



December Newsletter 2022

Wishing You a Happy Holiday!

Director's Notes



From Left: Keith Binstead (U&A & Assoc), Dr. Dennis Whigham (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center), Capt. Dave Smith (Chincoteague), Dr. Mayasuki Komatsu (Institute for Ecosystem Research, Japan) on a cold morning in Chincoteague Bay.

A Note from the Director

Seeing Ourselves Through Someone Else's Eyes

This past weekend, the Coastal Bays Program was pleased to host two of the world's most noted environmental scientists. Dr. Dennis Whigham, is a local Marylander and sets up shop at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Anne Arundel County. Dr. Whigham is renowned for his research with wetlands and rare plants. The other, Dr. Mayasuki Komatsu is President of the Institute of Ecosystem Research in Tokyo, Japan. The Ecosystem Research Institute is knee-deep in studying the relationship between land and sea in watersheds throughout Japan.

Both were interested in seeing the work that the Coastal Bays Program is doing to address climate change and improve habitat and water quality. They were interested in how we monitor the health of the Coastal Bays and how we use that monitoring to direct our efforts. They were also interested in how we incorporate our community into these activities.

This got me thinking about how we can better incorporate local communities into our efforts. Quite honestly, I'm not sure we do as good a job as we should. Particularly with those communities that haven't traditionally been involved with our activities. So, as we move into 2023, we're going to be working to do a better job of that. Working to better engage our neighbors and Coastal Bay communities. Working to make sure that those who may not have had a strong voice in the past are heard.

Sometimes it takes seeing our world through the eyes of someone else to get a clearer picture of what we are doing well and what we need to do better. Thanks to Drs. Komatsu and Whigham, we can see ourselves a bit more clearly now.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and wonderful Holiday Season! And here's to starting off the New Year with fresh eyes and an open mind.

Side Note: Dr. Whigham has authored an interesting book called [Origami Orchids](#). This is a book where you can learn about native orchids and cut out 3-D likenesses for display. It's pretty cool and your purchase of the book helps orchid conservation efforts. Nice holiday gift for the plant-lover in your family. You can find it on Google and Amazon or here at [this link](#).

Kevin

Executive Director

Explore the Estuary: Bay Scallops



Please join us for an afternoon of learning about the Atlantic bay scallop.

These filter-feeding creatures were once found throughout the Coastal Bays, but due to a series of natural events and their volatile nature, their current population in our watershed is virtually extinct. The program will take place at Baywater Seafood in Snow Hill, home to the Coastal Bays' only bay scallop aquaculture leasing. The afternoon will kick off with a conversation on the bay scallop and a deep dive into the history of scallops in our Coastal Bays from Department of Natural Resources Shellfish Biologist, Mitch Tarnowski. Participants will then have the opportunity to learn bay scallop aquaculture from Baywater Seafood owners Matt Holloway and Lee Beauchamp.

Please sign up [here](#):

Living Local Winter Workshop

Living Local Winter Workshop
Cross Farms
Tuesday, December 13, 3:00-4:30

We hope you will join us at Cross Farms on Tuesday, December 13 from 3:00-4:30 for a workshop on seed saving. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore Cross Farms, learn about seed saving from Farmer Carol Cross, and participate in some hands-on learning by harvesting seeds from pumpkins, gourds, and radishes! Please use the following link to register:

[Registration link:](#)



Staff Attends Summit



MCBP staff members Carly Toulon, Roman Jesien, and Chandler Joiner spent the beginning of December at the Coastal and Estuarine Summit in New Orleans!

The summit was hosted by Restore America's Estuaries and the theme of the 2022 summit was Resilient Coasts, Resilient Communities. They spent time attending field sessions, workshops, panels, receptions, and exploring the city.

Chandler presented on MCBP's Living Local project and Roman was a part of a panel focused on the future of National Estuary Programs. Stay tuned to the MCBP Instagram to see more details and fun photos from their trip!

Thank You!

Thank you very much to all of our supporters and sponsors for another wonderful Giving Tuesday!

We met our goal and then some!

Congratulations to Jeff Bridge for the winning ticket of our auction item!

And thank you Ocean Downs Casino for hosting our Giving Tuesday event.



Maryland Coastal Bays Program | www.mdcoastalbays.org

