpful link that shows you how to properly help and handle the horseshoe crabs. <https://www.horseshoecrab.org/act/flipem.html> Click on the link to watch the “Just Flip ‘Em” video.

Projects in the Works

Maryland Coastal Bays Program is currently conducting an assessment of the southern Coastal Bays watersheds for

Sinepuxent, Newport and Chincoteague Bays to identify and prioritize sites for possible conservation and restoration projects that will generate significant non-point source nutrient and sediment load reductions.

With support from a grant administered by Chesapeake Bay Trust, MCBP has retained the services of Straughan Environmental Inc. and Ecotone to assist

in the site identification process and then develop concept level designs that can be used to seek future grant funding to further design and implementation projects. MCBP completed a similar project in the northern watersheds last year with funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.



MCBP 2022 Calendars Now Available



Great images make a great gift!

The images captured by local photographers in this calendar are absolutely spectacular and many of them are now on display in our 2022 MCBP calendar which is available for sale at \$20 each.

You can purchase a calendar at our office or at one of these three locations: The Dusty Lamb in Berlin, Ragamuffin Boutique in Ocean City, or West O' Bottle Shop in West Ocean City.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program | www.mdcoastalbays.org

