



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

[WV Chesapeake Bay Program Website](#)

Summer 2016, Issue 23

Quick Links

[West Virginia Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

[U.S. EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL website](#)

[What's My Watershed?](#)

["What's Your BMP?" Residential Stormwater BMP Reporting Tool](#)

In This Issue

[Meet Karen Cladas](#)

[Paddle the Potomac River](#)

[TMDL public meetings](#)

[Plant a Tree in Memory of Carla Hardy](#)

[Rain Garden Volunteer Opportunity](#)

[Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#)

[Watershed Celebration Day](#)

[Save the Dates!](#)

[Stream Scholars Summer Camp](#)

[Eastern Panhandle Conservation District](#)

[EPCD Conservation Farm Competition](#)

Remembering Carla Hardy



Carla Hardy passed away unexpectedly on July 13, 2016. As the Chesapeake Bay Program Manager with the West Virginia Conservation Agency, she was an integral member of West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team. Carla edited this quarterly newsletter, initiated and carried out countless successful environmental projects and workshops, mentored and inspired others, and brought a lot of positive energy to our work and our lives. We miss her!

The diverse events and projects highlighted in this newsletter are a testament to the partnerships that Carla fostered. Because Carla was a visionary founder of the West Virginia CommuniTree Program, Cacapon Institute has renamed that program after her, and has also organized a memorial tree planting program (application below) in her honor. The deadline to apply for this special opportunity is September 14. Applicants may request 1, 2, or 3 trees to plant on public or private property.

- [Application](#) for memorial trees
- [Carla Hardy's obituary](#)
- Neil Gillies' [letter to the editor](#), Moorefield Examiner

Cacapon Institute's 2016 Stream Scholars Summer Camp
Cacapon River Canoe Trip

[Tuscarora Creek Restoration](#)

[Project](#)

[Report Your Environmental Practices](#)

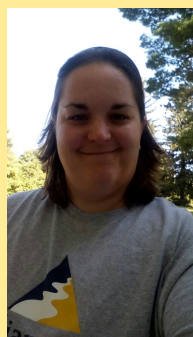
[AWSM Stewardship Grant](#)

[Newsletter Ideas Needed](#)

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Getting to Know Karen Cladas



Meet Karen Cladas! Karen is the Watershed Forester with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, based in

Inwood, WV, and mainly working in Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties. Karen is a technical service provider helping to improve water quality in streams through management of riparian (stream-side) buffers.

She works closely with people whose land is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which is an essential part of West Virginia's strategy for the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup. She is also an enthusiastic recruiter for the program. Please click [here](#) to learn more about Karen! She may be reached at kcladas@allianceforthebay.org.

This year's [Stream Scholars](#) were from multiple watersheds in Morgan, Jefferson, and Berkeley counties and represent the interest of our youth in local watershed conservation efforts. After spending the morning sampling and assessing Constant Run, a tributary of the Cacapon River, the Scholars enjoyed some recreational time on the water - one of the reasons we work so hard to protect our waterways!



Spotlight on the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) provides several services to farmers and homeowners using various cost share programs, equipment rentals, and conservation education activities. The EPCD board consists of supervisors and associate supervisors from each county, who are elected by the public in general elections. Their sole staff person is Heather Duncan, Outreach Specialist. However, Sherry Duncan, District Manager, Barbie Elliott, Conservation Specialist, and Suzy Campbell, Conservation Specialist, also work in the office for the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) to carry out the duties in the tri-county area. The Conservation Districts work closely with the WVCA, helping to implement programs locally such as the Agricultural Enhancement Program. Their offices are down the hall from other service providers such as the USDA Natural Resources

GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

Cacapon Institute's 2nd Annual
**Potomac River
Paddle Trip**

Saturday, September 10, 2016



Come spend the day with Cacapon Institute as we paddle the Potomac River from Great Cacapon, WV to Hancock, MD.

To learn more, visit the registration and information webpage by clicking [here](#).

Local TMDL Public Meetings & Comment Period

Rockymarsh Run: Sept. 6, 2016

6:00 p.m., Shepherdstown

Warm Springs Run: Sept. 7, 2016

6:00 p.m., Berkeley Springs

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announces a comment period on draft Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for selected streams in the Warm Spring Run and Rockymarsh Run watersheds, both part of the Potomac Direct Drains. The comment period began August 26, 2016 and extends through September 26, 2016.

A Total Maximum Daily Load is a plan of action used to clean up streams not meeting water quality standards. Click [here](#) for the full press release.

Plant a tree in memory of Carla Hardy

Deadline September 14, 2016

Cacapon Institute is offering up to 3 free trees to those who would like to plant them in honor of Carla Hardy, visionary founder of West Virginia Project CommuniTree (see related article in this issue). Unlike other CTree offerings, these

Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, making it easier for landowners to access multiple types of support in one visit. The watershed committee of the EPCD hosts the annual Eastern Panhandle Watershed Gathering each spring, where local watershed groups, non-profits, and resource professionals gather to network and share the latest news in the watershed protection and restoration fields.

Click [here](#) to read about the district supervisors and the EPCD's successful 2016 District Dash. The EPCD is also proud to announce the regional Environmental Farm winner is the local Mock family (see the next article.)



EPCD Conservation Farm Competition

Mock's Greenhouse and Farm, District and Area III Winner

On May 26, 2016, Mock's Greenhouse and Farm in Morgan County was selected the district winner in the West Virginia Conservation Farm of the Year competition. On July 26, the farm competed in the Area III judging and was selected to move forward to the state competition against two other farms. This competition is very familiar to EPCD and its producers as a long line of state winners reside in the district. Mock's Greenhouse and Farm houses over 30 greenhouses that grow hydroponic tomatoes, lettuce, basil, and various salad greens. Water conservation is a large aspect of the operation and water is running continuously. The Mocks also rely heavily on electrical outputs and rely on high efficiency propane systems to power everything and to keep the heaters running as the operations run year-round. Click [here](#) for the full article.

Tuscarora Creek Dam Bypass Project Complete

Canaan Valley Institute

memorial trees can be planted anywhere in West Virginia, on private or public land. Click [here](#) for the application.

Rain Garden Volunteer Opportunity

September 17, 2016

Volunteers are needed in Morgan County for beautifying and improving the parking area at the new Alex Rickli Memorial Soccer Complex on Rt. 522 next to Dawson's Home Center by planting two "rain gardens." These gardens are designed to reduce the amount of pollutants that wash off of the parking lot into Sleepy Creek, improve local water quality, and create habitat for pollinators!

Please RSVP to Suzy Campbell, WV Conservation Agency at 304-539-2682 or scampbell@wvca.us if you plan to [volunteer](#).



September 30-October 2, 2016

The 11th annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum will be held at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Representatives from local watershed organization and local government leaders come together to learn the latest restoration science and direction. The Forum provides excellent opportunity to network with other groups and individuals facing similar challenges, and to be inspired to continue the work of preserving, protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Click [here](#) to see the agenda and to register. "Commuter" rates are available for those who do not wish to spend the night.

Also, scholarship funds are still available for the Forum. Scholarships are given with priority to new applicants, applicants from diverse communities, applicants who work for diverse organizations and students. Those who have already registered and paid for the Forum may still apply. Applications are due by



Brush mattresses sprouting on banks of Tuscarora Creek

This summer, Canaan Valley Institute and its partners improved stream conditions on Tuscarora Creek in Berkeley County, WV. The project involved re-routing the stream around an unnecessary dam and stabilizing eroding streambanks.

The restoration project was designed to re-create a healthy stream. Part of the dam spillway was removed and the stream re-routed to flow around the abandoned dam. The remaining portion of the dam was buried. The new, meandering channel was shaped into a series of shallow riffles and deep pools, with wood and rock structures to provide habitat for fish and other aquatic life as well as to stabilize the stream and prevent erosion. Bioengineering was also used to control erosion and re-vegetate the stream. Click [here](#) for CVI's full article.

See and hear the creek and the project explanation in the words of Canaan Valley Institute staff in this [video](#) produced by Mike Huff for West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's *Environment Matters*.

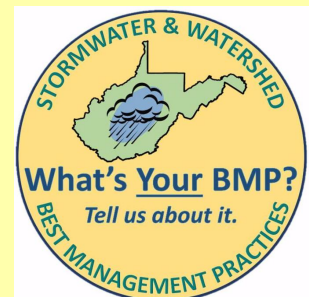
Report your Environmental Practices

What's your watershed BMP?

How are you protecting our lands and waters? People like you, who install stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on your property and in the community, help West Virginians achieve our goal of safe, swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waterways. By reporting your BMPs, you help us understand the beneficial impact you have made. Please share your experience. You will help us help others improve their practices.

Report your BMP online: Go to cacaponinstitute.org, then click the "[What's Your BMP?](#)" logo.

- Report your:
- * Tree plantings
 - * Rain barrels/cisterns
 - * Rain gardens
 - * Permeable pavers
 - * Septic pumping
 - * Green roofs



Wednesday August 31st, so please reach out to Joanna Freeman (jfreeman@allianceforthebay.org) ASAP for information.

Watershed Celebration Day

October 21st - 22nd, 2016



Watershed volunteers: plan to join us for the 18th Annual Watershed Celebration Day at Canaan Valley Resort State Park. A wetland tour will be offered on Oct. 21, and volunteers will be treated to training, free lunch and awards presentation on Oct. 22. We always have a good time! Detailed information is included on the registration [website](#). The deadline to register is September 30. Hosted by the West Virginia Watershed Network.

Save the Dates!

December 6, 2016

Will be the date of the next Potomac Watershed Information Exchange. Check the [website](#) for more details as the date approaches.

November 30, 2016

Great Valley Stormwater Forum, featuring staff of the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, will be held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. Contact alana.c.hartman@wv.gov for more information.

* **Downspout disconnections**

Together, we are making our lands & rivers cleaner and healthier!

If you have questions or comments on, or suggestions for, our BMP reporting tool contact Kat Cooper, Cacapon Institute's Watershed BMP Specialist, at bmp@cacaponinstitute.org.

Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors-Stewardship Grant

The Mountain Institute

The goal of the Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM)- Stewardship Grant is to provide funding for schools to:

- * assist teachers in their efforts in implementing environmental education
- * provide student-led stewardship projects within their local watershed
- * extend the knowledge and skills acquired through the AWSM program into ongoing curriculum

Now, the Mountain Institute (TMI), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Local Grants Program, is pleased to announce an outdoor education funding opportunity for schools in West Virginia. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to schools enrolled in the AWSM network that are interested in extending watershed education efforts through a stewardship project. Grant funds may be used for stewardship projects that positively impact school grounds, the community, or environment. Project examples include, but are not limited to, addressing runoff issues through rainwater harvesting programs, rain garden installation, wetland installation, riparian buffer plantings or improvements, other overland runoff mitigation projects, and community outreach and education. Proposals are due September 9, 2016. More information and proposal guidelines are posted [here](#).

Applications for the AWSM Network are available at www.mountain.org/awsn.

Newsletter Contributions Welcome!

Have a story or event you would like to share in the next edition of the WV Chesapeake Bay Newsletter?

Submit your feature or idea to alana.c.hartman@wv.gov.

About West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team

Fourteen percent (14%) of West Virginia drains into the Potomac River and on to the Chesapeake Bay. In June of 2002, Governor Bob Wise signed the Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Initiative Memorandum of Understanding. By signing this memo, West Virginia agreed to develop goals and objectives to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the Chesapeake Bay.

To help WV accomplish these goals, Project Teams began working in targeted watersheds. These groups build partnerships, gather funding, and identify priority projects that are most important to their local communities.

Reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in local creeks and rivers will mean healthier water resources that are better able to sustain tourism, fishing, drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat, and other uses. Each one of us can act locally to help achieve these goals.

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team

