



November Newsletter

A Note from the Director

The Giving Time of Year



Four years ago when I began my tenure here at the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, there was one aspect of the job that gave me pause, and that was raising money. I've never been good at it. Even when my kids were selling candy bars and wrapping paper for the PTA or the Scouts, I would buy all the stuff and bypass the need to ask my friends and coworkers. Now, many years later, here I am faced with the same quandary.

Fortunately, one of the really wonderful aspects of the job here at the Coastal Bays is that we are partially funded by our friends at the EPA. We receive annual grant funding that helps to pay our rent and meet our payroll. But as time rolls on, we find ourselves being asked to participate in more and more activities focused on the health of the Bays. Unfortunately, our EPA funding doesn't cover everything, and this is where you play a critical part.

Be it community engagement, water quality monitoring, horseshoe crab and terrapin count, marine debris removal, and marsh restoration, these are just some of the activities that you help us accomplish. There will be more to come as 2024 unfolds.

We want to continue to work with you, our community, as we increase our engagement in education, restoration, and resiliency projects. We want to give you ample opportunity to learn about what's happening in your backyard and how you can be a part of protecting this beautiful landscape and the fish and wildlife that inhabit these woods, streams, rivers and bays.

A great example is the artificial floating island that was home to 323 pairs of common terns this past summer. The second biggest common tern colony in Maryland and the only one in the Coastal Bays. That's quite an accomplishment and it would not have happened without the help of our volunteers and donors.


We have challenges here in the Coastal Bays and so many of these challenges are met head on because of your contributions – be they time or money. As we enter the Holiday Season, we'll be asking for your help and your donations to keep these activities going strong. I hope you will consider the Maryland Coastal Bays as part of your giving over the next two months.

Kevin Smith
Executive Director

Discover Your Watershed

THE MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM PRESENTS

**DISCOVER
YOUR
WATERSHED** **LEWIS ROAD**



**Saturday, December 2
9-10:30 am**

Join us for invasive plant removal at the Lewis Road Kayak Launch located in Berlin..

[Register Here](#)

Earlier this month, MCBP's Liz Wist, and Billy Weiland led paddlers up Ayres Creek and into the 450 acre Ilia Fehrer Preserve as part of our Explore the Estuary program, and the first official group to tour this productive, biologically diverse Preserve



MCBP Welcomes Ellen Turnbaugh

Please join us in welcoming our newest Coastal Bays staff member, Ellen Turnbaugh!

As the new Education Program Manager, Ellen supports and provides meaningful opportunities for our watershed residents and visitors to gain a deep understanding of their surrounding environment.

Ellen is specifically in charge of leading the annual High School WETLANDS leadership retreat, MCBP's mini-grant program, the OC Estuary Explorers summer camp, and a pilot education program for local undergraduates and graduates geared towards translating research into usable k-12 lessons.

Ellen graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in Elementary Education in 2019. She has worked as an interpretive ranger intern in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and an environmental educator for Nature's Classroom. Recently, she spent 3 years in Ohio as a program director for an outdoor education school and summer camp. She is excited to be in the Eastern Shore and explore the Coastal Bays!



Marshes for Tomorrow



Marshes for Tomorrow (MfT) is an ambitious project aiming to identify, protect, and restore at least 25,000 acres of the most important tidal salt marsh habitat in Maryland for Saltmarsh Sparrows (*Ammodramous caudacutus*).

We recognize community input is exceptionally important for the success of this project in identifying the best locations to concentrate our conservation and restoration efforts for birds and people. The first round of community meetings is being scheduled for January 2024 with a second round to follow in the spring. As part of this effort, we also invite your participation in a marsh-use survey. Click on the button below.

For information about the upcoming meetings and other project resources, please look out for future postings or contact us directly via [email](#).

MfT is a coalition of partners led by Audubon mid-Atlantic and funded through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund grant and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[Survey](#)

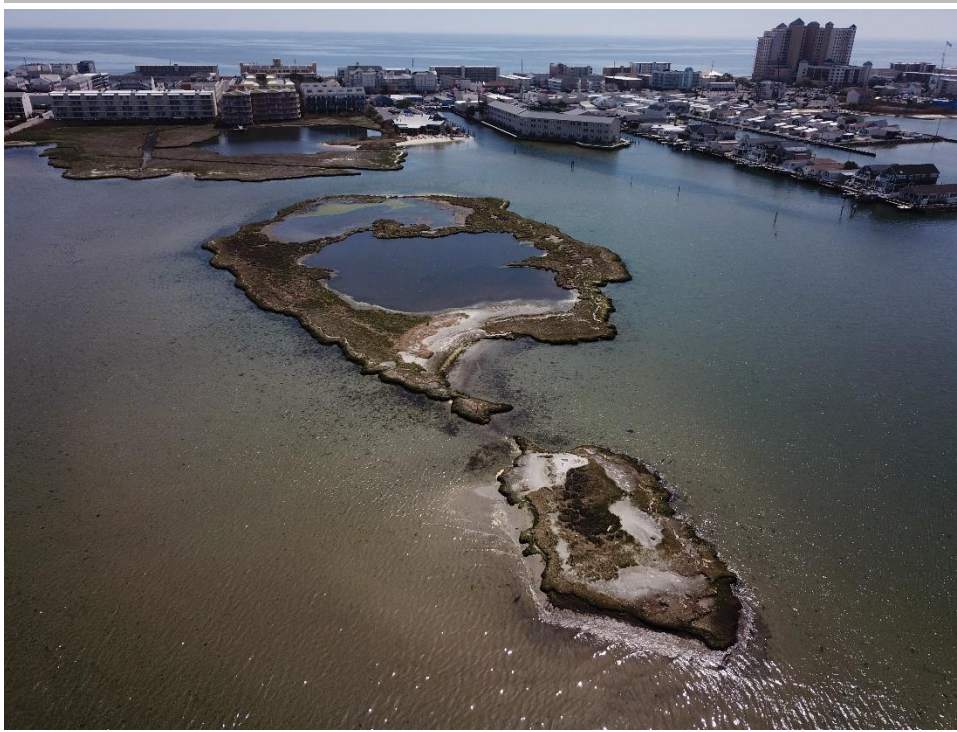
Oyster Gardening



The results are in for our Annual Oyster Exchange! This year, our 38 volunteers grew an estimated 6,800 oysters in their cages. All oysters grown in this program are used to increase habitat and improve water quality in our Coastal Bays.

We are incredibly grateful for the hard work our volunteers put into maintaining a clean cage while these spat grow during their first year of life and for the effort our partners at the Oyster Recovery Partnership and Horn Point Lab put into ensuring our program needs are met each year. Cheers to another successful growing year!

Sediment Management within the Coastal Bays



Representatives from a host of federal, state and Worcester County agencies and non profits recently met to discuss the better management of sediment within the coastal bays.

Marsh loss from internal flooding and shoreline erosion as well as island loss are of great concern. These habitats are important for birds such as Saltmarsh Sparrow, Blackrail, Common Tern, Black Skimmer and Royal Tern which have seen alarming population declines in recent years.

In other areas, shoaling and impassable channels are problems. The ultimate goal is to produce a sediment management plan that will better manage the bottom sand resources by linking habitat needs with dredging needs. Future meetings with contractors, landowners and the general public will be held to get their view points.

Photo of Reedy Island near 52nd St (Macky's bayside Bar and Grill), Ocean City showing internal flooding and shoreline erosion that is of concern for the ability of Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns to nest there in the future.

If you would like more information on this, please contact [Roman Jesien](#)

47th Annual Waterbird Society Conference

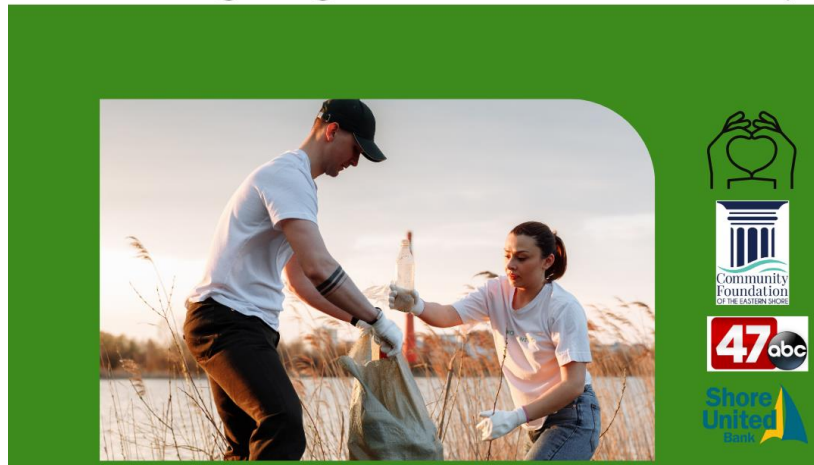


Last month MCBP staff, Carly Toulan and Kim Abplanalp, attended the 47th Annual Waterbird Society Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL to present on the success of our artificial nesting platform project and the impacts of island loss on colonial nesting birds nesting in the Coastal Bays. Presenting at conferences like these brings attention to the ongoing environmental issues in our watershed and provides a great opportunity for staff to learn about the exciting research, restoration, and conservation work other organizations are doing around the world!

Giving Tuesday



Join us in giving back to our community



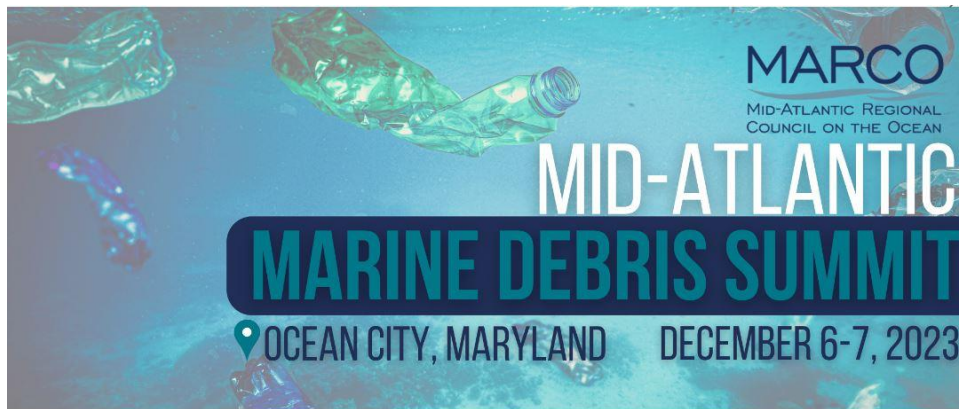
Giving Tuesday is touted as a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. Celebrated the

Tuesday after ThanksGIVING, it's a great way to kick off the holiday season by giving back to your charity of choice.

Thanks to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 47ABC, and United Shore Bank, you can learn about all the local non-profits and their work, and contribute to the causes online all in one place beginning Monday November 20th and ending Tuesday night, November 28th. Click on the button below and that will take you to the Shore Gives More Website.

[Shore Gives More](#)

Marine Debris Summit



The 2023 Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center December 6th and 7th and is free to attend and open to the public, though pre-registration is essential due to limited capacity.

Organized biennially by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), the summit aims to foster collaboration among a diverse range of stakeholders tackling marine debris and its sources. The agenda is designed to spark dialogue on inclusive strategies, enhance coordination efforts, explore current and future marine debris concerns, and spotlight innovative prevention and reduction solutions.

Attendees can expect a comprehensive program covering topics such as the impact of microplastics and nanoplastics on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems, strategies for managing debris from coastal storms, and discussions on large-scale removal initiatives and policy development.

In a blend of education and entertainment, a Marine Debris Trivia Night will be hosted at Seacrets, Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. This is open to everyone - summit attendees as

well as the public! And our MCBP trivia host from last year Greg Atkin, will be back to host this event!

It's a fantastic opportunity to gather your team, showcase your knowledge, engage with key players in the marine debris sector, and forge connections with like-minded individuals.

For more information on the summit and to register, click on the button below.

[Marine Debris Summit](#)

Marine Debris Plunder



Over 70 people participated in the Marine Debris Plunder in October collecting a little over 1,100 pounds of trash out of our waterways.



Spotted Lanternfly



Think you have found spotted lanternfly in Maryland?

[Click Here to Report](#)

8219 Stephen Decatur Highway
Berlin, MD 21811
US

If you would no longer like to receive email from us, [click here](#) to unsubscribe