



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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Winter 2017, Issue 24

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Personnel Changes

Meet WVCA's New Chesapeake Bay Manager

Carla Hardy Memorial Tree Plantings A Great Success

Cacapon Institute

Carla Hardy, a beloved conservationist and champion of trees, passed away on July 13, 2016. In honor of her lifetime of achievements, Cacapon Institute, through the recently renamed "Carla Hardy West Virginia Project CommuniTree," hosted a "Carla Hardy Memorial Tree Giveaway." This fall, 404 trees were distributed, free of charge, and planted at 151 locations in 31 different cities across West Virginia, mostly in the eight counties of the Potomac Basin, where Carla Hardy contributed so much to the WV Conservation Agency and conservation districts.



Carla's mother, Margaret Funkhouser, holding a picture of Carla in front of a weeping cherry memorial tree

Cacapon Institute is honored to give away trees in Carla's memory, explained Tanner Haid, Urban Watershed Forester. "As the founder of WV Project CommuniTree, as a valued colleague, and as a cherished friend, Carla is irreplaceable and her loss is sorely felt by all who knew her. Cacapon Institute is honored to carry on her legacy as we plant trees in her memory this fall and into the future. Our hearts go out to her husband and daughters, her family, and her many friends."

Project CommuniTree is supported by the U.S. EPA



In October, 2016 Suzy Campbell received the honor of filling the Chesapeake Bay Manager position with the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) in their Romney Field Office. Suzy is a Hampshire County native and has resided in High View, WV for 26 years. She received her Bachelors of Science in Agriculture from WVU in Environmental Protection with an emphasis in soil and water conservation and she is currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Environmental Biology at Hood College.

She has worked for the West Virginia Conservation Agency since 2011 and was previously a Conservation Specialist in the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) in Martinsburg. During her 5 years in the Eastern Panhandle, Suzy focused on grant writing and program management to improve water quality in impaired waterways through EPA's Clean Water Act Section 319 Program and EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program. She will miss her work and colleagues in EPCD, but is very excited to continue doing the work that she loves in all 8 counties of WV's Bay drainage. She is honored to follow in Carla Hardy's footsteps, and plans to continue increasing Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation and improving water quality throughout WV's Bay

Chesapeake Bay Program, USDA Forest Service, WV Department of Environmental Protection, WV Division of Forestry, and Cacapon Institute. Special funding for the Memorial Tree Giveaway came from the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, Potomac Valley Conservation District, and Alliance for Community Trees, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation, thanks to a partnership with CSX Transportation and their Trees for Tracks program.

[For full article, click here.](#)

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!

Envirothon Competition

Heather Duncan - EPCD

The Envirothon is a high school level competition that is held for public and private schools, homeschool groups, 4-H groups, and other youth organizations. Teams are formed in groups of five students and one advisor. It is an environmental science based competition that focuses on four main areas of natural resources: forestry, aquatics, soils, and wildlife. Students train to familiarize themselves with species identification, habitat conservation, current regulations, and many other facets of protecting and identifying natural resources. There is also a current environmental topic that is given as an oral presentation by the team. This year's topic focuses on environmental quality standards within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Each state hosts regional and/or state-wide qualifying competitions throughout the year to qualify for the NCF Envirothon which is held in either the United States or Canada. This year's competition will be held at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD July 23-29, 2017. West Virginia hosts one competition in April at various locations throughout the state. This year, the competition will be held at Jackson's Mill April 20-21, 2017.

Registration is now open and is available through the WV [Envirothon website](#) or by e-mailing hishman@epcd.us. Registration forms and payment are due no later than March 24, 2017. Many of the conservation districts hold trainings throughout the year that bring in area specialists in the four categories of competition. Also, many of the districts may help to offset the cost of registration. Information on your conservation district can be found at <http://wvca.us/map.cfm>. For any additional information on the competition, please contact Heather Duncan by calling (304) 263-4376 x 5 or hishman@epcd.us.

drainage just as Carla did.

If you'd like to contact Suzy and find out more about WV's Chesapeake Bay Program, she can be reached at scampbell@wvca.us or 304-539-2682.

WVCA's Newest Conservation Specialist



Andrea Walker became a Conservation Specialist with the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) in November of 2016. She was previously a partner employee between WVCA & NRCS. Andrea resides in Moorefield, WV and has a Bachelor's Degree from WVU in Agricultural Extension Education and a Masters from Virginia Tech in Agricultural Life Sciences with a concentration in Food Safety. She was previously an intern in 2012 with the WVCA.

Andrea's focus in her new position includes: editing and sending out the quarterly Chesapeake Bay Newsletter, educational outreach, Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation, Ag Enhancement



Tree Planting News for the WV Potomac Watershed

Herb Peddicord - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forester

The WV Division of Forestry wants to say thank you to all the volunteers for the great support this past year as we planted 6 riparian forest buffers (Cacapon River, Tuscarora Creek, South Branch, Opequon Creek, and 2 on Back Creek). See the video linked below, and picture above for the first-ever Back Creek Volunteer buffer planting.

[Back Creek Valley Video](#)

Coupled with these buffer plantings were several other Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) buffers, which resulted in over 42,000 stream feet of buffer planted during this recent reporting period.

The WVDOF also organized 8 other "Trees for Bees" public plantings in which we planted over 720 pollinator trees. We also distributed another 167 trees for bee keepers to plant. The Trees for Bees program is limited by staffing time, but the sponsor of this program, Geezer Ridge Farm in Berkeley County, wants this tree planting initiative to grow to 4,000 trees annually. The funding is due to arrive this spring.

[To read full article, click here!](#)

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Partners Working On a New Phase

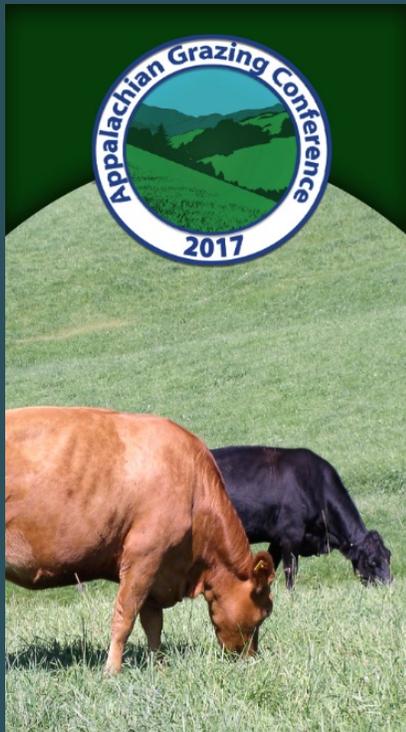
By Alana Hartman, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection



Program assistance, obtaining Nutrient Management and Conservation Planning Certifications, as well as assisting with tree plantings.

Feel free to contact Andrea at 304-553-3102 or awalker@wvca.us

GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS



2017 Appalachian Grazing Conference

March 9-11, 2017
Waterfront Place Hotel
Morgantown, WV
www.wvagc.com

Blue Ridge, Sleepy Creek, and Warm Springs Receive Awards at 18th Annual Watershed Celebration Day

Watershed Celebration Day honors WV watershed groups who are working throughout the state to keep our rivers and streams healthy and to educate their communities

[Click here](#) to view the full, 2-page fact sheet

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team is beginning the process of developing a Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan, or "WIP," in 2017. This year marks a significant milestone: the midpoint between the baseline and 2025 water quality goals of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load. West Virginia and the other jurisdictions with land area draining toward the Chesapeake Bay are required to make 60 percent of needed nutrient and sediment reductions by 2017, and 100 percent of the reductions by 2025. West Virginia is on track to achieve the 60 percent requirement this year. West Virginia's Phase II WIP has successfully guided numerous wastewater, agriculture, stormwater and forestry programs and projects in the eight counties of the Potomac Basin since 2012. [Click here to read full article.](#)

Remembering the Summer

By: Joclyn Kidwell, WV DEP Governor's Intern



Joclyn Kidwell recording data during her summer stream assessments.

For the second consecutive summer, I worked as an intern for the WV DEP, doing stream assessments in Berkeley County, WV. The focus was on the Back Creek Valley and the tributaries of Back Creek. Back Creek is a vital part of the area and home to several different species that rely on the water for survival.

I started the 2016 summer by visiting One Spring Run (also known as Town Spring Run), in Hedgesville, WV. This stream runs along Route 9, which was very different from other areas I had visited in the past. The assessment of the stream was done while considering the urban stream factors. All in all, the stream was not horrible. It was very silty in some spots, possibly due to a nearby quarry.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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

about the importance of watershed protection. Three volunteer watershed groups from WV's Bay drainage in the Eastern Panhandle were recognized for their hard work to improve WV's streams and rivers at the 18th annual Watershed Celebration Day (WCD) at Canaan Valley State Park in October, 2016. [Click to read about the award winners.](#)

Save the Dates!

February 1, 2017

Carla Hardy West Virginia Project
CommuniTree (CTree)

[Application](#)

****Applications for spring plantings are due 2/1/17****

March 9-11, 2017

Appalachian Grazing Conference
(AGC)

[Agenda and Registration](#)

August 18 & 19th, 2017



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.

(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:

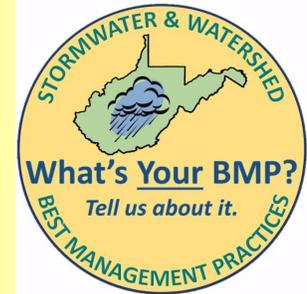
Go to cacaponinstitute.org, then click the "[What's Your BMP](#)" logo.

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.



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

