



## May Newsletter 2022

### Upcoming Volunteer Events (click on each for more details)

- [Volunteer Calendar](#) (one click shopping for events all year)
- [Bay Day](#) Volunteers Needed
- [Marine Debris Plunder](#)
- [Horseshoe Crab Recovery Team](#)
- [Journey Up the Coast](#)

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## Director's Notes

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### *A Note from the Director*

#### ***Spring has Sprung – And It'll be Over Before You Know it***

Mark Twain famously said, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can put off till the day after tomorrow". I live those words every day. But I really must fight my proclivity for procrastination – particularly at this time of year. Springtime in the Mid-Atlantic goes by in the blink of an eye. The dogwoods, shadbush and bluebells have already bloomed. Locust trees will be blooming next, and warblers are already cruising through the forests and fields on their way north.

So, as a favor to you, I am going to make a list of the things that you might want to consider before the heat, the humidity, and the crowds get here.

- Fish for Tautog near the Ocean City Inlet
- Check out Greys Creek Nature Park near the Delaware line to see nesting herons and ospreys.
- Look for spring wildflowers in the woods and fields
- Explore Ayers Creek or Sinepuxent Bay by canoe or kayak
- Walk the Life of the Dunes Trail at Assateague National Seashore
- Camp at Pocomoke State Park or Janes Island State Park before the heat makes it nearly impossible
- Learn about oyster aquaculture at our upcoming Adult Learning Series
- Run down to Wachapreague, rent a boat, and explore Virginia's coastal bays
- Put May 15th on your calendar for Bay Day at Ocean Pines. You'll have fun I promise you.

You know as well as I do that these halcyon days of mild temperatures and low humidity are gone very quickly. Take the time to catch your breath. Check out some of the wonderful things that are happening around you at this time of year. Sure, you can put it off till tomorrow, but not till the day after tomorrow.

## Adult Learning Series

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Please join us for the first MCBP adult learning series of 2022 the Friday from 1:30-3:00 pm!

We will enjoy an afternoon of learning about the history of oysters in our Coastal Bays, the importance of them to our watershed, and current citizen-led efforts to help understand and restore these amazing creatures. This program will take place at Archer Oyster Company in George Island Landing.

Participants will learn about oysters from MCBP staff, take a tour of Archer Oyster Company with owner Jess Baunhofer, and learn about the Oyster Gardening Program and other oyster conservation efforts from Joe and Gail Jankowski with Protectors of the St. Martin River. Please click [here](#) to register:

To register, please visit [here](#):  
Please email MCBP Education Coordinator, Liz Wist, at [lwist@mdcoastalbays.org](mailto:lwist@mdcoastalbays.org) for any questions.



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## Welcome Archer Larned

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MCBP is excited to announce we have new coordinator in the house!!

Archer Larned has been selected as the Coastal Bird Habitat Coordinator. Archer is responsible for monitoring nesting coastal waterbirds in collaboration with Audubon Mid-Atlantic and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She primarily monitors an artificial nesting platform for Common Terns and Black Skimmers in Chincoteague Bay. She also analyzes data and provides scientific expertise for the monitoring project.

Archer joined the Maryland Coastal Bays Program in April 2022. She received her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County studying the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow. She received her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin Madison and M.S. in Biology from the University of Maryland College Park.

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## Bay Day is Just a Few Weeks Away

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Bay Day is just two weeks away!

Join MCBP and the Ocean Pines Association May 15th at White Horse Park in Ocean Pines from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for a fun-filled day of environmental education! There will be a native plant giveaway, free bay boat rides, a workshop pavilion (with make and take items), food trucks, live music, and 27 exhibitors representing environmental organizations in our region. Each exhibitor will have a hands-on component at



their table!

Bay Day is a free, family-friendly environmental festival that highlights ways watershed residents can make a positive impact in our Coastal Bays. A major part of Bay Day this year will be the new recycling station! At Bay Day, there will be boxes were you can drop off the following items to be shipped off for proper recycling:

- Plastic grocery/shopping bags
- Household batteries
- Plastic bottle caps

Go Green OC will also be collecting compostables! Examples of compostable items include banana peels, fruit rinds, coffee grounds, egg shells, etc. Basically, if you can eat it, Go Green OC will take it.

We hope to see you at White Horse Park on May 15th!

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## Marine Debris Plunder

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After a morning of environmental inspiration at Bay Day, join Captain Jack Sparrow for the Ocean Pines Marine Debris Plunder.

Boaters, kayakers, SUP and land lovers are encouraged to pick up debris at any location and bring it back to Captain Jack at the White Horse Park boat ramp for a weigh-in and tally. We will dispose of the trash properly,

For more information and registration click [here](#)



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## Living Local

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As the weather warms, Living Local has been in full swing! The first action project was completed by two second grade classes at Showell Elementary School. The students made seed eggs for every student and adult at Showell Elementary to take home over the Easter break. Each seed egg bag contained information about the importance of native plants and how to care for their new Black-eyed Susan.

There were also two field trips in the month of April. Laura Giarratano's second grade class from the Salisbury School spent the day with Farmer Jeanne VanderClute to learn about the practices she uses at Splendid Earth Farm .



Later that same week, the entire fourth grade from Snow Hill Middle School spent the day at Cross Farms and Masterpiece Flower Farm.



Each student was able to experience both farms and learn from Farmer Carol Cross (Cross Farms) and Farmer Crystal Giesey (Masterpiece). At each Living Local field trip students participate in an interactive farm tour and receive hands-on experience while rotating through three learning stations.

Before coming out on farm field trips, students are taught the Living Local lessons in the classroom. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating in an educator training to receive access to the LL lessons and to qualify to bring students out to a farm, please email [cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org](mailto:cjoiner@mdcoastalbays.org) (open to any formal or nonformal educator).



## WETLAND Student Retreat



At the end of April, MCBP hosted the WETLANDS Student Retreat.

Fifteen 9th and 10th grade students from Stephen Decatur, Snow Hill, and Pocomoke High Schools were selected by their teachers to participate in this 3-day environmental science and leadership

program.

Over the course of the program, students engaged in scientific field work, career exploration, and leadership development as they visited different sites around Worcester County and met with several local environmental professionals. The WETLANDS retreat was organized as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Capstone project by Katie Kavanagh.

A huge thanks to our partners on this program, Worcester County Public Schools, Pocomoke River State Park, Delmarva Discovery Museum, Assateague State Park, Maryland Conservation Corps, Underwood and Associates, and the Youth Environmental Action Summit. This project was funded in part by grants from Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore



## Terrapin Survey



The Annual Diamondback Terrapin Survey will be conducted from May 31st through June 11th. If you are interested in joining us for this citizen science initiative, please click [here](#) for more information.

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## Employment Opportunities

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Assateague Outfitters is currently has several seasonal opportunities, [click here](#) for specifics. Hours and shifts can be flexible.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program | [www.mdcoastalbays.org](http://www.mdcoastalbays.org)

