



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

[WV Chesapeake Bay Program Website](#)

Spring 2019, Issue 31

[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](#)

[Free Film Showing - "Living Soil"](#)

[The Best Time To PLant A Tree](#)

[Appalachian Grazing Conference 2019](#)

[WIP 3 Update](#)

[Family Night](#)

[Snorkeling Program](#)

[WV Envirothon](#)

[Summer Camps - Mountain Stewards](#)

[Women in Agriculture](#)

[Trib Team](#)

Personnel Changes

Meet Cindy Shreve

By: Davin White, WVCA



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Plan

by Alana Hartman, WV Dept. of Environmental Protection



Mill Creek, Berkeley County. Potential future site of nonpoint source pollution reduction projects.

For several years, West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts have been guided by the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). As part of the mid-point Assessment in 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model was updated and substantially improved, and all seven Bay jurisdictions were assigned revised nitrogen and phosphorus reduction goals. With these new goals in place, West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team (Trib Team) is charged with developing a draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP3) by April 12 and finalizing it by August 9. It will detail the strategies to be used and commitments needed to achieve West Virginia's nitrogen and phosphorus load targets. The Trib Team has been seeking input from various stakeholder groups since early 2018 and held public meetings on this topic in July 2018. This dialogue has helped to refine the input deck, or numbers of Best Management Practices that are entered into the model, which then estimates load results. Feedback from stakeholders and partners has also helped to highlight the most important programs and efforts, e.g. agriculture BMP cost-share programs and voluntary local stormwater ordinances, that



Cindy Shreve started as the new Conservation Services Manager North with WVCA on December 22.

Your path may have crossed Cindy's in the past, as she is joining the agency after four years with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Shreve, who is based in the Moorefield office, is a native of New Creek in Mineral County. She graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor of science in animal and veterinary sciences in 2004.

She and her husband raise contract pullets for Perdue Chicken, and are building a new home in Mineral County. They have two children: daughter Layla, who is 11, and a son, Owen, who is 8.

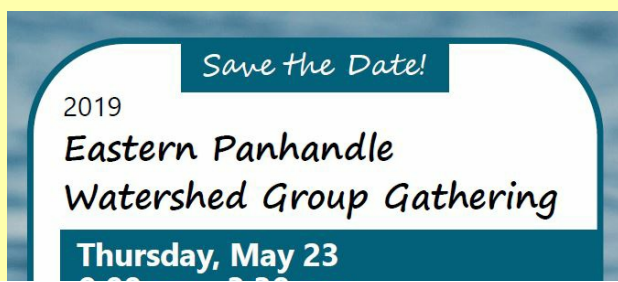
At home, Cindy enjoys gardening and canning.

Please welcome her to the agency.

Feel free to reach Cindy at (304) 941-3293 or cshreve@wvca.us.

GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date!



should continue through at least through 2025. The entire draft WIP3 will be posted at our [website](#) on April 12, where you are encouraged to read it and send us comments. In the meantime, WIP3 highlights are included in the [full article](#).

FAMILY NIGHT

Experience Learning



Family Night has become a very popular option where campers have the opportunity to show their families around our mountain campus on the shoulder of Spruce Knob, go caving alongside our instructors or hike in the national forest, enjoy dinner served at our yurts, and spend quality time around the campfire sharing s'mores, the night sky, and wonderful company.

In 2019 we are offering Family Nights on

Saturday, June 22 - Solstice Celebration

Saturday, June 29th - Astronomy Night

Saturday, July 13th - Kite Festival

Pick the activities and accommodations that best suit your needs:

Activities:

Guided Caving: \$15/person

Hike in the national forest (unguided): Free

Watercolor art on the back deck: Free

Campfire & S'mores: Free

Meals:

Full Package - Saturday Lunch, Dinner & Sunday Breakfast:
\$36.00/person

Saturday Only - Lunch & Dinner: \$24.00/person

\$5.00/meal 4-9 year old

Children under 3 are free

Lodging:

Camping w/ access to amenities: Free

Private Yurt (sleeps 2): \$60.00

Dorm bed: \$22/person

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College
Main Campus (Apple Harvest Dr)
Martinsburg, WV

Topics include:
WIP III updates, water quality patterns,
conservation easements, BMP tracking tool

Plus:
Afternoon workshops on social media fundraising and
grant writing; great for watershed organizations & others!

Morning refreshments provided.
Lunch on your own (feel free to bring a packed lunch).

RSVP by May 9: Email Kristen Bisom at
kbisom@wvca.us or call 681-247-3011

Sponsored by:
Eastern Panhandle Conservation District • West Virginia Rivers



WEST VIRGINIA
RIVERS

RSVP by May 9: Email Kristen at kbisom@wvca.us
or call 681-247-3011

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 10, 2019. As
we finalize our strategies, contact us to provide
feedback or request information about this
effort.

Free Film Documentary Showing

Heather Duncan

Eastern Panhandle Conservation District
hishman@epcd.us 681-247-3013



Family Night Schedule 2019

Register for you and your camper today!

Registration for Family Night will close one week before the
program date. Payment is due in full at the time of registration.
You may receive a full refund (minus a \$10 cancellation fee)
up until 2 weeks before the program start date. Past that time
we cannot grant refunds.

US Forest Service - Snorkeling Program

Harmony Dressler, WVDEP



Any season is the perfect time to explore the outdoors, but the
spring and summer offer many opportunities that you might
not have during the rest of the year. You could take a hike in
the woods, go for a bike ride on approved trails or around
your neighborhood, just watch the clouds roll by, or you could
enjoy one of everyone's favorite childhood activities: playing in
the creek! The US Forest Service has designed a program
that will allow you to do that in a unique way. The
Monongahela National Forest's snorkeling program has been
growing in popularity since its inception about 6 years ago.
The participants don wet suits and snorkeling gear to get a
"fish's eye view" of the stream. Then they investigate the
natural habitat of WV's aquatic life through a guided
exploration.

The snorkeling program works with school groups, 4-H
groups, or scouting groups that are located in or willing to

travel to the Monongahela National Forest. Wet suits, masks,
and of course snorkels are all provided for participants. If
you'd like to get your group signed up for the snorkel program
or get information on beginning a similar program outside of
the Monongahela National Forest's service area, contact The
Monongahela National Forest in Elkins at (304) 636-1800.
You can also like the program on [Facebook](#) to get updates on
the events scheduled for 2019.

**2019 West Virginia Envirothon set for Canaan
Valley in April; trainings scheduled for high**



In partnership with the Ranson Civic Center, West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, there will be a free community event to showcase the Soil Health Institute's recent release of their hour long film documentary titled, "Living Soil." This documentary showcases the past, present, and future of how far soil health and its importance has come in the United States. The film highlights various farmers throughout the United States and also recounts the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

The event will begin at 9 am on May 18th with a vendor fair of local environmental organizations and businesses. This free networking opportunity will run until 10:45 am with the film scheduled to begin at 11 am. During the film showing, there will be an opportunity for children of all ages to participate in crafts.

The event is free for all attendees and to those wanting a vendor booth. For more information on the event, to register for a booth, or to become an event co-sponsor, please contact Heather Duncan at the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District for more information.

hishman@epcd.us or 681.247.3013

school students planning to compete

Davin White, WVCA



CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The West Virginia Envirothon, the state's premiere conservation education competition for high school students, will be held April 17-18 at Canaan Valley Resort State Park in Tucker County.

Five-member teams who participate in the Envirothon explore current environmental and earth sciences within the framework of five disciplines: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental topic. Teams are often created through school clubs, classes at school, 4-H groups, Scout troops or home school groups.

Students are tested on their skills, problem-solving abilities and knowledge about natural resources, conservation and the environment.

Teams receive study materials and prepare for the competition ahead of time. Several conservation districts have already scheduled trainings this spring for teams competing in the Envirothon, to help in their preparation for the event.

Local trainings are:

1. The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District will hold a training April 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Nature Center at Cacapon State Park. This will include a question-and-answer session for the teams wanting specific

questions and methods answered. Most of the training will be outdoors (so dress for mud and weather) and a pizza will be served for lunch. Questions can be directed to Heather Duncan at 681-247-3013. The district covers teams in Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson counties.

2. The Potomac Valley Conservation District has planned a training for March 29 at Brookedale Farm in Mineral County, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided! For more information contact the district office at (304) 822-5174 or Andrea Mongold at (304) 790-6475. The Potomac Valley Conservation District serves Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral and Pendleton counties.

These trainings are a great opportunity for a feature story with

The Best Time To Plant A Tree

by Katie Wolpert



An ancient Chinese proverb states that "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is today." Or for North Fork Elementary, November 2nd. And

why stop with just one tree, when you can plant 16 of them?

As part of our on-going project with North Fork Elementary to help engage their students in their community, the upper elementary students spent the morning planting 16 fruit trees in their schoolyard. The lower elementary students came out to observe their work and learn their own lessons about the project in the afternoon.

As part of the Cacapon Institute's CommuniTree program, Rosey Santerre from the WV Division of Forestry and Connor Roessler of the Cacapon Institute helped the students plant 4 apple trees, 2 apricots, 4 peaches, 2 asian pears, 2 persimmons, and 2 plums. They talked about the different types of trees, the planting process and tools that are used, and they talked with the students about their jobs in the forest industry.

After planting the trees, the students learned about nutrition specific to fruits and vegetables, the overall health of their schoolyard and how these things relate to their physical and mental well-being.

Finally, Experience Learning instructors introduced games to reinforce these lessons and get the kids running around.

[Full article and more pictures here!!](#)

2019 Appalachian Grazing Conference

March 7-9, 2019 at the Waterfront Place Hotel,
Morgantown, West Virginia

By: Davin White, WVCA



The 2019 Appalachian Grazing Conference, the region's premiere grazing conference for livestock producers, began Thursday afternoon with a tour of WVU's Animal Science Farm and ran through Saturday at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown, W.Va.

The conference theme was: "Create a Winning

good, colorful art. Members of the media who are interested in covering a training in their area should contact Davin White at (304) 957-1409.

The West Virginia Envirothon Committee expects to grant \$15,000 in college scholarships during the event. Since 1997, \$200,000 in college scholarships have been awarded to West Virginia high school students through the Envirothon.

Mountain Stewards Summer Camp Experience Learning



Our Mountain Stewards summer camps are expedition-style programs with a stewardship focus. We offer different camps for ages 8-18 and all experience levels. Join us as we climb mountains, traverse caves, and navigate through West Virginia's beautiful and diverse forests. As we explore each group will take part in age-appropriate service projects.

These projects add to the sense of empowerment and satisfaction that our campers experience. [Browse our options](#) and please [contact us](#) if you have questions about the best fit for your family.

Women in Agriculture



the conference theme was: "Create a Winning Combination ... managing soil, water, plant and animal health." The conference had a focus on farm economics, conservation strategies and how to sustain productivity for the long haul.

Attendees at the biennial conference learned about the management of the key elements of soil, water, plants and animal health to improve grasslands.

Keynote speakers for the conference were Sarah Flack and Dr. Allen Williams.

[Full article here!](#)



Induction in the West Virginia Women in Agriculture is granted to those women who have made significant contributions to the agricultural industry. These contributions have aided in the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of West Virginia Agriculture, Forestry or Specialty Crops. Nomination applications can also be obtained by contacting the WV Department of Agriculture at 304-538-2397 or via email to kstrickler@wvda.us.

2019 West Virginia Women in Agriculture Application

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:

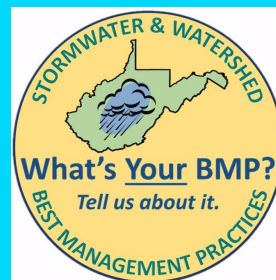
Go to cacaponinstitute.org, then click the "[What's Your BMP](#)" logo.

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.



Newsletter Contributions Welcome!

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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.

