



## August Newsletter

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### A Note from the Director



#### A New Crew at the Helm

With a new Governor in office beginning last January, a new roster of cabinet secretaries typically follows. And that has certainly happened here in Maryland. Governor Moore nominated new cabinet secretaries at the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Planning, Environment and Agriculture, among others.



Understanding each secretary's individual philosophies and foundational values is important. And for us here at the Coastal Bays Program, it is just as important that they understand our history, challenges and emerging issues. Or more plainly said – making sure they understand the watershed, the people who live, work and play here and the incredible natural resources we have been gifted with.

Have these folks ever felt the tug of a flounder at the end of line? Had a knot of black skimmers soared like the Blue Angels right past their boat? Seen a terrapin clumsily climb up on shore to lay eggs? Been stuck behind a combine rolling down Paw Paw Creek Road? Or choking on exhaust as they sit on route 90 headed into Ocean City on a Saturday. Have they experienced the utter thrill and surprise as a flock of wood ducks skittishly take flight in Buntings Branch? Do they know our watershed, and do they appreciate the absolute beauty that surrounds us and the work-a-day life that we live every day?

We want to make sure they do. These folks will have an influence on our surroundings here for years to come and we want to make sure that decisions they make are informed and made with a degree of familiarity. That's why we were so pleased to have DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz and MDE Deputy Secretary Suzanne Dorsey spend a day with us on the Coastal Bays

last month. The day started out beautifully as we left West Ocean City Harbor and checked out the commercial and recreational fishing boats on one of those spectacular July days. We pleasantly plied the waters of Sinepuxent and Chincoteague Bay and talked about lost island habitat, marsh loss, water quality, colonial bird nesting habitat, resiliency, dredging at the inlet and a host of other important issues here in Worcester County.

We hope they enjoyed the day. More importantly, we hope they gained an understanding of this place we call home. Saltwater taffy and ponies are great, but there's quite a bit more to this area than the boardwalk and outlet stores. We want them to know about it. We want them to understand our challenges and help to preserve the amazing waters and lands that make up this watershed.

We also hope to host the Maryland Department of Planning and the Agriculture Secretaries in the coming months. As Worcester County gears up for its update of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the future of agriculture and land use here in Worcester County will undoubtedly be important topics in the years to come.

Kevin Smith  
Executive Director

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# Vitamin N(ature)

## A FREE PROGRAM FROM MCBP\*

Spend an hour and a half immersing oneself in the nature surrounding the Sinepuxent Bay. Participants will be led through a meditation series to deepen their relationship with the natural spaces around them as well as enhance their observation skills. Open to all ages.

Date: August 31st from 5 - 6:30 pm



Assateague Living Shoreline

\*\$5 per car to park/ASP pass accepted

Use the QR Code to Register



[Or you can register here](#)

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Your Opinion Matters! You Have Until August 31st!

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# 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 31st!

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



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

[Link to Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WorCoCPSurvey)

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Tern Raft in the News

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[Link to Story and Video](#)

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## Skimmer Island

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Maryland DNR recently installed signs on Skimmer Island it because it's an important feeding and loafing (resting, relaxing,) area for migratory birds this time of year.

This early August morning for example, there were a few hundred migratory sandpipers, plovers, sanderlings, dowitchers and two rare species, red knot and marbled godwit as well as Maryland endangered black skimmers resting on the island.

[Here's](#) a story recently covered in the Bayside Gazette.

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## Marine Debris Plunder - Save the Date!

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Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 22 and join Captain Jack Sparrow and Maryland Coastal Bays for another Marine Debris Plunder!

The Marine Debris Plunder is an annual debris clean up by boat or by land. This year Orsted is joining the event and will be sponsoring a Captain's Meeting the night before the event.

Orsted has also made a commitment to organize and pay watermen over the winter to pull abandoned crab pots. Check out this spring's promo on the current program and we'll be posting details on this event as they unfold!

[Marine Debris Plunder Promo](#)

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