



## West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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Fall 2018, Issue 29

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## Chesapeake Bay Trib. Team Maintains Bear's Hell Run Riparian Buffer; A Carla Hardy Legacy

Suzy Campbell WVCA



Bear's Hell Run flows through a now thriving riparian buffer, previously an open field. A nature trail now follows alongside the riparian buffer

On an overcast day in August, members of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team headed out to Bear's Hell Run, a tributary of Lost River in Hardy County, to perform maintenance on a 9-year-old riparian buffer that was planted on November 13, 2009 by Carla Hardy, WVCA's late Chesapeake Bay Program Manager; Christi Hicks, NRCS; Jim Bowen, WV DOF; and East Hardy FFA. As you can see from the photos [attached](#) this buffer zone started out as an open field in 2009 and is now a thriving riparian buffer with completely enclosed canopy cover throughout most of its length.

[Full article](#)

## Many, Many Thanks to Suzy Campbell



## West Virginia in Full Swing of Phase III WIP Development

Alana Hartman - DEP  
Suzy Campbell - WVCA





Suzy demonstrated the benefits of rain gardens versus turfgrass at an Elks Run watershed workshop.

As Suzy Campbell leaves the position of Chesapeake Bay Program Manager with the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA), the Tributary Team partners would like to thank her for all her diligent work to reduce pollution, support watershed groups, and promote environmentally-friendly behaviors in the Potomac Basin. Suzy has been with the WVCA for almost seven years, coordinating 319 grant projects in all eight counties of the West Virginia Panhandle, and providing support in countless related efforts. Over the years, she has organized events, trainings, meetings, as well as coordinated volunteer projects, often bringing along an entourage of friends and family to help. Suzy has kept budget spreadsheets at-the-ready to keep streambank, septic and outreach grant projects rolling, ensuring that milestones were met, and additional funds were sought in time to fill the gaps. Suzy often shivered alongside watershed volunteers as they promoted rain gardens and other runoff-reducing practices at their early spring outreach events. She always kept partners up-to-date on the myriad of committees that make things happen within the Chesapeake Bay partnership in West Virginia, such as the Communications Workgroup, the Agriculture Sector Group, and the annual Watershed Group Gathering steering committee. Suzy helped start the Annual Watershed Group Gathering in the eastern panhandle, which consistently enjoys great attendance and rave reviews from participants. She also became the spokesperson of the Elks Run homeowner resource videos, promoting practices such as septic tank maintenance and rain barrel installation.

"It was recently pointed out to me that we get to work with great partners here, and I immediately thought of Suzy," says Alana Hartman, Potomac Basin Coordinator with WVDEP. "Collaborating on a project with Suzy made it easier, more effective, and more respected. It has been a synergistic effect which I hope was true

for her work, as well."

Matthew Pennington with Region 9 says "Suzy, then Lucas, now Campbell and I both began working with the Tributary Team in 2011, our rookie year. I remember the first Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Developed Lands work group meeting at Cacapon Institute's old double wide trailer in High View. As we scavenged for folding chairs mixed amongst the clutter, we both seemed a little unsure of what we had gotten ourselves into. However, her teamwork, ideas, and follow through during the development of West Virginia's Phase Two WIP are excellent examples of why West Virginia has been so successful in the Chesapeake Bay Program. Since then, I've had the pleasure to work alongside her and watch her grow not only as a professional, but also as an individual. I will miss her spirit while collaborating with her on projects which improve our wonderful State, and wish her happiness in the future".

Suzy Campbell has been an asset to the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership in West Virginia, and the Tributary Team would like to wish her all the best in her next adventure!



Matthew Pennington (Region 9) is one of several Trib Team representatives to exchange pollution reduction ideas with elected officials during the WIP III development

By August of 2019, West Virginia should be implementing the final Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan; the plan that details exactly how West Virginia will meet our targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment and achieve the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) by 2025. In the meantime, the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team, a group of natural resource professionals tasked with implementing WV's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to achieve the TMDL, is busy coordinating with stakeholders and the public to develop this final phase of the WIP.

We have held "sector meetings" to target different groups of stakeholders in the Phase III WIP development process, including agricultural and developed lands sectors.

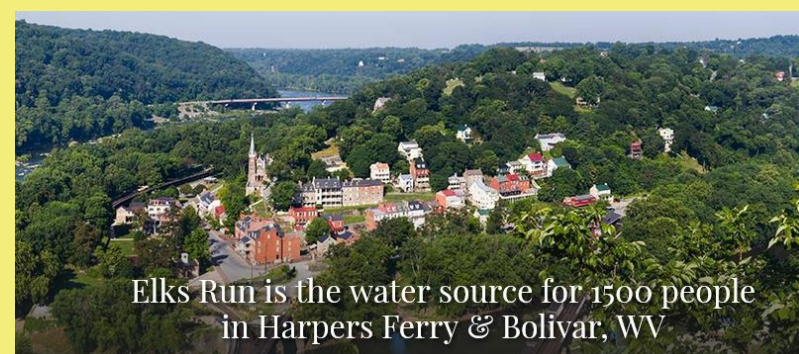
We have also held public meetings to make the public aware of this process and encourage feedback. The mission of these meetings has been to see where local priorities align with Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts and how they can be incorporated into WIP strategies. We will use the information collected at these meetings to craft the WIP and establish goals for the priority Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will achieve both local and Chesapeake Bay goals.

[Full article](#)

## More Than One Way To Form A Watershed Group

### David Lillard

### WV Rivers Coalition



The challenge of sustaining a watershed group to support Elks Run in Jefferson County is similar to that of other small watersheds: Many people don't know it exists. It wends through primarily private lands with few public access points; there is no fishing, paddling or other



## 2018 Watershed Group Gathering is a Hit! Suzy Campbell, WVCA



Holly May, Watershed Forester with Alliance for The Chesapeake Bay discusses tree planting cost share programs available to landowners to improve local water quality and benefit their properties, such as the USDA CREP program.

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District held their most well attended Watershed Group Gathering to date this spring! Forty-nine natural resource professionals, volunteers, local government representatives, and other community members attended the event on May 15th.

This year's event was unique in that it spanned an entire day, vs. it's usual half-day schedule and was packed full of fabulous speakers and timely information. Attendees heard from local watershed groups and their latest initiatives. The WV Department of Environmental Protection and WV Rivers Coalition discussed the state of federal and state program funding in WV. The Friends of Shenandoah River showcased their EPA certified volunteer monitoring program that watershed groups can take advantage of in order to collect EPA certified water quality data. The Berkeley County Health Department discussed private residential wells and the maintenance concerns and water quality testing that goes along with them. The US Geological Survey lead a discussion on the effects that pharmaceuticals and personal health care products have on fish followed by a review of proper pharmaceutical disposal by the Kiwani's Club of the Blue Ridge.

[Full article here!](#)

## GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date!

#### 13th Chesapeake Watershed Forum

Connecting our Communities: Celebrating Diverse and Innovative Partnerships

**November 2 - 4, 2018, National Conservation Training Center Shepherdstown, WV**

[Register here!](#)

recreational opportunities; and, fortunately, it is visible mostly where it crosses beneath roadways through a culvert. Its most accessible segment through public lands at Sam Michaels Park has been dry for several years except after heavy rains.

That hasn't stopped locals from taking on projects through the years. Under the umbrella of the Elks Run Watershed Group, partners have hosted tree plantings, conducted water monitoring and stream cleanups, and promoted rain gardens and other residential best management practices. Still, like many volunteer-based groups, Elks Run Watershed Group (WRWG) has struggled to attract sustained volunteer support.

[More on Elks Run Watershed and their great efforts!!](#)

## Summer Adventures

Emily Landis

DEP Intern



Emily and Reyna at the headwaters of Elk Branch Run, Berkeley County

This past summer I had the privilege and honor to work as an intern with the Watershed Improvement Branch of the WV Department of Environmental Protection with Aleta Hartman, the Potomac Basin



Environmental Protection with Alana Hartman, the Potomac Basin Coordinator located in Romney. I worked with Reyna Abreu-Vigil, another intern with the Governor's Internship Program. We were hired for the summer to perform a streambank assessment on Elk Branch Run, a tributary of Back Creek in Berkeley County, West Virginia. Together we assessed not only Elk Branch Run, but we completed two other tributaries of Back Creek as well, Sawmill Run and Tub Run.

When going into the field to assess the streams, we were looking for project opportunities based on factors including erosion, sediment, channelization, encroachment, inadequate riparian buffers, and areas with livestock access. We walked through or along the stream, estimating the length and severity of each impaired site, and taking GPS coordinates and pictures. With these coordinates we were able to make maps of the impaired areas through ArcGIS. We made a map of each tributary with all of the impaired sites, but we also made maps for the erosion and inadequate buffer sites for all three tributaries. That way volunteer groups and project teams can later use the maps to find potential project opportunities.

[Click to read more about Emily and Reyna's summer.](#)



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA



Save Our Streams (SOS) is a fun way to test water quality monitoring by collecting and identifying underwater insects, called macroinvertebrates. The VASOS protocol is used by the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) in order to collect volunteer-based water quality monitoring data. The Izaak Walton League is providing a workshop for those who wish to become a certified CMC Monitor. Visit [chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org](http://chesapeakemonitoringcoop.org) for more info about the CMC.



**What:**  
One Day SOS Water Quality Monitoring Workshop

**Where:**  
512 Paxton Cut Drive  
Hedgesville WV  
25427

**When:**  
Saturday, October 6, 2018  
9:00am-4:30pm



**Register Here:** <https://backcreeksos.eventbrite.com>

**Registration Cost:** Free!

**More Info:** Dress for the weather, as we will be doing the field component in rain or shine in the afternoon. Please bring a bag lunch, water bottle, and boots or shoes that can get wet.



For questions regarding the course please contact Emily Bialowas at [ebialowas@iwla.org](mailto:ebialowas@iwla.org) or (301) 548-0150 x236.

Save Our Streams is a project of the Izaak Walton League of America



Follow the League!

[www.facebook.com/iwla.org](http://www.facebook.com/iwla.org)

[www.twitter.com/IWLA\\_org](http://www.twitter.com/IWLA_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

## Report your Environmental Practices

### What's your watershed BMP?

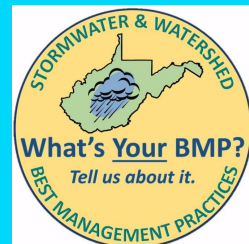
How are you protecting our lands and waters? People like you, who install stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on your property and in the community, help West Virginians achieve our goal of safe, swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waterways. By reporting your BMPs, you help us understand the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



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)

