



November Newsletter 2022

Upcoming Volunteer Events (click on each for more details)

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

Director's Notes



A Note from the Director

It's That Time of Year Again

Autumn means many things to many people here on the Delmarva. Thanksgiving, fall colors, pumpkins, migrating geese and rockfish on the move. All good things for sure. But for us here at the Coastal Bays Program, fall means report card time and this year is no exception.

On Monday, November 14th we'll be having our Report Card Release for 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the White Marlin Club in West Ocean City. All are welcome to attend.

This year's report card doesn't stray too far from report cards from the past. We earned a C+ for 2021, which is okay, but certainly not where we want to be. The highest grade ever attained was in 2017 where we received a grade of B. But most of the grades we've received since we began issuing report cards in 2008, have been Cs. So, we've been hovering around the same grade for over a decade. On one hand, that shows a certain stability, but it doesn't show much improvement either. There are some positive trends – a couple of years of better grades for the St. Martin River. And there are some negative trends – continued degradation of the water quality in Newport Bay. But overall, the health of the Coastal Bays has been fairly stable.

At the Report Card Release this year, we will also be releasing our State of the Bays Report, which is issued every 5 years. This provides us with a look at longer-term trends and identifies emerging threats to the health of the Bays. Our theme for the State of the Bays report is "Building Resiliency" as we become increasingly aware of the threat that climate change is bringing to our little corner of the world.

What does all this mean? It's simple, we all have to work a bit harder to improve the health of the Bays and to enhance the resiliency of our natural environment. Things aren't terrible but they could be better and it's going to take the collective efforts of all of us to get there. That means improving stormwater treatment, improving sewage and septic discharges, reducing nutrient inflow and enhancing our natural features like marshes, forests and streams.

I recall what my father always said to me when I got a C on my report Card. "Are you satisfied with that?" was his constant question. My answer was an emphatic "No I'm not".

You're Invited!

**You are cordially invited
to attend**

**2021 Coastal Bays Report Card
and
State of the Bays Release**

**Monday, November 14th
1 p.m.
White Marlin Club
9659 Golf Course Road
West Ocean City**

Discover Your Watershed

Please join the Lower Shore Land Trust and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program for a free clean up at a local conservation easement site in Showell, MD.

The event will take place on Saturday, November 19 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. This event is open to all ages and includes an invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and clean up. We will provide all necessary equipment, but feel free to bring your own gloves.

[Registration link:](#)



DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED: EASEMENT PROPERTY CLEANUP



Join Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Lower Shore Land Trust in a free, volunteer event!

Help make the space cleaner and greener through trash cleanup, trail maintenance, and invasive species removal!

Saturday, November 19, 2022

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Located in Showell, MD



Project WILD Aquatic Workshop

Join the Maryland Coastal Bays Program for Project WILD Aquatic, a hands-on professional development workshop that emphasizes awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our natural world.

This training will take place on Friday, November 18, 2022 from 10:00 - 4:00 pm EST at the Delmarva Discovery Center in Pocomoke, Maryland by a trained Project WILD facilitator. This program is free and open to educators of all backgrounds. All educators who participate in this training will receive a copy of the Project WILD Aquatic guide that is filled with over 100 STEAM-based lesson plans, free entry into the Delmarva Discovery Center, and light refreshments. Registration is limited.

[Registration link:](#)

SIGN UP TODAY!

**DELMARVA
DISCOVERY
CENTER
FRIDAY
NOV. 18
10-4 PM**

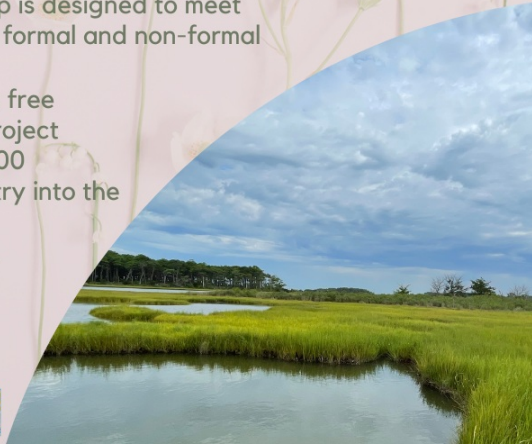
MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM PRESENTS

Project WILD Aquatic Workshop

Don't miss out on this opportunity at the Delmarva Discovery Center! Join us for Project WILD, a hands-on professional development workshop that emphasizes awareness, appreciation, and understanding of wildlife and natural resources. The workshop is designed to meet the needs of K-12 educators in both formal and non-formal settings.

All educators who participate in this free training will receive a copy of the Project WILD guide that is filled with over 100 STEAM-based lesson plans, free entry into the Delmarva Discovery Center, and refreshments. Registration is limited.

Register Today



Oysters Gardening Program



The results are in for our yearly oyster exchange numbers, and this year volunteers from both MCBP's and the Protectors of the St. Martin's oyster gardening program donated an estimated 9,300 oysters!

These oysters not only help filter and clean our bays, but they also provide habitat and act as a food source for many species. MCBP is also excited to announce that we were able to expand our program and add 13 new oyster gardeners to our amazing volunteer group!

Special thanks to the Oyster Recovery Partnership for donating necessary supplies to make this program possible. Additional thanks to Joe and Gail Jankowski, the founders of the Protectors of the St. Martin organization for supplementing our program and helping put oysters back in the Coastal Bays. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed.

3rd Annual Marine Debris Plunder



Thanks to everyone who participated in our 3rd Annual Marine Debris Plunder, just about a ton of Marine Debris was removed from our Coastal Bays.

It was a struggle this year as we attempted two Plunders but had to cancel the one in the spring due to weather, and had to postpone our fall event due to Hurricane Ian. But it finally happened and it was a beautiful day!

MCBP is working on a partnership to help grow our marine debris program and will keep you posted. If you are interested in joining the Marine Debris committee please email Sandi.



Save the Date! Giving Tuesday!

What is #GivingTuesday?

It's the greatest day ever of course! Giving Tuesday is an online giving event that provides nonprofits the opportunity to inspire the community.

Join us Nov. 29th at the Ocean Downs Casino from 5:30-7:30 as we support and celebrate nonprofits in Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties. Show the world that The Shore Gives More [here](#). We will be hosting a meet and greet at the Poseidon Pub in the casino. Attendees will receive a \$10 voucher to play the slots. Give a little and win a little!

We will be raffling this amazing original watercolor by Grace McFarren, you can purchase your tickets online [here](#). Drawing will be held at the casino at 7:30. You do not have to be present to win, you can make arrangements to pick up at our office should you have the lucky number!



The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. If you need more details please contact [Sandi Smith](mailto:Sandi.Smith). Thanks to the great sponsors below for making Giving Tuesday successful on the Eastern Shore!



Funding Available for Farmers



American Farmland Trust will begin accepting applications for the Brighter Future Fund 2022-23 grant cycle Nov. 1 at 8 a.m. EST!

Applications for grants up to \$5,000 funding farm projects building resilience and displaying innovation are encouraged. Examples of past funded projects can be found on the Brighter Future Fund website listed below and include hoop house installation, soil health improvements, and mobile farmers markets, just to name a few!

Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. The final day to apply is Nov. 15. click [here](#) for more guidelines and eligibility.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program | www.mdcoastalbays.org

