



## West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

[WV Chesapeake Bay Program Website](#)

Fall 2020, Issue 37

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## Your Local Watershed Groups at Work

Alana Hartman, WV Dept. of Environmental Protection



Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition volunteers have been busy with water quality sampling in the Shenandoah River (pictured here) and other local waterways

## PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Member of WV's Tributary Team Elected Chair of Bay Program Committee

The Potomac Basin of West Virginia is home to some very active [watershed associations](#), made up solely of volunteers. As you will read below, these non-profit groups - most of which are located in the Eastern Panhandle - work to protect local waterways by doing stream clean-ups and projects in the *watershed* (land area that drains to the waterway), water monitoring, float trips, and outreach to their communities and legislators. From east to west they are: Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition, The Opequon Watershed, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association and Warm Springs Watershed Association. The territory of Friends of the Cacapon River includes part of Morgan County in the Eastern Panhandle, but also extends south and west across



Dr. Elliott Kellner

The Chesapeake Bay Program's BMP (Best Management Practice) Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team recently elected Dr. Elliott Kellner as its chair. Dr. Kellner, a member of West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team, is a Research Assistant Professor at West Virginia University, where he is dually appointed in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design and the Institute of Water Security and Science.

The Ad-Hoc Team will meet virtually each month through August 2022 to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's verification efforts. The main issues will be BMP credit duration and lifespan. Dr. Kellner's *curriculum vitae* can be viewed at [this link](#).

## Chesapeake Bay Forum 2020 Gone Virtual Still Time to Register!

There is still time to register for the virtual 2020 Chesapeake Watershed Forum, which will take place on October 29-30.

Many know this annual event by the multi-day format historically held at the beautiful National Conservation Training Center just outside of Shepherdstown. The event is an excellent way to network, enjoy fantastic food, and even better natural scenery. However, due to

much of Hampshire and Hardy Counties. Click [here](#) to read about the groups' recent activities and to learn how to get involved.

Related item: see the West Virginia Watershed Symposium information in the left column of this newsletter!

## Hands-On Activity for Kids

### DIY: Make a Bee House with Recycled Materials



### You'll Need:

- Medium size can
- 2 rolls of toilet paper (empty)
- Sheets of paper
- Gorilla glue (or other kid-friendly glue)
- Tape
- Paint for the tin can (optional)

### Step By Step Instructions:

1. Measure the length of your can and cut your paper in a way that the length of the paper roll will fit inside the can.
2. Roll the paper around a pencil to get the right shape
3. Then tape edge of the paper band to the roll to keep the diameter, remove the pencil.
4. Place the rolls inside the can, you can apply a thin layer of glue at the bottom of your can. Place your 2 toilet paper rolls where you wish inside the can and fill up the empty space with your paper rolls.
5. Find a location: The new mason bee house needs to be in an open, sunny spot which isn't shaded by plants, about 3ft from the ground. The fixing must be secure - the can shouldn't flap and move about in the wind.

## WVCA Introduces Rainey Raindrop



the current pandemic, the event organizers have formatted the event into a two-day online format with the theme, "Climate Resiliency in a Changing Chesapeake Watershed."

Sessions will focus not only on topics of climate and all that is related but also on restoration efforts, upcoming partnerships, and environmental injustice. Information on sessions and registration can be found on their website. Registration costs \$75 and is open until October 29.

### Pesticide Collection for WV Residents - October 24

The WVDA and the Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority are hosting a pesticide collection on October 24, 9 am-5 pm, at the South Berkeley Recycling Center at 637 Pilgrim St. Inwood, WV. There is no preregistration or fee to drop off pesticides. This will be open to homeowners and businesses, such as farms, orchards, golf courses, landscapers, and other pesticide applicators.

Listed below are some examples of acceptable material:  
Insecticide, herbicide, rodenticide, fungicide, aerosol cans of insecticide (such as wasp sprays), weed & feeds, pesticide products no longer on the market, and other products that end in "-cide."

Unacceptable items include:  
Pressurized cylinders, cyanide, paint, gasoline, oil, cleaning products, medications, and other chemicals are not classified as pesticides.

For more information and/or questions, please contact:

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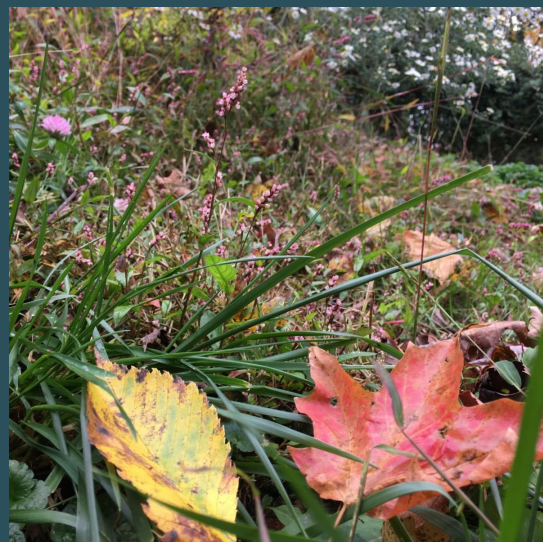
Rainey Raindrop, the new West Virginia Conservation Agency education character will be featured in an upcoming activity book that will be available to the public.

A retired teacher, Ms. Rainey takes students on a journey back in time, teaching the history as well as the future goals of the Chesapeake Bay programs.

For your copy of the Rainey Raindrop activity book, please contact your local conservation district.



### Leave the Leaves!



Consider raking less this year, allowing fallen leaves to lie on your property if they are not in the way. According to an article on National Wildlife Federation's website last fall, raking up fallen leaves and sending them to a landfill in bags is the norm

## Register for West Virginia's Watershed Symposium

November 5-6, 2020

This year, West Virginia's Watershed Symposium, formerly known as Watershed Celebration Day, will be held virtually. If you are a member of a watershed association (see article above) or would like to be, please participate in this FREE event!

Register at this link:  
[wvriivers](#)

for most American families during the fall. However, these actions not only harm the environment and wildlife habitat, but also rob your garden of precious nutrients. Here's the [full article](#).

## 2021 Envirothon Information

by  
**Davin White**  
**Communications Specialist**  
**West Virginia Conservation Agency**

The 2021 West Virginia Envirothon is currently scheduled to take place in the heart of Chesapeake Bay country in the Mountain State, at Cacapon State Park in Morgan County on April 15-16, 2021.

The WV Envirothon Committee is fully committed to holding the event this year.

If COVID-19 restrictions lead to a change in the Envirothon's date, location, or format, the competition may become a virtual event. Any decision will be made with the safety and well-being of students, advisers, staff, and volunteers as the highest priority. We will keep everyone updated as more information becomes available.

On Sept. 28, committee members and presenters got together at Holly-Gray Park in Braxton County to film teacher training sessions that teachers and students can use to prepare for the upcoming competition.

These training videos will be featured on the Envirothon Facebook page and available on the West Virginia Envirothon homepage (<https://www.wvca.us/envirothon/>) by the first week of November.

Volunteers are always welcome to help organize the Envirothon. For more information, contact Wayne McKeever at 304-771-3174.

The WV Envirothon is an annual two-day competition for students in grades 9-12. Teams consist of five students who compete in five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental topic. Students learn about West Virginia's diverse ecosystem and how they can help conserve and protect it for future generations. Winners also receive college scholarships.

The high school team who wins the 2021 West Virginia Envirothon competition will compete in the national competition. The 2021 NCF-Envirothon will be at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, held from July 25 to July 31, 2021.

## 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**

