



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

[WV Chesapeake Bay Program Website](#)

December 2018, Issue 30

Quick Links

- [U.S. EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL website](#)
- [What's My Watershed?](#)
- ["What's Your BMP?" Residential Stormwater BMP Reporting Tool](#)

In This Issue

- [Personnel Changes](#)
- [Save the Date!](#)
- [Environmental Educator Apps](#)
- [EPA Names Dana Aunkst](#)
- [Summer -DEP](#)
- [Trout Unlimited](#)
- [Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree](#)
- [Dahl Tree Planting](#)
- [Eastern Panhandle Growers Workshop](#)
- [Trib Team](#)
- [Report Your Environmental Practices](#)
- [Newsletter Ideas Needed](#)

Personnel Changes

Meet Kristen Bisom



Join Trout Unlimited in Restoring Cold Water Resources in the Potomac Headwaters



Volunteers helped TU complete their largest riparian planting this fall, reestablishing the riparian buffer of a small headwater stream by planting over 1500 trees and lives stakes.

Trout Unlimited has been working to restore habitat and improve water quality for native brook trout in streams across the Potomac headwaters for over a decade. Why do we focus our restoration efforts on tiny streams that are often no more than a few meters wide?

A river system is a continuum through time and space; what happens upstream produces amplified changes downstream. Large rivers are connected to their upstream counterparts through the constant transportation of not only water, but also sediment, organic matter, wood, and chemical components upon which all aquatic organisms rely on to survive.

[Read more!](#)

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree





Kristen Bisom joined the West Virginia Conservation Agency as a Conservation Specialist in the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District in September. Kristen helps develop water quality improvement projects targeting impaired waterways in Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties through grant funding from EPA's Clean Water Act Section 319 Program and Chesapeake Bay Program.

Kristen earned two bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources and in Animal and Nutritional Sciences with a minor in Environmental Microbiology, and she is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Environmental Biology and a GIS graduate certificate at Hood College. She has previously worked in the stormwater field and in histology. Kristen is a Charleston native and currently lives in Shepherdstown; she enjoys trail running, kayaking, backpacking, and biking.

Feel free to reach Kristen at (681) 247-3011 or kbisom@wvca.us.

The goal of Cacapon Institute's Carla Hardy West Virginia Project CommuniTree is to protect rivers and watersheds by reducing stormwater runoff pollution, which will help restore local streams, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. To achieve this goal, CTree promotes planting urban trees on publicly-used lands in the Potomac Headwaters of West Virginia.

Every spring and fall, Cacapon Institute invites communities across the Potomac Highlands to apply for free CTree Kits to plant on public lands such as schools, parks, churches, and other community spaces.

CTree is designed so any volunteer group, regardless of experience, can [apply](#). Successful CTree applicants will receive technical assistance from Cacapon Institute and our partners.

Applicants are required to:

1. Submit applications on time (July 1st for fall plantings or **February 1st for spring plantings.**)
2. If awarded, plan & implement a successful community tree

planting. This includes engaging at least 25-30 volunteers and fostering at least \$1,500 in volunteer contribution (example [Volunteer Contribution](#) table from page 13 of application)

3. Maintain their trees in perpetuity (example [Maintenance Agreement](#))

Have questions? We have answers! Contact Cacapon Institute's Urban Watershed Forester Tanner Haid by email or by calling us at 304-258-8013 for a consultation today.

GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date!



Eastern Panhandle Safe Water Conservation Collaborative
January 24, 2019, 9am - 3:15PM.
RSVP to David Lillard at dlillard@wvivers.org

Dahl Tree Planting November 2018
Sleepy Creek Watershed
Kristen Bisom, WVCA

April 12, 2019:
West Virginia's Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan is due to EPA and shortly thereafter will be posted on WV's Chesapeake Bay Program website (<http://www.wvchesapeakebay.us/WIP/WIP3.cfm>) for public comment through June 7, 2019. As we finalize our



strategies, contact us to provide feedback or request information about this effort.

Environmental Educator Apps Submitted by: Heather Duncan



If farm based or outdoor environmental education is of interest to you, there's another e-mail list that you need to subscribe to. It's the Farm Based Education Network. The free network is nationwide (based in Vermont) and is filled with members ranging from k-12 educators, farmers, students, and college professors and beyond. Often times, workshops, professional development opportunities, and networking are the main focus of their newsletters.

What caught my specific attention in the most recent newsletter was the article titled, "Apps for the Environmental Educator." I quickly opened the [article](#) and was very impressed that Common Sense Education put together not only a list, but also included pros, cons, and classroom applications for each app. There are some possible limitations, such as device compatibility and cost of the app, however, most featured apps are compatible with all devices and are free. Personally, I have already downloaded a few and have been "researching" most of the day for applicable classroom suitability. ;-) I just wanted to give a plug to both the Farm Based Education Network and also for their article on the apps for educators.



Sleepy Creek watershed is located in Morgan County, WV, and Frederick County, VA, with a drainage area of approximately 145 square miles. Sleepy Creek drains directly into the Potomac River and has a TMDL that identifies fecal coliform bacteria as the major impairment.

On November 10, 2018, a riparian buffer was planted along 750 feet of a wet weather tributary of Sleepy Creek on the Dahl property in the Middle Sleepy Creek subwatershed. 145 native trees and shrubs were planted, and additional fruit trees will be planted this spring.

This project was made possible through funding from a Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant and assistance from the WV Conservation Agency, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, WV Division of Forestry, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Mr. and Mrs. Dahl, and volunteers.

News Releases from Region 03 EPA Names Dana Aunkst Director of Chesapeake Bay Program

12/12/2018



PHILADELPHIA (December 12, 2018) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the selection of Dana Aunkst as the new Director of EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program.

"Dana has the leadership skills, experience and commitment we need to lead the Chesapeake Bay Office," said EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "He has tremendous skill at building partnerships and creating a shared vision among geographically diverse stakeholders. His experience and relationships with multiple agencies will serve us and our partners well as we accelerate efforts to safeguard the Chesapeake Bay and its living resources."

Eastern Panhandle Grower's Meeting December 7-8, 2018 Blue Ridge CTC, Martinsburg, WV

Heather Duncan, EPCD



The newly constructed Best Management Practice (BMP) diorama was on display for the first time.

This model shows various land management practices and how it affects the soil and water. One side shows good practices while the opposite side shows poor practices. This model was made possible through funding from the Chesapeake Bay Program.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to build upon the accomplishments to date by EPA and its partners," said Dana Aunkst. "I look forward to working collaboratively with our stakeholders in protecting our nation's largest estuary and the local waterways throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed."

[Full article here](#)

Summer 2018 Internship

By Reyna Abreu-Vigil
DEP Intern

The first Eastern Panhandle Grower's Meeting, organized by the WVU Extension Service Small Farm Center, was held at the Martinsburg Blue Ridge Community and Technical College campus December 7-8, 2018. Think of it as a mini Small Farms Conference. The meeting brought together seasoned growers and those wanting to start with no clue where to begin. Friday involved a tour of local farms, a winery, and grocery while Saturday was jam packed with classroom setting topics such as marketing, production, and species selection.

Participants had the opportunity to browse vendor booths that included USDA and the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District and WV Chesapeake Bay

Program.



Reyna assessing streambank erosion and sedimentation alongside one of the tributaries



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

As the end of the 2018-year approaches, I have been reflecting on my experience this past summer working as an intern for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in Romney, WV. My internship was with the Watershed Improvement Branch, more specifically with Alana Hartman. I worked alongside another talented intern named Emily Landis, and together we were responsible for assessing riparian zones and the physical water quality in tributaries within Back Creek Watershed in Berkeley County, WV. This assessment was necessary in addressing concerns related to the overall watershed health. Back Creek Watershed is considered a shale barren ecosystem, home to several rare, threatened, and endangered species that take refuge within this area's undeveloped, forested land.

During our time working for the DEP, Emily and I were able to assess three tributaries of Back Creek including Elk Branch, Sawmill, and Tub Run. As part of our assessment, we followed the TEAM protocol, focusing on physical conditions of the watershed.

[Click 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 (BMPs) on your property and in the

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!

Newsletter Contributions Welcome!

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. **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 amongold@wvca.us.

