



January Newsletter 2022

Upcoming Events You Don't want to Miss!
(click on each for more details)

- [Educator Training](#)
- [We Need Volunteers!](#)
- [Bay Day is Back!](#)
- [Swans Gut Creek at Big Millpond](#)

Director's Notes

A Note from the Director

Recently, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program applied for and received a grant from US Wind for \$100,000. These grant funds will be used to hire a Coastal Resiliency and Habitat Specialist to work with our partners at Audubon Mid-Atlantic and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This position will work to conserve and protect island habitats and tidal marshes which are of critical importance to some of our iconic coastal bird species like black skimmers, terns and saltmarsh sparrows.

You may not be aware, but these bird species, which are heavily dependent on coastal islands and marshes are in serious decline. Some of these species have declined by 90% in our region and the islands and marshes that are home to these species are in serious decline as well. If we are to maintain these species, we must act now and we must act swiftly. The grant funds from US Wind are critical to this effort.

MCBP recognizes that some of our supporters are concerned about offshore wind and the impact it will have along our coast. We're working to fully understand what the impact will be to our fisheries, marine mammals and birds. All of the answers aren't in, but we do understand how some of those who live, recreate and work here can have serious concerns as to how this may affect their livelihoods and our shared public resources.

At our last MCBP Board meeting, we had a very intense discussion about the acceptance of these funds. Not everyone agreed. But, at the end of the day, the Board voted yes for several different reasons. We know that some continue to have legitimate concerns regarding offshore wind. We do to. But we also recognize the very real need to explore other sources of energy outside of fossil fuels which are so impactful and have such a long-lasting influence on our climate.

These aren't easy decisions, and we will continue to stay engaged in this discussion. We encourage you to do the same.

Kevin

Executive Director

In Remembrance of A Hero



We are very sad to report that we have lost a Coastal Bays hero. Jeanne Lynch departed this life on December 19th, 2021.

Her vision, her strong will, work ethic, and ability to mobilize others, brought about significant and lasting change in Worcester County government and for the coastal bays.

To see her obituary click [here](#)

She was our featured Coastal Bays Hero last month click [here](#)

Funding Awarded for New Restoration Project

On December 20, 2021, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the awarding of more than \$20 million to support 25 projects in 13 coastal states to protect, restore or enhance more than 61,000 acres of coastal wetlands and adjacent upland habitats under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. Included in these awards was a grant of \$1 million to Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Tizzard Island Shoreline and Marsh Resiliency Restoration project to be undertaken in partnership with Maryland Coastal Bays Program.



This project will build on MCBP's Tizzard Island resilience planning and design effort funded by DNR over the past several years, and will be supplemented by an additional \$1.1 million in state implementation funding moving forward once required permits are approved.

Tizzard Island, located in southern Chincoteague Bay, has been experiencing significant shoreline erosion and marsh degradation that is threatening critical shorebird and other wildlife habitat. Absent major restoration activity to bolster the island's resilience against the impacts of climate change, Tizzard and other Coastal Bays islands will struggle to survive the effects of sea level rise and increasing storminess that lie ahead.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources will construct a living shoreline at Tizzard Island to protect the estuarine tidal marsh and provide nesting habitat for the saltmarsh sparrow and numerous other species of migratory birds and waterfowl. Award: \$1,000,000 Match: \$1,169,000.

Coastal wetland habitat conservation is critical to ensure that important habitat, wildlife and coastal communities continue to thrive for future generations. Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding These projects will help mitigate the effects of climate change on coastal areas, many of which have already been dramatically altered and stressed by storms, sea level rise, human activity and invasive species.

Where exactly is Tizzard Island located? To see, click [here](#).

Fisheries Heritage Project

MCBP is excited to announce that we were awarded a Beach to Bay Heritage Area (BBHA) Mini-Grant for the year 2022! This grant will fund a fisheries heritage project called "Voices of the Coastal Bays" that will highlight the history and culture of the OC Fisherman's Marina located in West Ocean City, as well as highlight the vibrant stories of the local fishermen and



women that operate out of the marina.

The goal of this project is to increase awareness of the importance of choosing local seafood and uplift the voices of those who provide it to celebrate our local fishing heritage. It will include interviews from local fishers, photographs captured by local photographer Zach Garmoe, a virtual interactive history of the OC Fisherman's Marina, and a local seafood guide, which will feature what seafood is caught locally each month! Be sure to keep an eye on our website and social media as this project begins to unfold!

To find out more about BBHA's mission and projects, visit

<https://www.beachesbayswaterways.org/>.

Chesapeake Bay Program's Guide to Reducing Holiday Waste

Now that the holidays are over, here are some great tips from our one of our partners, The Chesapeake Bays Program on reducing holiday waste!

[The Chesapeake Bay Program Guide to reducing holiday waste](#)



Winter Visitors

It's that time of year where our winter visitors come to rest on our beaches and hunt in our bays.

Young seals travel as far as Florida following food source. Sometimes they will leave the water to rest on land, the technical term for this behavior is 'haul-out'. When they do this, they need their space to rest so they are able to continue their journey.

Unfortunately sometimes they haul out due to illness or injury. Should you be fortunate to see one, be advised they need their space and are Federally protected. The law requires that you keep the distance of at least 50 yards and no longer than 30 minutes. [Here](#) is a link explaining the guidelines.

And should you be lucky enough spot a seal call the Marine Animal Stranding Hotline to report it -410-576-3880.



MCBP 2022 Calendars Still Available

The new year is here so last call for a great calendar purchase!

The images captured by local photographers in this calendar are absolutely spectacular and many of them are now on display in our 2022 MCBP calendar which is available for sale at \$20 each.

You can purchase a calendar at our office or at one of these three

Maryland Coastal Bays Program



locations: The Dusty Lamb in Berlin, Ragamuffin Boutique in Ocean City, or West O' Bottle Shop in West Ocean City.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program | www.mdcoastalbays.org

