# West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Trib Team



Fall 2021 | Issue 41

Highlights and News Latest updates and stories related to WV progress.

> WV Highlights

Subscribe to our newsletter!

Sign up now!

Find us on Facebook!



#### In This Issue:

- New Employee Spotlight with Megan Diehl
- October is Riparian Buffer Month
- Antram Farm Recognition
- Stauffer's Marsh Highlight
- Expedition Chesapeake is available
- Upcoming Events
- Fall Activity Sheet



### BATS, BATS, BATS

This Eastern Red Bat is one of the most common bats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. As people begin to wind down in the fall, these creatures are just becoming more active.

Read more about the life of bats in the Bay below!

**READ MORE** 

## **New Employee Spotlight**

Megan Diehl recently started with Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development (Region 9) as the new Environmental Program Coordinator. She graduated from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania with both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Geoenvironmental Studies. She is coming to the team from Upper Allen Township where she was an Environmental Planner/MS4 Program Manager.

Megan grew up in Delaware County,
Pennsylvania where she found her passion for the
environment through family camping trips. In her
new position, she is excited for assisting local
government entities and communities with an eye
toward new policies/regulations and fostering
partnerships. In her free time, Megan enjoys
spending time outside with those closest to her...
PLANTS, and her husband, son, and dog of course!



Read More

# **Program Recaps**

### October is Riparian Buffer Month

The month of October is riparian buffer month, dedicated to the health and connectiveness of vegetative buffers along waterways. Buffers can help restore stream banks, filter nutrients, provide natural habitat for wildlife, and have many other benefits for a watershed. Landowners and community leaders are



encouraged to look for ways to create a healthy watershed through stream buffers! To learn more, click the link below.

Read More

**Antram Farm Finalist for 2021 WV** 



#### Conservation Farm of the Year

The Antram Farm, owned by Randy and Shelley Brock and Tyler Butts in Berkeley County, was a finalist for the 2021 WV Conservation Farm of the Year. Over the last seven years, Antram Farm has implemented many Ag BMPs to benefit the

Chesapeake Bay watershed, including projects funded with Chesapeake Bay awards. Congratulations to the owners and operators at Antram Farm for their accomplishments and recognition as a finalist for this award! Check out more in the link below!

Read More

## **Experiencing Stauffer's Marsh**

In the Summer newsletter we highlighted the enhancements at Widmyer Marsh in Morgan County, and in this newsletter we are highlighting another scenic marsh in our watershed, Stauffer's Marsh.

Stauffer's Marsh is a 46 acre preserve located in Berkeley County along Back Creek Valley Road. This ecosystem is dominated by a large, shallow pond, but also encompasses portions of the Back Creek watershed and large wildflower meadow. The preserve is owned and maintained by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society, where they regularly use the area for educational events for the community. To learn more about this wetland and its importance in the Bay watershed, click the link below!





### **Expedition Chesapeake Film**

Expedition Chesapeake, a film about the Bay's unique ecosystem and its importance is available for purchase at the link below! This resource would be

fitting for schools or other educational groups looking for an insight into the Bay.

View the Trailer Here

# **Upcoming Events**



# Careers in Conservation for the Youth Environmental Conference

The WVDEP is virtually holding a youth conference to highlight careers in conservation Oct. 25 - 29. It was set to be help at Cacapon State Park, but concerns with the rise in COVID numbers forced a change to virtual. This is a great

opportunity for kids ages 13-18 to learn more about career opportunities in conservation in West Virginia. The event will be held on both the WVDEP YouTube Channel and also their Facebook Page.

View the Event Here

# There is still time to register for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum!

The forum will be held virtually November 1st - 5th. Click the link below to registeration.



Click Here for Registration!

Spiders, Bats and Insects, Oh My!

November 15th is America Recycles Day!



85% of the worlds flowering plants and 35% of our food crops require insect or animals pollinators to reproduce.

Pollinator populations have declined due to habitat loss.Natural habitat supports native bees, of which North America hosts more than 3500 species.Most bees are solitary and not aggressive.

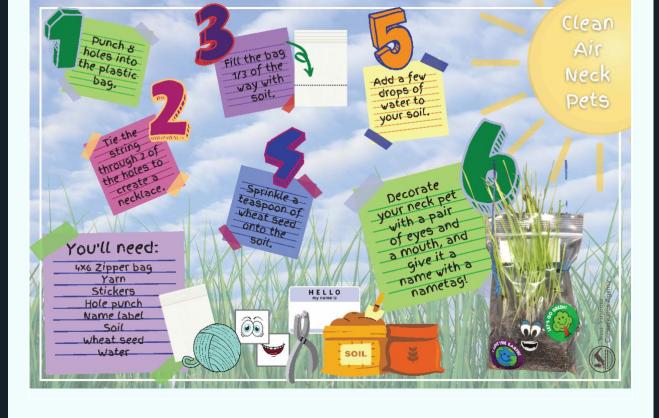
Simple ways to support pollinator populations:

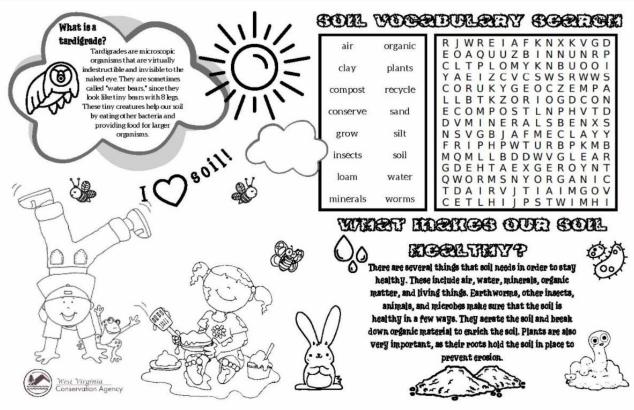
- Planting pollinator gardens that bloom from spring to fall
- Planting milkweed for Monarch butterflies.
- Providing shelter such as bee houses, butterfly boxes, bat houses and nesting materials.
- Using pesticides sparingly and never using them when flowers are in bloom.
- By spreading the word!



Celebrate by taking small, yet impactful steps monthly to reduce your one-time use consumption. There are many ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

One simple step is to pack your lunch in reusable containers and bags. Also, opt for fresh fruits and veggies and bulk items instead of products that come in single serving cups.





The West Virginia Conservation Agency has ready-to-print 11" x 17" or 8.5" x 14" activity instructional place mats available for educators and families.

Contact <a href="mailto:afiggatt@wvca.us">afiggatt@wvca.us</a> for a high resolution file.