



March Newsletter 2022

Upcoming Volunteer Events (click on each for more details)

- [Volunteer Calendar](#) (one click shopping for events all year)
- [Tree Planting with the National Aquarium](#)
- [Bay Day Volunteers Needed](#)

Director's Notes

A Note from the Director

Here Comes Spring

I love winter, but that doesn't mean I don't welcome the warming rays of sunshine and milder weather that is headed our way. This spring will be particularly welcome. Not only do we get the warmer days, but we also seem to be crawling out of our Covid hibernation. Here at the Maryland Coastal Bays office, we have much planned for you and your family to get out, have fun, and maybe learn a thing or two about your local waterways.

First of all, make sure that Sunday, May 15th is on your calendar for Bay Day. This is the annual event that the Ocean Pines community and Maryland Coastal Bays Program hold at White Horse Park. I say that this is an annual event, but we haven't held it in two years due to Covid. So we are especially looking forward to this fun-filled day with live music, food trucks, boat rides and dozens of local environmental groups who will be sharing their knowledge and ideas as to how you can help keep our waters, forests and fields healthy. And new this year will be a "Marine Debris Plunder" clean-up with the famous Captain Jack Sparrow from Pirates of the Caribbean. There will be lots to do for the whole family.

In addition, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program has a number of other activities lined up for this spring and summer. Take part in our Adult Education series "Explore the Estuary". Or help remove Invasive species in Showell in March. How about trail maintenance at Ilia Fehrer Nature Preserve in April. Or maybe you would rather try your hand at fish sampling at Assateague Island State Park in June. Or, you could help us gather scientific data by volunteering to help monitor horseshoe crab or diamondback terrapin nesting in May and June.

There's plenty to do and plenty of opportunities to help out. Check out our calendar of events. We truly appreciate all the help and support from our volunteers and the folks who participate in our programs. Looking forward to seeing you somewhere in the watershed this spring.

Kevin

Executive Director

Calendar of Events

MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

2022 PUBLIC EVENT CALENDAR

Looking for ways to get involved this year and learn more about the unique ecosystems within the Coastal Bays? Come out and join us for one of our volunteer or education events!

Using your phone's camera app, scan the QR code below. Navigate the interactive flyer by clicking on the individual events to learn more and register!

If you cannot make these dates, visit our website for a list of self-led volunteer opportunities.



For more information, please visit mdcoastalbays.org or scan this QR code:



JAN
24: GIVE A DAY

FEB
22: GIVE A DAY

MARCH
19: DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED

APRIL
13: GIVE A DAY
19: EXPLORE THE ESTUARY

MAY
3: HORSESHOE CRAB VOLUNTEER TRAINING
15: BAY DAY IN OCEAN PINES

JUNE
14: DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED
21: EXPLORE THE ESTUARY
28-JULY 1: OC ESTUARY EXPLORERS CAMP

JULY
5: JOURNEY UP THE COAST JAMES FARM
7: JOURNEY UP THE COAST ASSATEAGUE
13: GIVE A DAY
26-29: OC ESTUARY EXPLORERS CAMP

AUG
4: GIVE A DAY
23-26: OC ESTUARY EXPLORERS CAMP

SEPT
12: DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED
22: EXPLORE THE ESTUARY

OCT
6: GIVE A DAY
18: EXPLORE THE ESTUARY

NOV
12: DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED

DEC
7: GIVE A DAY

Click [here](#) for the calendar with links to the volunteer opportunities

Island Restoration for Resilience Project



MCBP recently received a grant from Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the design and permitting of a nature-based dynamic shoreline and island restoration project to enhance Reedy Island, an eroding 3-acre island in Isle of Wight Bay west of 53rd Street, Ocean City.

Project partners will coordinate with Ocean City and DNR to integrate local dredged materials while preserving and enhancing habitat for endangered bird nesting species, including Royal Terns. Practices will be designed to holistically address erosion, storm impacts and sea level rise.

This project will serve as a demonstration project for nearshore bay islands that provide wildlife habitat while buffering mainland coastal communities from coastal storm impacts.

Bay Day is Back!



Bay Day is back! MCBP, in partnership with the Ocean Pines Association, hosts this fun-filled educational festival to highlight how watershed residents can make a positive impact in our Coastal Bays. Festivities will include live music, food trucks, boat rides on the St. Martin River, a workshop pavilion filled with hands-on activities, and more! Bay Day is a free event open to all ages and will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Since it is only two months away, we wanted to highlight some of the amazing exhibitors who will be in attendance! Bay Day is made possible by the dozens of dedicated environmental organizations in our region that contribute their time to make the day fun-filled and educational. Be sure to come out on May 15th to learn about the organizations working to protect our watershed and learn how you can make a difference in your own backyard. If you, or anyone you know, may be part of an organization interested in exhibiting, please email lwist@mdcoastalbays.org.

Current Exhibitors Include:

Phillips Wharf Fishmobile
Salisbury Zoo
Pocomoke/Assateague State Parks
Go Green OC
Ocean City Life-Saving Museum
Assateague Coast Kids
Ocean Pines Anglers Club
Maryland Natural Resources Police
Maryland Department of the Environment

Youth Environmental Action Summit
Assateague Coastal Trust
Surfrider Foundation - Ocean City Chapter
Scharle Outdoor Recreation
Saltare in Elementis Dance Collective
Canada Geese Station
Adopt your Beach - Ocean City Surf Club
Protectors of the St. Martin River
National Park Service - Chesapeake Bay

Marine Debris Plunder

MCBP's Marine Debris Committee is excited to announce we will be hosting two Marine Debris Plunders this year:

Sunday, May 15th - 2 pm - 5 pm Ocean Pines Marina
(Begins when Bay Day Ends)

Sunday, October 2nd - 8am - noon West Ocean City Harbor.

Join us by land or by sea to pick up debris. Captain Jack Sparrow will be on hand at both events to help with the trash tally.

Registration is required as we will provide supplies and tally sheets to all who participate.

More more information please contact sandis@mdcoastalbays.org or call 410-213-2297 ext. 106.

Register [here](#)



Join the Horseshoe Crab Recover Team

Every year from May - July tens of thousands of horseshoe crabs make their way into the Coastal Bays to spawn and lay eggs. The Maryland Coastal Bays is a hotspot for horseshoe crab spawning and as a result the Maryland Coastal Bays Program conducts annual surveys to assess how the population is doing.

Unfortunately, there are some areas in the Coastal Bays that have obstacles that cause the horseshoe crabs to become stranded on while spawning. These strandings lead to mass casualties which is why MCBP is establishing a team of dedicated volunteers to go out to these locations and help rescue stranded horseshoe crabs. An in-person/virtual training will be held on May 3rd from 10 – 11. The training will include a short background on MCBP, horseshoe crabs and their ecological importance, how to fill out a data sheet, and answers to any other questions you may have.



Click this link [here](#) to register for the training event. If you have any questions regarding this volunteer group or training, please contact Carly Toulan at ctoulan@mdcoastalbays.org

To learn more about the Northern diamondback terrapin [click here](#). To learn more about our terrapin gardens, [click here](#).

Teach a Kid to Fish

Worcester County Recreation and Parks is offering a free fishing event for children. Each child who PRE-REGISTERS and ATTENDS this event will receive a tacklebox and fishing rod of their own.

For more information click [HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Email tgebhardt@co.worcester.md.us for questions or if you need help registering.



Employment Opportunities

Assateague Outfitters is currently has several seasonal opportunities, [click here](#) for specifics. Hours and shifts can be flexible.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program | www.mdcoastalbays.org

