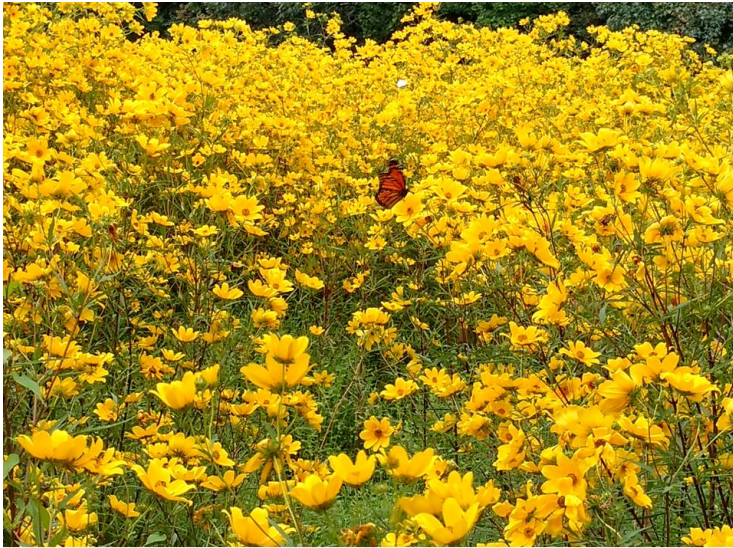




March Newsletter 2023

Director's Notes



A Note from the Director

The Birds & Bees and Native Landscapes – Always Something New To Learn

To his credit, my dad was probably a bit craftier than I realized as a young boy. In 1972, Hurricane Agnes took down a 100+ year old black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) on our property. My father handed my brother and I an old double-handed crosscut saw and told us he wanted it cut up for firewood. Well, that nearly took us all summer. The blade was probably duller than an old soup spoon and my

brother and I had a lot to learn about physics and leverage. But it certainly worked to keep two of his four boys out from underfoot for a couple of months.

My brother and I spent a lot of time crawling around on that downed tree in the summer of '72. Black locust has a thick bark that's deeply furrowed. I found out quickly how fast that bark can scrape up your legs and arms. The wood is dense and heavy, and not easy to cut with an old dull saw blade. But the bugs seemed to love it. And so did the woodpeckers.

I've learned a lot about black locust since then. Not only does it make for exceptional firewood, it also makes for the finest fence posts around. I know this because I spent a good part of my youth putting in farm fencing and black locust posts were the top of the food chain when it came to outlasting any other wooden posts.

Sometime in April the beautiful white flowers will show themselves for only a few days. But what a display. I'd rank it as one of the prettiest flowering trees here in the mid-Atlantic. The bees sure love it. Ever had black locust honey? Without question the best honey out there. I've got to think that the blooming locusts are also a critical food source for hummingbirds as they make their way back north.

I've been thinking about black locust lately as spring starts to peep its head around the corner. As our native trees and plants start to wake from the winter slumber, so will the bugs, caterpillars and other critters that feed on those trees. And these same critters feed an army of warblers and other birds that will be moving through our landscape in very short order. Like so many of our native trees, black locusts play an important role in maintaining this annual miracle called seasonal migration.

I mention all this because the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, in coordination with the Lower Shore Land Trust, are working together to host a series of speakers that will focus on the importance of our native landscapes. We are particularly pleased that our first speaker, Doug Tallamy, will be coming on April 14th. In case you didn't know, Doug is a nationally known authority on native plants and landscaping. He's a very engaging speaker who is keenly focused on the connection between native plants and how important they are to our ecosystems. Keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks.

Kevin

Executive Director

Thursday is Trivia Night!

Come test your skills at a fun and challenging evening of trivia at Seacrets' Morley Hall! Our trivia night will be this Thursday, March 9. Doors open at 5:30pm and trivia will start at 6:00pm sharp. Teams of any size are welcome. There will be three rounds of questions:

Round 1: The State of Maryland
Round 2: MD Coastal Bays
Round 3: Flora and Fauna

The best advice we can give you to become a Coastal Bays aficionado is to look through our social media posts, publications, and creature features! There is no pre-registration required for this event. You must be 21 and over to attend.

There will also be a raffle happening throughout the evening! Come buy raffle tickets for your chance to win gift baskets and gift cards from amazing local businesses. Raffle winners will be picked at 7:45pm (you do not need to be present to win).

We can't wait to see you there!



Discover Your Watershed



Come join the Maryland Coastal Bays Program for our first Discover Your Watershed (DYW) event

of 2023!

In addition to removing the notorious invasive species, wisteria, we will be having Victoria Spice, a member of the MD Department of Agriculture, come out to give an educational talk about what an invasive species is, prominent invasive species in our watershed, ways to prevent the spread of

invasives and tools available to educate the public on species IDing.

The DYW will take place on Saturday, March 11th from 9:30 am - 11:00 am at the Lewis Rd Kayak Launch located at 8913 Lewis Road Berlin, Maryland 21811. To find out more information and register for this event, click the link [here!](#)

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

The Worcester County Planning Commission will host a public hearing on the draft [Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan \(LPPRP\)](#) April 6, 2023 at 1:05 p.m.

The hearing will take place in the Board Room on the first floor of the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill.

The State of Maryland requires counties to update their LPPRP every six years, one year prior to the revision of the statewide Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The LPPRPs qualify local governments for State Program Open Space grants and other programs related to three land resource elements: Recreation and Parks; Agricultural Land Preservation; and Natural Resource Conservation.

The draft Worcester County LPPRP was developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources. The LPPRP contains key information, goals, and recommendations to guide the county's management and enhancement of its parks and recreation facilities, and conservation of natural and agricultural lands for the next five years.

Written and oral comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to kmunson@co.worcester.md.us or mailed to Worcester County Environmental Programs, 1 West Market St, Suite 1306, Snow Hill, MD 21863.



Bay Day! Mark Your Calendars



The Maryland Coastal Bays Program and Ocean Pines Association will host the fourth annual Bay Day on Sunday, May 7th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines.

Bay Day is a free, family-friendly event aimed to capture the interest of all age groups through interactive exhibits, environmentally focused crafts, live music, food trucks, free boat rides on the St. Martin, and more. This fun-filled educational day is made possible thanks to the dozens of dedicated environmental organizations in the region that contribute their time to this event.

If you have been a vendor in the past and do not have the current information, please contact [Liz Wist](#).

We are looking for volunteers for this event. If interested please contact [Greg Atkin](#).
