



## West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

[WV Chesapeake Bay Program Website](#)

Summer 2020, Issue 36

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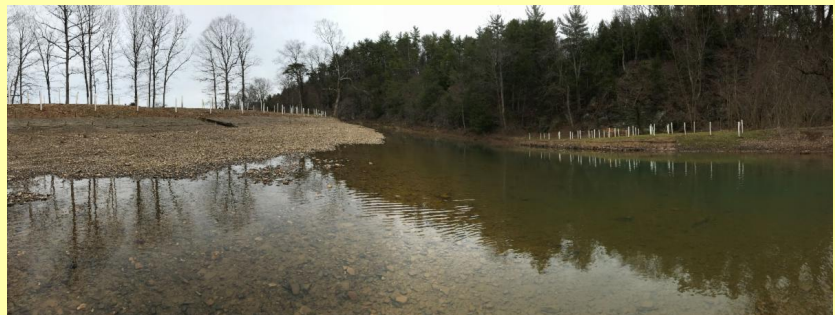
[Virtual Water Fair](#)

## PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### New to WV's Tributary Team

## Streambank Restoration Projects in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle

**Alana Hartman, WV Dept. of Environmental Protection**



**Kristen Bisom of the West Virginia Conservation Agency's Martinsburg office has been coordinating two river improvement projects in recent months. Both resulted in the stabilization of severely eroding streambanks. The site on Sleepy Creek in Morgan County was identified by the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association and its partners, and the site (pictured above) on Back Creek in Berkeley County was prioritized by the partners who developed the Back Creek Protection Plan. Streambank restoration is a practice emphasized in West Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay because it achieves multiple benefits, including reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment and providing habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. The Back Creek project was funded through the Clean Water Act Section 319 and the Sleepy Creek project was funded through the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant. Click [here](#) for more photos and descriptions.**

## Hands-On Activity for Kids

**A Bubbling Baking Soda Experiment**



Todd Carnell, WV Division of Forestry

Todd Carnell began his new role as West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Forester on February 3, 2020. He is also the Service Forester for Jefferson County. Todd has been a professional forester for 34 years, and brings broad experience to the job. He worked for the state as a Service Forester in Wyoming and Hardy Counties, and more recently was a procurement forester at the Verso paper mill in Luke, MD. In his current role, he will be involved in Best Management Practices associated with logging, technical assistance for tree planting projects, fire-related duties and other forestry-related tasks. Todd is married to Linda Carnell and has one daughter, Clarissa. Todd is passionate about his work and loves the outdoors, including hunting and fishing. Join me in welcoming him to the team!

## WV Watershed Groups: Free Virtual Engagement Webinar

West Virginia Rivers Coalition and The River  
Network

"WV Watersheds Peer Learning -  
Making Online Connections"

Online - Thursday, July 23, 11-12pm

Register [here](#)

Connecting with your members,



### You'll Need:

- Vinegar
- Water Bottle
- Funnel
- Baking Soda
- Balloon

### Step By Step Instructions:

1. Put two ounces of vinegar into the water bottle
2. Take 1 Tablespoon of baking soda and funnel it into the balloon
3. Tightly secure the balloon onto the top of the water bottle, without letting the baking soda drop in yet.
4. When ready, gently shake the baking soda out of the balloon and into the bottle, holding tight where the balloon is secured to the top of the bottle so it doesn't fly off.

## WVCA Continues Dam Safety during Quarantine

By Heather Duncan

donors, and volunteers is more important than ever right now! But how can you do that safely in this time of physical distancing?

Join River Network and WV Rivers to discuss how watershed groups can get creative during this time to engage with members; host online and virtual events; and conduct outreach and education activities all while keeping everyone safe, healthy, and physically-distant.

We are all having to adapt our work habits and lifestyles during this unprecedented time. Let's learn how to do it together!

## Pollinator Week: Pollinators, Plants, People, Planet

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them.

Thirteen years ago the U.S. Senate, initiated by Pollinator Partnership under Laurie Davies Adams, unanimously approved and designated a week in June as "National Pollinator Week", marking a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. That same year, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns issued a proclamation that Dr. Larry Stritch, US FS Chief Botanist for Grasslands, orchestrated. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.



Members of the Agency's watershed division who are performing an essential role during the Governor's Order's, as watershed technicians and managers are responsible for the continued inspection of 170 high hazard, small watershed dams in West Virginia.



## The Spotted Lanternfly

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), is an invasive plant hopper native to China, India, Vietnam. The SLF has the potential to greatly impact agricultural crops such as grapes, orchards, and hardwoods. States at risk include Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. Spotted lanternflies can spread long distances by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. If allowed to spread in the United States, this pest could seriously impact the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries.



To report Spotted lanternfly please send pictures to [bugbusters@wvda.us](mailto:bugbusters@wvda.us)

## Tuscarora Creek Project Team Creates "Virtual Water Fair" for the 2020 Berkeley County Youth Fair

by Alana Hartman, West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection

This summer, the City of Martinsburg's Stormwater Department created an [educational webpage](#) to house videos and diverse online activities related to water. Partners from the Tuscarora Creek Project Team including Project WET (Water Education Today), Berkeley County Public Service Stormwater District, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Cacapon Institute, and West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection's Watershed Improvement Branch contributed content to the website, such as games, educational links, and newly-created videos. Last year, these partners hosted a "water fair" corner at the Berkeley County Youth Fair in Martinsburg, which was very popular with families in attendance. This year, knowing the Youth Fair had been changed to a virtual event, the Tuscarora Creek Project Team decided to work on virtual content for the youth to enjoy, and the City's staff coordinated the effort. Many of the modules can remain online in the future to educate and entertain additional audiences. One new, noteworthy feature is "[Find Your Watershed](#)," a map tool created by the City's stormwater staff and Tanner Haid of WVRC, which allows the user to find his/her watershed using a street address. The user can then zoom in to the area to learn more about the streams and rivers, as well as local watershed groups and non-profits that work to improve them. Check out the tool and consider becoming involved with your local group!

## 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**

