



## West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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Winter 2018, Issue 27

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### Personnel Changes

## Meet our Watershed Forester



Holly May is our CREP Forester and is working out of the West Virginia Department of Forestry office in Inwood, WV.

Holly previously worked as a Conservation

## Barger Buffer Tree Planting-Sleepy Creek Watershed

Danielle Watson, WVCA



Sleepy Creek Watershed is located in Morgan County, WV and Frederick County, VA. This watershed flows 42 miles north into the Potomac River. The drainage area is approximately 145 square miles or 92,916 acres. The TMDL for Sleepy Creek identifies fecal coliform bacteria as the major pollutant.

The Barger's property is located on the South Fork of the Middle Branch of Sleepy Creek. The property consists of 42 acres total. There were 277 native trees and shrubs planted as a riparian buffer on October 17, 2017. About 2,000 ft. of stream bank was buffered.

Click [here](#) to see the list of trees planted and more information on the funding.

## Wilderness First Aid course at Spruce Knob Mountain Center

Kellee Waddell, Program Manager  
Experience Learning

Biologist and Certified Conservation Planner Specialist with NRCS in Bedford County, PA. While there she coordinated NRCS's Wetland Reserve Easement and Healthy Forest Reserve Programs throughout Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset Counties. Although she has spent considerable time conserving and restoring lands draining to head water (and trout laden) streams of our estuary, she is no stranger to the flat lands, brackish water, aromatic marshes and greenhead flies of the Coastal Plain. She worked for a spell with MD Forest Service on their vast Chesapeake Forest Lands on the lower Eastern Shore.

Holly has relocated with her family to Morgan County, WV. She is an active outdoors person; enjoying both fly fishing and upland bird hunting; and she really likes trees.

Feel free to email or call Holly at [hmay@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:hmay@allianceforthebay.org) or (814) 867-1104



To mitigate the risks inherent in backcountry adventures, many seek training in wilderness first aid. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) courses are designed to teach the basic skills and knowledge of how to prevent injuries and illnesses that can occur in the backcountry and how to deal with them if they do happen.

Our WFA course, run in partnership with SOLO is 16-hours of hands-on learning covering practical topics including: the anatomy of a wilderness crisis, backcountry essentials, cold and heat-related injuries, fractures, sprains and strains, allergic reactions, and much more. Participants can elect to receive CPR training as well. Upon completion of the course, participants will receive a SOLO WFA certification that is good for two years.

This year's WFA course will be held April 7-8 with the optional CPR held on April 6. The cost for the course is \$220 and \$35 for CPR. Food and lodging packages are also available. Register [here today!](#)

## Chesapeake Bay Program: Midpoint Assessment and Planning for the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans



The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL), established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2010, calls for an assessment in 2017 to review the progress that watershed jurisdictions (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) are making to reduce the amount of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus pollution) and sediment flowing into the Chesapeake Bay and local rivers and streams. The Bay TMDL calls for all pollution reduction practices to be in place by 2025.

### How is Progress Determined?

Under the Bay TMDL, jurisdictions and the EPA have agreed to develop short-term goals, called two-year milestones, to check in on progress being made to reduce pollution. The midpoint assessment will look at the jurisdictions' final 2016 - 2017 milestones and 2017 progress data to determine if jurisdictions have practices in place to achieve 60 percent of the necessary pollution reductions. These results will be

## Affordable Adventure Summer Camp Options for West Virginia Families

SPRUCE KNOB, WV



photo credit to Ellison Heil

Parents across West Virginia race to find meaningful summer activities to engage their kids, but often come to find that affordable, quality options are limited. It does not have to be that way any longer for families across the state taking part in Experience Learning's Mountain

finalized in spring 2018.

[Click here to read more](#)

## GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date!

#### Wilderness First Aid (WFA)

Spring 2018: April 7-8, CPR: April 6  
[Registration](#)

#### WVDA Accepting Nominations for Women In Agriculture

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture is currently accepting nominations of women that have made contributions that have aided in the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of West Virginia Agriculture, Forestry or Specialty Crops. Nomination applications can be obtained by contacting the WV Department of Agriculture at 304.538.2397, via email to [cshreve@wvda.us](mailto:cshreve@wvda.us) or on the website at [www.agriculture.wv.gov](http://www.agriculture.wv.gov).  
**The deadline is May 1, 2018.**

#### Youth Conservation Education Grant Application

**Sponsored by the W.V.  
Association of Conservation  
Districts and NRCS**

**Timothy VanReenen, President  
WVACD**



West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (WVACD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have partnered to create the Youth Conservation Education Grant.

This grant is designed to create educational projects for youth across West Virginia.

The WVACD is looking for grant proposals that will teach the youth of our state about agriculture and specifically agricultural conservation. We ask that these projects reach a fairly large number of both youth and adults. Our grant funds are limited so we are asking that proposals do not exceed \$25,000.

Stewards Summer Camp. The weeklong summer camp programs are available at a discounted rate, and additional scholarships are available to further reduce the cost for families. There is no better way to get your teen outside, unplugged, and connected to their home state.

Mountain Stewards offers a unique approach to a traditional overnight camp. As campers arrive, they are provided with all necessary technical equipment and gear before venturing into the surrounding forest as active participants on a backcountry expedition. They will spend their days exploring the forests and caves of Pendleton County and camp under the stars each night. [Full article](#)

To register or learn more, [click here.](#)

## Improving the Bay One Acre at a Time Cindy Shreve, WVDA



When writing the last Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP), stakeholders prioritized Best Management Practices (BMPs).

With that prioritization, came some lofty goals for the eight counties included in West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed.

One BMP that received significant consideration was Nutrient Management Planning. Nutrient Management Planning is a site-specific voluntary BMP. Soil samples are obtained and then analyzed for nutrient content. Nutrient Management Specialists use the results in combination with the individual producer goals to write a 3-year plan that will not only reduce the excess nutrient escape into local waterways but also increase yields.

Through collaboration by West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Conservation Agency, the substantial goal of 90,000 acres under nutrient management plan was met in May of 2017. Not only does West Virginia's water quality data reflect the importance of this achievement but many agricultural producers will attest to the success that following a nutrient management plan has provided for their individual operation.

Visit the link below to watch a short video about this success. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOCr7SL4h\\_E&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOCr7SL4h_E&feature=youtu.be)

We would encourage your proposal to be at least \$7,500; however this is not mandatory. The grant is very broad because we want groups to be creative in their project proposals and to develop well designed projects that will be beneficial and leave a lasting impact on the individuals they educate.

[To apply for the grant, please fill out the application, here.](#)

**For guidelines, and more information, read cover letter, here.**

Applications are due to the WVACD Office by **March 6, 2018**

If you have any questions regarding the grant application please do not hesitate to contact Timothy VanReenen at (304) 653-4897.

# Potomac River Shows Long-Term Improvement in Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Levels; Short-Term Results Are Mixed

Alana Hartman, West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Watershed Improvement Branch

**Table 1.** Summary of long-term (1985-2016) and short-term (2007-2016) trends in nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended-sediment loads for the River Input Monitoring stations. [Improving or degrading trends classified as likelihood estimates greater than or equal to 67 percent]

Monitoring station	Total nitrogen load		Total phosphorus load		Suspended-sediment load	
	Long term	Short term	Long term	Short term	Long term	Short term
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AT CONOWINGO, MD	Improving	Degrading	Degrading	Degrading	Degrading	No trend
POTOMAC RIVER AT WASHINGTON, DC	Improving	Improving	Improving	Degrading	Improving	No Trend
JAMES RIVER AT CARTERSVILLE, VA	Improving	Improving	Improving	No Trend	Degrading	Improving
RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER NR FREDERICKSBURG, VA	Improving	Improving	Degrading	No Trend	Degrading	No Trend
APPOMATTOX RIVER AT MATOACA, VA	No Trend	Degrading	Degrading	Degrading	No Trend	Degrading
PAMUNKEY RIVER NEAR HANOVER, VA	No trend	Degrading	Degrading	No trend	Degrading	Degrading
MATTAPONI RIVER NEAR BEULAHVILLE, VA	Improving	Degrading	No Trend	Degrading	No Trend	No Trend
PATUXENT RIVER NEAR BOWIE, MD	Improving	Improving	Improving	Improving	Improving	Degrading
CHOPTANK RIVER NEAR GREENSBORO, MD	Degrading	Degrading	Degrading	Degrading	Improving	Degrading

Changes in nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended-sediment loads in rivers across the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been calculated using monitoring data from 115 stations that are part of the Non-Tidal Monitoring Network.

The Potomac River at Washington, D.C. is showing long-term improvement in all 3 of the pollutants of concern for the Chesapeake Bay, as the chart below indicates. Short-term results were mixed, however. The total nitrogen load was lower in 2016 than 2007, so it was classified as improving, while the total phosphorus load was higher 2016 than 2007, so it is degrading. Suspended sediment was classified as having no short-term trend, since there is not a discernable difference between start and end years. These results are from a recent report by the U.S. Geological Survey entitled "[Summary of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Suspended-Sediment Loads and Trends Measured at the Chesapeake Bay Nontidal Network Stations: Water Year 2016 Update](#)," prepared by Douglas Moyer and Joel Blomquist.

[Full article](#)

## 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**

## Soil Tunnel Trailer



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

[Learn 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 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).

