West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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2017 West Virginia Envirothon Winners Announced

Envirothon Winners – The Moorefield Gold Team took first place at the 2017 Envirothon, held at WVU Jackson's Mill April 20-21.

Moorefield Gold Team took first place.
Six of the top 10 teams were from counties located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Envirothon focuses on five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental topic. Students learn about West Virginia's diverse ecosystem and how they can help conserve and protect it for future generations. To date, Envirothon has awarded more than $170,000 in college scholarships to West Virginia students. Press Release

Charles Town Looks to the Sky to Reduce Atmospheric Deposition

Meet WVCA's New Conservation Specialist

Danielle Watson joined the West Virginia Conservation agency in the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) as their Conservation Specialist in February.

She is a local from Martinsburg, and graduated from Hedgesville High School in 2008.
She received her Bachelors of Science in Agriculture from WVU in Agroecology minoring in Soil Science, Pest Management and Environmental Protection. She previously worked at West Virginia University's Organic Agriculture farm for two years.

Within her new position, Danielle will help develop watershed improvement projects to improve water quality in impaired waterways through EPA's 319 and Chesapeake Bay Program. She provides technical and planning assistance with best management practices, natural stream restoration techniques and non-point source water quality issues to individual landowners and farmers. Danielle is very excited to be joining the Conservation Agency Team!

If you'd like to contact Danielle and find out more about the 319

A recently released documentary short film depicts a new solar panel installation at the Charles Town Utility Board's Tuscawilla Wastewater Treatment Plant in Jefferson County.

Watch Video
For more information

Final Stop for the One Stop Conservation Shop

Nine volunteers beam with pride after making the planting of 680 live stakes look like a walk in the park. TU has a strong foundation of partners and volunteer supporters continually making fish better across the Potomac. (Photo: Mike Anderson, TU volunteer)

    Project Information

Soil Tunnel Trailer

program, she can be reached at dwatson@wvca.us or (304)541-3645 (cell).

New Website:

http://www.wvchesapeakebay.us/

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team is pleased to announce that our new website for Chesapeake Bay efforts is ready for viewing. Of special note is the "WV Progress" tab, which now contains the 2016 Programmatic Milestone report. Check it out!
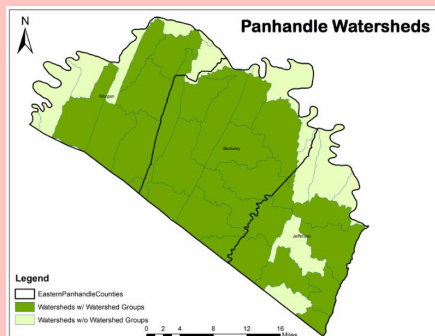
GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

WVDA Accepting Nominations for Women in Agriculture
Click for more information.

Eastern Panhandle Watershed Group Gathering
May 23, 2017

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College
13650 Apple Harvest Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25403

Come network with other watershed professionals and volunteers, find out what's happening in the watersheds of the panhandle, and learn about new resources to improve your work! Full announcement here.

RSVP here by May 16.

Save the Dates!

Imagine you're an earthworm making your way through the soil. What do you think you would see? Insects? Specialty crops?

Learn more

Websites promote planting, protection of trees

Two new websites will help those working to plant and protect trees throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Network and Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network-both launched through partnerships between the Chesapeake Bay Program's Forestry Workgroup, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service-were created to help communities meet their forest buffer and tree canopy goals. Full article.

SAVE THE DATE
Watershed Celebration Day
August 18-19, 2017
Camp Dawson Event Center
Kingwood, WV

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

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 awalker@wvca.us.

Planting trees to protect the Bay.

Chesapeake **Riparian Forest Buffer** Network

A web resource for those working to increase the amount of forest buffers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Features include:
• Interactive map showing areas of successful forest buffer enrollment
• Information on the importance and benefits of buffers
• Tips for successful buffer planting and maintenance
• Stories of successful collaboration and restored habitat
• Outreach and funding resources

Visit www.chesapeakeforestbuffers.net to learn more

Chesapeake **Tree Canopy** Network

A web resource to help watershed communities reach their tree canopy goals.

Features include:
• Interactive map showing local tree canopy assessments, goals and points of contact
• Best practices for tree canopy assessment, planting, maintenance and conservation
• Stories of successful tree canopy initiatives
• Outreach and funding resources

Visit www.chesapeaketrees.net to learn more

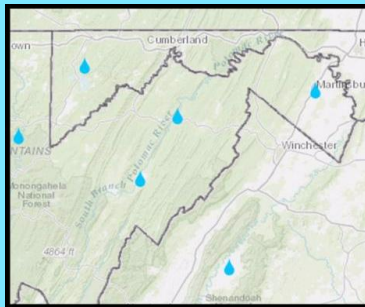## CommuniTree becomes "Established" in West Virginia

Tanner Haid, Urban Watershed Forester, Cacapon Institute

Let's face it, planting trees involves a lot more than just simply planting trees.

Special care must be taken in selecting the right species (do you want a large shade tree, or perhaps a small flowering tree, etc.), finding healthy tree stock (is there one central leader, does the tree have a healthy shape and structure, etc.), and determining a proper planting site (are there underground or above-ground utilities, is the site too close to sidewalks or structures, etc.). CommuniTree

Wastewater Upgrades are EPA Success Stories

By Alana Hartman, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released an interactive story map for Healthy Waters that maps success stories in several states. Click here to view the map and select the water drop icons to view the stories. Three of these are in the Potomac Basin of West Virginia, highlighting recent wastewater treatment plant projects in Moorefield, Romney and Martinsburg. These plants and several others have been upgraded in the past few years to achieve nitrogen and phosphorus load reductions as an essential part of West Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay pollution diet.

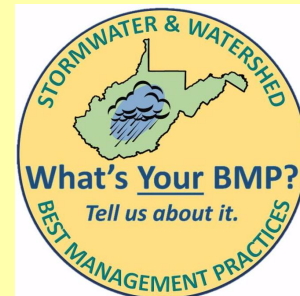# Report your Environmental Practices

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
* 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 Cacapon Institute's Watershed BMP Specialist, at bmp@cacaponinstitute.org.