



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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Winter 2019, Issue 34

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PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



New to the PVCD District:

The District would like to welcome the new office assistant, Bethany

Kesner. She is twenty-one years old and is relatively new to the Hampshire County area. She grew up in Roane County in the remote town of Newton. Bethany is married to Dylan Kesner, who works with the WV Division of Forestry. They attend Zoar Baptist Church, where they lead the worship music and volunteer with Sunday School. She enjoys helping children and

Volunteer effort vital to Jefferson County Fairgrounds Permeable Project

Davin, White, WVCA

Numerous volunteers graciously contributed their time to a project at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds that tackled a recurring water runoff and mud problem in one high-traffic area at the fair.

The volunteers helped build a grid of geoweb cells and filled the cells with gravel during the summer of 2019, and before this year's fair in August.

The Jefferson County Fairgrounds Permeable Project received \$42,000 in Chesapeake Bay Program funds. The work of the volunteers helped match those funds.

West Virginia Conservation Agency Conservation Specialist Barbie Elliott said the honeycomb-type system of geoweb cells would help reduce water runoff and mud at the fair.

"Well, the last two years, we've had very unusual weather, extreme weather with rainfall and so forth," said Jefferson County Fair President Bob Gruber.

Rain would turn the high-foot-traffic area between the livestock buildings and the commercial exhibit buildings into a muddy mess.



At the site now, with the work completed, the water drains to the center of the gravel lot and away from the buildings, which is what was intended

music and volunteer with Sunday School. She enjoys helping children and is currently working towards her BAS in Child Development through WVU Parkersburg. This is Bethany's first job, and she is very excited to have the opportunity to work with everyone in the District!

He Tends the Trees

By Alana Hartman, West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team is stronger because of the work done by Herb Peddicord. He retired in September after working with the WV Division of Forestry for 17 years. For the last 11 years, he was the Chesapeake Bay Forester, a unique position that had been created to help fulfill West Virginia's Tributary Strategy and Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay. Back then, we knew that tree planting and streamside forest buffers were needed all across West Virginia's Potomac watershed. But before Herb took this position, we didn't have an expert assigned to meet with landowners, develop planting plans, and teach us all how to plant trees. Since that time, Herb's influence has expanded over the years as he has trained and inspired others to plant even more trees.



Herb coordinated with watershed groups, farmers, Conservation Districts, beekeepers associations, master gardener clubs, and many others, to promote native trees and forests and to gain contacts on public or private lands where projects could be planned. He has a knack for listening to landowners and including tree species they will appreciate, such as trees that provide food for wildlife, or early spring flowers for pollinators. This might be the reason he always had a full slate of spring and fall projects, committing most Saturdays and many weekdays on the calendar every spring and fall to coordinating, supervising and cleaning up after tree planting projects.

[Full story here!](#)

Summer 2019 Internship

By Matthew Day



is what was intended.

Elliott and Gruber both see the project as also demonstrating to farmers that geoweb cells could be used on their farms at gate areas, at low-lying lands that farm equipment runs over frequently, at heavy-use areas where animals congregate, or even hillsides where the soil might need to be better stabilized. Elliott hopes the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District could help farmers interested in purchasing geoweb cells for their farms with cost-share.

Please see a video we produced on the project which can be found at the bottom of our website at: <http://www.wvchesapeakebay.us/>

Annual Legislative Forum

Heather Duncan, EPCD

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) is proud to host its annual legislative forum to provide updates on the work and accomplishments that have occurred over the past year to local, state, and national level leaders. It was also a time to update legislators and other government leaders on the work that has been completed using Chesapeake Bay Program funds.

This informal meeting showcased through presentations and photographs of the work the federal and state allocated monies have funded on various projects throughout Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson counties. The executive director of the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA), Brian Farkas, was also on hand to provide a statewide update of WVCA's work and to show the status of the 170 high hazard watershed dam structures and other statewide projects and programs.

Chad Thompson, WV DEP, was on hand to provide an update of the watershed-wide program update associated with the Chesapeake Bay Program. He discussed TMDL updates and also explained how money is allocated in the different programs and reiterated that each federal dollar must be matched dollar for dollar.

Delegates Tom Bibby, R-Berkeley, Daryl Cowles, R-Morgan, Larry Kump, R-Berkeley, and John Doyle, D-Jefferson, joined with senators Charles Trump, R-Morgan and Craig Blair, R-Berkeley. Also in attendance was Keith McIntosh, Regional Coordinator, with Senator Manchin's office.

EPCD would like to thank attendees and presenters at the event and to James Michael, EPCD Morgan County Supervisor, for moderating the event.

Hands-On Water Treatment for Kids

Step 1: Coagulation and Sedimentation

Go to a local pond or mud puddle and get a "dirty water sample."

To begin cleaning, you will need some Alum baking powder, about 3 Tablespoons into the dirty water sample

Then shake the dirty water and Alum mixture.



Let the mixture sit for at least three hours.



After three hours, you should return to find the Alum mixture has settled to the bottom of the jar.

Step 2: Filtration

The next step in cleaning is typically to pass the water through a Sand and Gravel Filter.

If sand is not available, feel free to use a coffee filter.

We suggest you use a berry container with holes already made if one is not available any plastic bowl with a hole will do.

In the plastic bowl, put sand (or coffee filter) in first, next add your gravel on top.

Pour your mixture over the gravel through the sand (coffee filter) into a clean bowl.



The summer of 2019 was very memorable with my internship experience in the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). I interned in the Division of Water and Waste Management's Watershed Improvement Branch at their field office in Romney, West Virginia. I was assigned to perform stream assessments on tributaries within the Back Creek Watershed in Berkeley County, under the guidance of my supervisor, Potomac Basin Coordinator, Alana Hartman. These assessments are a way to find problems and concerns within the watershed and to improve its health for the species that reside within it. While working for the DEP, I learned to perform my duties as well as many other skills along the way.

The Back Creek Watershed is nestled between the Third Hill Mountain Range to the northwest and the North Mountain Range to the southeast. It is heavily forested, containing some agricultural presence with very little major development. Within its banks are many species that are either endangered, threatened, or of special concern both at the state and federal level. These species, including the wood turtle, harperella, and the green floater mussel, depend on the health of the watershed. The stream assessments performed by the DEP are not only meant to ensure that this unique watershed stays healthy, but also to inform the public of any threats found within it.

[Full story click here!](#)

Apply for free trees

Deadline: February 1 (spring projects)



[Application here!](#)



Step 3: Disinfection

you can now boil the water and drink it.

If you do not plan on drinking a couple of drops of bleach will disinfect the water

About WV's Potomac Tributary Strategy 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.

WV's Potomac Tributary Strategy Team

