



## West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

[WV Chesapeake Bay Program Website](#)

Spring 2018, Issue 28

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## **Personnel Changes**

**Meet our  
Communication  
Specialist**

## **The Headwaters Award Cacapon Institute**



For more than 30 years, Cacapon Institute has focused on protecting West Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, while also supporting forestry-related education and projects along the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and into western Maryland. As a regional leader in forestry activities, the Cacapon Institute uses tree planting, education and stewardship as solutions for improving water quality. <http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/>

**Trout Unlimited Volunteers Keep Our Headwaters  
Cold and Clean**

**Mandy Nix, Trout Unlimited Potomac Headwaters Home  
Rivers Initiative**



Davin White is the West Virginia Conservation Agency's new communications specialist, and started at Guthrie in early January. He brings a writing, editing and visual communications background to the position, and is looking forward to working with the Conservation Districts, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the WVCA on communications projects that will improve conservation efforts in West Virginia and publicize the great work happening across the state.

He is a former reporter and editor with The Charleston Gazette and a past communications specialist with the West Virginia Education Association. He has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in journalism from West Virginia University.

A Fairmont native and a lifelong West Virginian, White spent a lot of time while growing up on his grandparents' cattle farm in Pendleton County. He has long been interested in land and wildlife conservation issues in West Virginia, and enjoys trout fishing and hiking places like Dolly Sods, Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks in his free time.

While crossing over Allegheny Mountain at the Randolph-Pendleton County border, as he has many times over the years, White recognizes the significance of the Eastern



SOS monitoring volunteers sample riffles for benthic macroinvertebrates\_ which can act as living indicators of stream

My favorite memories of water are set to the soundtrack of a trickle, with my back pressed against a peeling sycamore and my toes prodding at a creek no wider than an armspan. That trickle is where the magic begins, with water stealing out of a limestone spring and making the multi-mile journey from our mountain headwaters to the Potomac River and, finally, to the Chesapeake Bay, our nation's largest estuary.

Here in the Potomac headwaters, we work at the genesis of it all. With the support of a talented network of restoration specialists, conservation partners, and private landowners, Trout Unlimited continues to protect, restore, reconnect, and sustain even the smallest streams for the biggest impacts. Our cadre of 100+ volunteers, who planted more than 3000 native riparian species between fall of 2017 and spring of 2018, is also instrumental to our conservation efforts. As we restore cooling canopy, stabilize banks against erosion, and reinstall nature's remarkable energy warehouses, we're leaving our headwaters and our communities more resilient than ever.

[More information and upcoming events with TU!](#)

## Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM) Community Action in the Classroom



**July 16-18, 2018**

– Register today! [Registration and Medical Release Form](#)

- *LEARN* citizen-science protocols and standards-based curriculum

Panhandle as the starting point of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and West Virginia's responsibility in protecting it.

He looks forward to learning more about Best Management Practices and the people and organizations who are helping the Bay. White lives with his wife and 4-year-old son in Cross Lanes, W.Va. Feel free to contact him at **304-957-1409 or [dwhite@wvca.us](mailto:dwhite@wvca.us)**

- *EXPLORE* scenic Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- *INTEGRATE* civic action into your classroom
- *EARN*- \$375 stipends are awarded to participating teachers. Continuing education graduate credits are available through Marshall University for an additional cost.

The AWSM Community Action in the Classroom project is a collaboration between the AWSM program and Earth Force. This professional development opportunity is for formal and informal educators who want to integrate civic and environmental action into their classroom.

<https://experience-learning.org/learn/professional-development/>

## WIP II Successes Providing Momentum

Alana Hartman, WV Dept. of  
Environmental Protection



Since completing the [Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan](#) (2012) for West Virginia's participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program, hundreds of successful pollution-reducing projects have been completed in West Virginia's Potomac Basin by stakeholders, landowners, agency partners, non-profit organizations, students, and others. Because of these successful actions, we can approach the development of the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan in the coming months with confidence and knowledge of the best ways for our

## Agencies Educate Mineral County 6th Graders Cindy Shreve, WVDA



Personnel from West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection had a common goal this spring: educate Mineral County 6th graders about the environment and what they, as contributing citizens, can do to improve or protect water and soil health.

Mineral County is situated in the eastern panhandle and has a population of approximately 27,500. Every spring, an outdoor camp is organized for 6th graders in the county. To accommodate every student, the camp is required to run for several consecutive weeks. Students attending the week-long experience attend several mini-sessions that are conducted by professionals in their respected fields.

[full article](#)

communities to achieve the remaining required reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Here is a sampling of some success stories from the various "sectors" that were identified in the Phase II WIP:

[read about sectors](#)

## GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date!

Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM) Community Action in the Classroom - **July 16-18th** - [Register](#)

Bug Out with Trout Unlimited - 10AM to 3PM.  
June 16th (Moyers, WV), July 21st (Onego, WV)

**Register** - email [mnix@tu.org](mailto:mnix@tu.org)

**An impressive five teams from Chesapeake Bay Program counties finished among the top six during the 2018 West Virginia Envirothon at WVU Jackson's Mill in Lewis County.**



Mineral County FFA - 2nd place team

The Mineral County FFA team finished in second place, the Jefferson Agriscience Team finished third, the ECO Defenders team from Morgan



**May 10, 2018**

#### [RiverPalooza 2018](#) Registration Has Opened!

It's here and the first events are less than one month away! Sign up soon, because participation is limited, depending on the paddle, and you don't want to be disappointed.

Those of you who have participated before know what's great about these events – lots of opportunities to enjoy our rivers with friends old and new. Those of you who haven't: now is the time! We've waited a long time for spring and we deserve some fun time outside. Whether you like birdwatching, fishing, things historical, snorkeling, or getting out of the city for a camping and paddling overnight, there is something for you and your friends and family.



This year's *RiverPalooza* Event Schedule features:

- **Saturday, June 2** — Kick-Off "Make a SPLASH for Clean Water" in Harpers Ferry from two launch sites, beginner tubing and raft trips along with intermediate-level ducky floats
- **Wednesday, June 13** – Shenandoah River Birdwatching Paddle
- **Thursday, June 21** – Antietam Creek Float—a tour through history
- **Friday, June 22** – "Ghost Fleet" Paddle in Malloys Bay
- **Saturday, June 23** – American Indian Cultural Interpretation Paddle with the Piscataway Kanoi Tribe on Piscataway Creek
- **Friday, June 29** – Shenandoah River Fishing Trip
- **Saturday, June 30** – Trough Paddle/Overnight
- **Saturday to Sunday, July 14-15** – Paw Paw Bends Overnight Float
- **Saturday, July 21**– Shenandoah River Snorkeling—South Fork
- **Saturday, July 21** – Women on the Water Paddle – Potomac
- **Sunday, July 22** – RioPalooza—South Fork
- **Friday, July 27** – Monuments Paddle – Potomac



[Registration](#) is easy-- just pick the paddle and sign up! See you on the water!

**DONATE** (Please) **Become a Member**



[Forward this message to a friend](#)



County finished fourth, the Moorefield High School team finished fifth, and the Berkeley Springs High School team finished sixth.

The West Virginia Envirothon competition gives high school students an opportunity to learn about the state's diverse ecosystem and how they can conserve and protect it. The event was held April 19-20.

[Full results](#)

## 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**

# Bug Out with TROUT UNLIMITED

Photo credit: Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

## SOS Water Quality Monitoring Workshops

**Sat, June 16, 2018**

10 AM - 3 PM, Moyers, WV

**Sat, July 21, 2018**

10 AM - 3 PM, Onego, WV



Want to help improve and protect the water quality of our West Virginia streams? Get your boots wet on a spring-fed trout stream in the Potomac headwaters! In this partnership between **Trout Unlimited** and **WV Save Our Streams**, citizens of all ages will become water quality watchdogs as we explore the physical, chemical, and biological processes of our backyard streams. Lunch and creek critters come FREE, but **please RSVP to [mnix@tu.org](mailto:mnix@tu.org)** to learn about meeting locations and carpools.



## Report your Environmental Practices

### What's your watershed BMP?

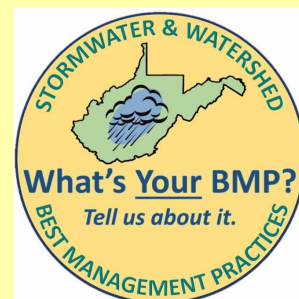
How are you protecting our lands and waters? People like you, who install stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on your property and in the community, help West Virginians achieve our goal of safe, swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waterways. By reporting your BMPs, you help us understand the 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](http://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](mailto:bmp@cacaponinstitute.org).

## 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](mailto:awalker@wvca.us).

