



July Newsletter

A Note from the Director



An Ounce of Prevention

We've been pretty fortunate of late. We've had a few episodes of higher-than-normal tides and a couple of nor'easters that have done some damage to our coastline, but we really haven't had a terrible storm since Sandy in 2012. Of course, we all know that another storm is on the horizon and it's just a matter of time.



Our coastline is defined by the storms of the past. Particularly the storm in 1933 that opened the inlet between Ocean City and Assateague Island. When the Army Corps of Engineers decided to keep that inlet open by building the jetties that exist today, I wonder if they envisioned how this would ultimately define our landscape, our ecology and our economy for the next 100 years.

Fortunately, Worcester County and the State of Maryland, along with some help by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, have been working to prepare for potential storm damage at a particularly vulnerable location in West Ocean City. This project, which is under construction right now, sits along Isle of Wight Bay in the Cape Isle of Wight community. The project is located along the northern side of Selsey Rd. and it's particularly vulnerable due to the open exposure to the north and northeast. The road and adjacent homes are regularly impacted by storms and high tide events. This project is focused on using green (or nature-based) systems to help protect the road and homes from future storm damage. Nature-based systems utilize marshes, shorelines, dunes and other natural features to enhance existing coastlines to sustain a more robust and resilient environment to help protect against the ravages of wave energy during these storm events.

At Selsey Rd., Worcester County hired a specialized shoreline design firm and contractor to

restore the marsh and shoreline which have been lost to erosion over the years. When completed, this area will not only provide more storm protection for the road and the homes along it but will also provide more habitat and nesting area for diamondback terrapins, horseshoe crabs, shorebirds and other critters that are dependent upon these natural features to carry out some portion of their life cycle.

Cheers to the County for recognizing the vulnerability of this area and for taking a nature-based approach to help protect homes and infrastructure. We can expect to see more of these projects down the road as we prepare for whatever storms lie ahead. As one of our most brilliant and erudite founding fathers and statesman once said, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Yes Ben, it sure is.

Kevin Smith
Executive Director



The poster features a bright orange background at the top with a stylized sun. The main title 'community beach cleanup' is written in a large, orange, cursive font. Below it, the text 'JOIN US TO BEAUTIFY OC!' is in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. The date and time 'TUESDAY AUGUST 1ST 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM' are in a bold, dark brown, sans-serif font. The bottom half of the poster has a light blue background with a wavy pattern representing waves. The word 'Details:' is underlined in a bold, dark brown font. Below it, the text 'Meet on the Boardwalk at 4th Street to pick up materials', 'Open to all ages', and 'Join us for a trash weigh in & celebration back at 9:30 on 4th Steet.' is in a bold, dark brown font. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations including the Coast Guard, Beach Heroes, Litter Free OC, Ocean City Surf Club, Surf Rider Foundation, Ocean City, and Restore the Shore.

**community
beach cleanup**

JOIN US TO BEAUTIFY OC!

**TUESDAY AUGUST 1ST
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Details:

Meet on the Boardwalk at 4th Street to pick up materials

Open to all ages

**Join us for a trash weigh in & celebration
back at 9:30 on 4th Steet.**

MCBP Staff Trained for Harmful Algal Bloom



On June 29th, members of MCBP's science team attended a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) training.

In addition to MCBP, members from various state, county, and local organizations along with volunteers interested in community science initiatives joined together to learn how to properly identify HAB species, follow sampling protocol, and learn about the importance of monitoring HABs in the Coastal Bays.

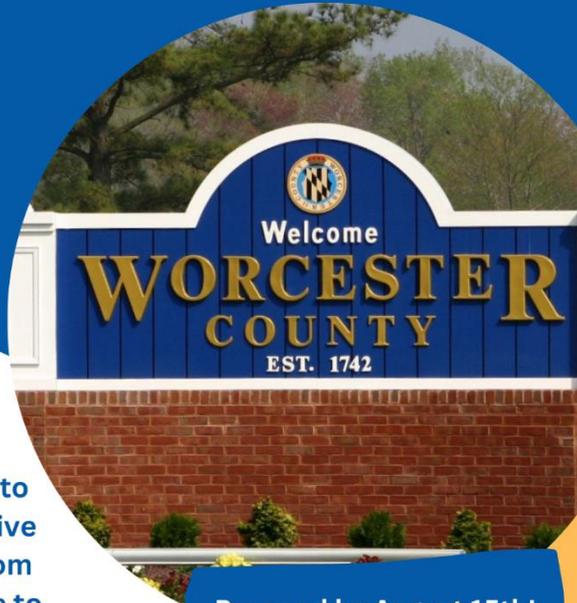


This program has existed since 2001 and has since grown to monitor over 75 locations across the United States. Monitoring in the Coastal Bays will begin shortly to help support the ongoing efforts and supplement data collected by NOAA and MDNR. We are very excited to be a part of this effort to keep our Coastal Bays healthy and safe!

To learn more about this program, follow the link [here](#).

Your Opinion Matters! You Have Until August 15th!

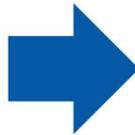
Worcester County Needs You!



As the County prepares to update the Comprehensive Plan, we want to hear from you! Please take a minute to complete the Community Survey!

Respond by August 15th!

USE THE QR CODE OR
FOLLOW THE LINK TO
COMPLETE THE
COMMUNITY SURVEY



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WorCoCPSurvey>

[Link to Survey](#)



[Job Description](#)

Welcome Renee Schoellkopf and Conner O'Hea!

René is excited to start her next career as Administrative Specialist with MCBP.

Originally from NY, where she received a degree in Biology and Math, Rene moved to the Eastern Shore 34 years ago. She has worked as a computer programmer for IBM in North Carolina, with Old Pro Golf in Ocean City, as a stay-at-home mom to 3 kids, and for the last 15 years, as an art teacher for grades 5-8 at The Salisbury School. As an Administrative Specialist for MD Coastal Bays, Rene will manage finances and maintain all records for the



program, as well as manage various grants and funding from EPA.



Connor has joined the Tern Raft team this summer as our Tern Raft Technician.

Connor has worked with the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center as an Avian Care Intern in 2021. He also has volunteered with Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory for three migration seasons and this spring worked as a banding technician.

New Audio Tour Added

Community Engagement Specialist Greg Atkin has crafted (with a little help from the MCBP Team) an audio tour of Assateague State Park Living Shoreline.

[Assateague Living Shoreline](#)

When visitors come that site, they can scan the Restore the Shore QR code, which will direct them to the landing page.

We're looking forward to adding more tours in the future!

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