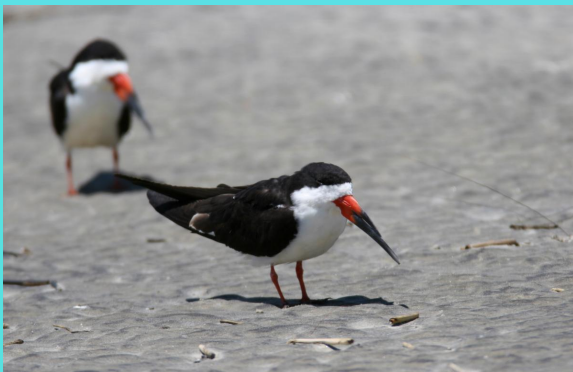




CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



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

- [Living Local Farm Visits](#)
- [Explore the Estuary - Adult Learning Series](#)
- [Discover Your Watershed](#)
- [Giving Tuesday](#)
- [Trail to Restore the Shore](#)

Director's Notes

A Note from the Director

Last month the Maryland Coastal Bays Program unveiled its report card for 2019 & 2020. The grade was nothing to get too excited about, a C+. In fact, the grade for Maryland's Coastal Bays has hovered in the C to B- range for some time. Not terrible, but nothing to get too thrilled about either.

While we did see some improvement in places like the St. Martin River, we also saw some slippage in Newport Bay. Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is still mostly non-existent north of Sinepuxent Bay. Nutrient inputs are still too high and there is no shortage of people coming to the region. One thing the report card does tell us is that we still have plenty of work to do. Like many issues, be they environmental or otherwise, the answers are multifaceted. Not complicated necessarily, but multilayered.

How are we addressing these issues? Are we on the right track? Sometimes it's a good idea to take a step back and reexamine our understanding and approach. Which is why I encourage everyone to take 45 minutes and watch the new film from The Bay Journal and Tom Horton called "[Water's Way: Thinking Like a Watershed](#)". Click onto this title to view the film

Many of you are familiar with Tom and the wonderful work he has done over the years to bring us insight and understanding of the Chesapeake Bay region. From crabbers on Smith Island to loggers in Virginia, Tom has consistently brought us thoughtful and interesting insights on the Bay and the watershed. This film is no exception.

Tom suggests that the term watersheds should rightly be called "waterkeeps". He makes the point that the historic function of our watersheds was to slow down the conveyance of water from the land to the receiving waterways. This provides the opportunity to process and treat the water that runs off the landscape. That's not how our watersheds work today. For the last 400 years, we've spent a lot of time, money and energy to

speed up the transport of water from uplands to the tidewater.

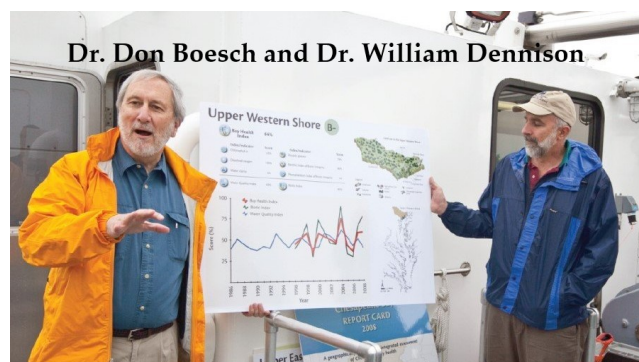
Tom also brings up the role that beavers have historically played in our region and specifically the role that they played in engineering our ecosystem. Beavers were prolific here in the Mid-Atlantic and played a major role in defining the character of our landscape. From the mountains to the coastal plain, beavers worked to pond water and slow the flow. They created habitat for amphibians and waterfowl. They created opportunities to process runoff and reduce sedimentation. It's no surprise that restoration ecologists are taking a fresh look at the role that beaver can play in helping to improve our water quality and transform our watersheds back to "waterkeeps."

I encourage you to watch Tom's newest film. It's a good way to take a step back, think about how we manage our landscapes and how we may approach restoration here in the Coastal Bays.

Kevin

Coastal Bays Heroes

This is the ninth 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.



The Maryland Coastal Bays Program has its roots deeply planted in science. The science and technical advisory committee (STAC) is one of the first committees formed and continues to guide restoration and monitoring efforts in the coastal bays. The committee is a group of about 30 researchers and managers from universities, county, state and federal agencies and has been chaired by noted scientists throughout its 25-year history.

The first chair was Dr. Don Boesch who presided from 1996 -1999. Dr. Boesch was also the President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. He has been involved in conducting or facilitating oceanographic research in a variety of areas and he has been an official advisor to federal agencies, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and five Maryland governors. Dr. Boesch oversaw the first Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and the eutrophication monitoring plan and identified the major problems in the coastal bays - nutrient over enrichment.

Dr. Tom Jones succeeded Dr. Boesch and served from 1999 -2005. Dr. Jones was a noted researcher and Professor of Biology at Salisbury University, Biology Department Chair and ultimately Provost of the University. Dr. Jones expanded and solidified the STAC to include more scientists and practitioners, he spearheaded the creation of the Coastal Bays Report Card, was involved in the initial Coastal Bays Health Assessment, and counts the cessation of clam dredging in the bays as a major accomplishment during his term.

Dr. William Dennison succeeded Dr. Jones and continues to serve as the chair. Dr. Dennison is a Professor of Marine Science at the University of Maryland and is Vice President for Science Applications at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) where his primary mission is to coordinate the Integration and Application Network (IAN). Dr. Dennison and his staff have been at the forefront of science application and integration since 2002, pioneering new techniques of science communication, stakeholder engagement and report card production. He has brought these techniques to the STAC and great examples of the benefits we reap from their approach to science communications are seen in the Shifting Sands: Environmental and cultural change in Maryland's Coastal Bays produced in 2009, the health assessments explained in the Water and Land Perspective Assessments produced in 2014, the annual report cards and the numerous reports on a wide variety of topics ranging from linking agriculture with high levels of nitrogen in

Johnson Bay to description of the eutrophication gradient in the Coastal Bays. These synthesis documents are as much a learning experience for the authors as they are for the reader.

As new techniques and technologies are developed that allow us to better understand the complex interactions of the many parts of the coastal bays ecosystem, we are blessed to be able to stand on the shoulders of these giants as we look to our next 25 years of conservation.

School Program Take Off!



The fall season at MCBP brings cooler sampling temperatures, blustery days in the field, and the return of student programs!

MCBP provides an array of programs including community service trips, in-class lessons, field experiences, and after schools to K-12 youth across the lower shore. This November, over 500 students will receive presentations on the Coastal Bays watershed, engage in interactive lessons, and prep for their field experiences in the springtime. We look forward to in-person outdoor field experiences next year!

MCBP 2022 Calendars Now Available

Remember that photo contest we hosted earlier this year?

The images we received were absolutely spectacular and many of them are now on display in our 2022 MCBP calendar which is now available and sell for \$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.

