

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Trib Team



Fall 2021 | Issue 41

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

WV
Highlights

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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!



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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!

[Read More](#)



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 held 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 registration.



2021 Chesapeake Watershed Forum

[Click Here for Registration!](#)

**Spiders, Bats and
Insects, *Oh My!***

**November 15th is
America Recycles
Day!**



Spooktacular Pollinators

85% of the world's 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!

THE SOLUTION IS LESS POLLUTION

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR YOUR TRASH TO BREAK DOWN IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?



PLASTIC BOTTLE

450 YEARS



SODA CAN

80-100 YEARS



FRUIT PEEL

2-5 WEEKS



TIN CAN

50 YEARS



PLASTIC BAG

10-20 YEARS



CARDBOARD BOX

2 MONTHS



Reusable, sealed containers for drinks, sandwiches, snacks and other lunch items instead of plastic bags is a great way to reduce one-time use plastic consumption!

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.

Rainy Day Activities



What is a tardigrade?

Tardigrades are microscopic organisms that are virtually indestructible and invisible to the naked eye. They are sometimes called "water bears," since they look like tiny bears with 8 legs. These tiny creatures help our soil by eating other bacteria and providing food for larger organisms.

SOIL VOCABULARY SEARCH

air	organic
clay	plants
compost	recycle
conserve	sand
grow	silt
insects	soil
loam	water
minerals	worms

R J W R E I A F K N X K V G D
E O A Q U U Z B I N N U N R P
C L T P L O M Y K N B U O O I
Y A E I Z C V C S W S R W W S
C O R U K Y G E O C Z E M P A
L L B T K Z O R I O G D C O N
E C O M P O S T L N P H V T D
D V M I N E R A L S B E N X S
N S V G B J A F M E C L A Y Y
F R I P H P W T U R B P K M B
M Q M L L B D D W V G L E A R
G D E H T A E X G E R O Y N T
Q W O R M S N Y O R G A N I C
T D A I R V J T I A I M G O V
C E T L H I J P S T W I M H I

WHAT MAKES OUR SOIL HEALTHY?

There are several things that soil needs in order to stay healthy. These include air, water, minerals, organic matter, and living things. Earthworms, other insects, animals, and microbes make sure that the soil is healthy in a few ways. They aerate the soil and break down organic material to enrich the soil. Plants are also very important, as their roots hold the soil in place to prevent erosion.

I ♥ soil!

West Virginia Conservation Agency

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 afiggatt@wvca.us for a high resolution file.