



Stranded Spawning HSC Volunteer Announcement

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is looking for dedicated volunteers to join the Stranded Spawning Horseshoe Crab Recovery Team! Volunteers will be responsible for routinely checking popular spawning grounds to rescue stranded or flipped horseshoe crabs during the spawning season from May to July. Volunteers will be required to attend a training session in late April or early May at the Sarbanes Center. The training will include information about how to safely handle horseshoe crabs, how to fill out the data sheet and the importance of horseshoe crabs. The volunteer program helps prevent mass casualties of horseshoe crabs and helps us to better understand stranding patterns and locations throughout the Coastal Bays.

Why do we care about horseshoe crabs? There are many reasons! Horseshoe crabs are known as “living fossils” because they have been around for 445 million years- which is older than the dinosaurs! They have blue blood which is used in the biomedical industry for cancer research and testing the safety of injectable drugs. Lastly, horseshoe crab eggs are an important food source to numerous species in the Coastal Bays like migratory birds.

If you have any questions regarding the volunteer program, please contact Erin Keeley at ekeeley@mdcoastalbays.org. To sign up as a volunteer, click on the registration link here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO9saTeW6F6kwVo5z5p6xHTtSjIJ9uGmO920vhXR4YMNza7A/viewform?usp=sf_link