



## October Newsletter 2022

### Upcoming Volunteer Events (click on each for more details)

- [Volunteer Calendar](#) (one click shopping for events all year)

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## Director's Notes

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### *A Note from the Director*

#### Time to Make an Investment in Nature

*"You know it, I know it, and the American people know it."*

**-Senator Bob Dole**

I always loved this quote from the ramrod-straight Kansas Senator. So did the folks from Saturday Night Live based on the number of times they parodied this expression. My friends and I would often use it when something was so painfully obvious that we couldn't understand how others didn't "get it". Whatever that "it" was. I was reminded of Senator Dole's words recently as I watched Hurricane Ian's pathway from Cuba to Florida and then up through the southeast coast.

Living on the coast has always been fraught with peril. That's just the way it is. Storm surges, tropical storms, Nor'easters, waterspouts, you name it, we can get it. It's always been that way. Always will be. But now we've got climate related factors that make it even more so.

There's been a lot of discussion about climate change of late. Some folks scoff. "The climate has been changing for time immemorial," they say. And that is certainly true. But there are things happening today that are not up for debate. Some things are just, well, obvious. And well-documented to boot.

One of those changes is water temperatures. They are increasing in the mid-Atlantic. And when water temperatures increase, water expands. When water expands it takes up more space. Doesn't take a professor of physics to see how this can affect our coasts and our property.

And this is where climate adaptation and resiliency come in. For better or worse, we, as a society have made considerable investments along our coastlines. Homes, resorts, businesses, etc. Much of that infrastructure is extremely vulnerable to the whims of the wind and seas. If we are going to maintain this infrastructure into the future, then we're going to have to protect this investment. How do we do that in a way that maintains the water quality of the Coastal Bays and sustain the habitats that our fish and wildlife need to carry out their daily endeavors? This, my friends, is the challenge.

No easy answers I'm afraid. But there are answers and there are techniques which can help. One of those answers is to ensure that we have healthy and robust natural features. Marshes, shorelines, riparian zones – these all play a major role in protecting our landward investments.

Let's not put our heads in the sand folks. Now is the time to make an investment in nature. I know it, you know it and the American people know it.

# Kevin

Executive Director

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## Marine Debris Plunder



The Plunder was postponed due to Ian blowing through town. And with all coastal storms, he left some debris in our bays. MCBP is seeking volunteers to pick up marine debris either by land or by sea on Sunday, October 16th, for the Third Annual Marine Debris Plunder.

The Marine Debris Plunder is a community initiative to raise awareness of the challenges faced in our Coastal Bays with improperly discarded waste and debris that can be found in our marshes, streets and waterways.

You can go on your plunder anytime and then can bring your "loot" to Captain Jack Sparrow in the West Ocean City Harbor between hours of noon and 4 to have it weighed, tallied, and disposed of properly. The Captain will reward you and your crew with commemorative shirts (while supplies last) in exchange for your bounty.

You will need to pre-register for this event [here](#) as you will need to pick up your supplies at Pure Lure prior to the event. There will be no registration on the day of the event.

Please contact [Sandi](#) with any questions or details you will need. Big shout out to Ron Jon Surf Shop, Sandpiper Energy, Worcester County, Pure Lure, Blue Water Properties and the amazing fraternity brothers of Theta Chi.

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## Stranded Horseshoe Crab Recovery Team Results

This past summer MCBP launched the Stranded Spawning Horseshoe Crab Recovery Volunteer Team!

This volunteer group was established to address the issue of horseshoe crabs becoming stranded on rocks and other obstacles while they're spawning at various hot spots throughout the Coastal Bays' watershed.

Our committed volunteers spent over 65 hours saving over 3,500 stranded horseshoe crabs! Horseshoe crabs are an extremely important food source to many native and visiting species of the Coastal Bays and are important to our fisheries and human health.

Saving stranded horseshoe crabs helps to minimize mass casualties. MCBP staff would like to thank all our dedicated volunteers; we look forward to seeing this team

grow and save more horseshoe crabs! Stay tuned for the release of our 2022 Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey report to learn more about how the horseshoe crabs are doing in our bays!



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## Living Local Educator Training

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On September 21st, thirteen educators from around the watershed gathered at the MCBP office to participate in the fifth Living Local educator training! The group included seven Worcester County Public School teachers and six non formal educators. Everyone had the opportunity to explore soil samples, create a food system web, exchange ideas, and discuss the environmental issues affecting agriculture and water resources in the Coastal Bays watershed.

As a part of the Living Local project, MCBP's education team created a curriculum for educators to use to help engage their students in agriculture topics and learn about the positive changes farmers are implementing in our region. Upon completing the curriculum training, educators take the lessons back to their audience and once students have received the lessons, they are able to attend farm field trips and complete MCBP funded action projects!

If you have any questions about the Living Local project or are interested in completing the educator training, please email MCBP Environmental Educator, [Chandler Joiner](#). Thank you to the EPA for the Environmental Education grant that has made the Living Local project possible!

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## Nesting Platform Update

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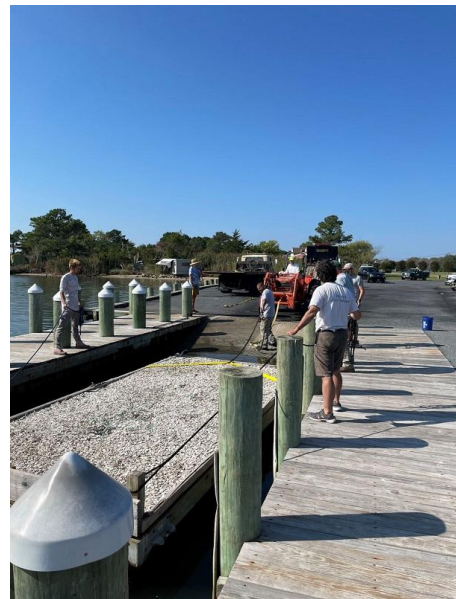
"The tern nesting platform is safely out of the water thanks to a herculean coordinated effort by Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Maryland DNR, Maryland DNR Forest Service, Assateague National Park Service, John Collins, Todd Peterson, and volunteers! Many thanks to everyone for all their hard work and team effort to get it out of the water all in one day!

To achieve this feat, first the anchors were pulled up and then the nine platform sections were separated by unlocking the hinges. Each section was then towed back to the boat ramp by a boat.



Once at the boat ramp, the sections were separated into two rafts and all the chick shelters and artificial plants removed. The individual rafts were loaded up onto a rollback and then placed on the ground in a field, where they will sit and wait until next spring. They were removed from the water to keep them safe from nor'easters and hurricanes and to prevent gulls from colonizing in the spring before the terns return.

Great Black-backed gulls nest earlier in the year than Common Terns and we would like to maintain the raft for tern nesting, since the gulls aren't endangered."



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## Explore the Estuary -the Outstanding Oyster

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After three separate reschedules, we were successfully able to run our Explore the Estuary program The Outstanding Oyster on Wednesday, September 28.

Twenty community members traveled down to the George Island Landing area for an oyster learning experience at Archer Oyster Company.

The program consisted of a historical review of oysters in the Coastal Bays by our very own Environmental Scientist, Carly Toulan, and a presentation on current citizen science efforts in the watershed by Protectors of the St. Martin co-founder, Joe Jankowski.

Archer Oyster Company owner, Jess Baunhofer then offered forth his wealth of knowledge on oyster aquaculture and being a watermen in the Coastal Bays.



Following a tour of Jess' land facility, we all paddled out (thank you Pocomoke River Canoe Company) to his water leasing and got up close and personal with some oyster cages and Jess' process.

Thank you to all who joined us on this beautiful day! If you are interested in joining our adult learning series mailing list, please contact [Liz Wist](#)



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## Save the Date!

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Monday, November 14th, MCBP will be hosting the release of the State of the Bays Report and the Annual Report Card at the Ocean City Marlin Club beginning at 1 pm.

The State of the Bays Report documents the most up-to-date status of the water quality and living resources in the Coastal Bays and highlights the management steps being taken to preserve them.

The aim of the annual Report Card is to provide a transparent, timely, and geographically detailed assessment of the



health of the bays and recognize partners, programs, and people that contribute to working towards improving the health of our bays.

The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. If you need more details please contact [Sandi Smith](#).

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## Promotional Video for Marsh Restoration

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Every once in a while we come across something that we can't help but share.

This is a clever spoof from a T.V. show with a message that we feel is on target for marsh restoration.

[Click here to check it out!](#)



Maryland Coastal Bays Program | [www.mdcoastalbays.org](http://www.mdcoastalbays.org)

