



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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Winter 2021, Issue 38

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Sleepy Creek Stream Restoration

Kristen Bison, WVCA



Above is a picture of the completed Sleepy Creek Project

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

New to the WVDA

A multi-year stream restoration project targeting 612 linear feet of highly eroded stream bank on Sleepy Creek in Morgan County was completed in 2020. After concerned landowners contacted them about their eroding stream bank in 2014, the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) obtained a NFWF Technical Assistance Grant in 2016 to hire a firm to assess the site and create a stream restoration design. The assessment found that the erosion was contributing around 80 tons of sediment and associated nitrogen and phosphorus to the creek each year. The final design included four j-hooks to redirect water flow away from the eroded bank, rock revetments and soil lifts to stabilize/restore the stream bank, and measures to save mature trees along the stream bank.



Skylar Martin, WVDA

Skylar Martin, of Maysville, WV, graduated from West Virginia University in August 2020. She earned her Bachelor's of Science degree with a major in Environmental and Energy Resources Management and a minor in Agriculture and Natural Resources Law. She worked as a Soil Technician Intern for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture for three summers while working towards her degree, and recently started full-time as a Nutrient Management Specialist in October 2020. Skylar works with agricultural producers in 8 counties throughout the Potomac Valley and Eastern Panhandle. She assists the producers by developing site-specific nutrient management plans that allow them to determine the most appropriate nutrient recommendations for their crops. The nutrient management plans are also prepared in an effort to protect the quality of water features on the farm, as well as to consider any Best Management Practices that could be implemented to conserve soil integrity, water quality, and the overall quality of the crops harvested on the operation.

Please, Welcome Skylar!

In 2019, the SCWA partnered with the WV Conservation Agency to obtain a Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant for construction of the project. Construction was completed in summer 2020. During construction, SCWA volunteers waded the creek daily to look for and relocate turtles found within the work area.

The contractor returned in the fall to plant tree and shrub plugs on the soil lifts, and a 35-foot riparian buffer was later planted along the top of the bank by SCWA volunteers. This vegetation will be key to further stabilizing the soil lifts and top of the stream bank.

[Full Article Here !](#)

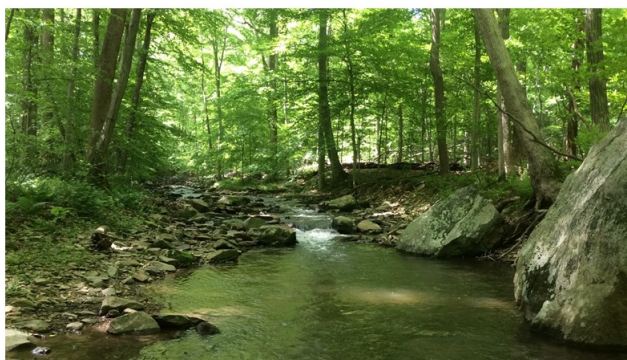
[Please Watch The Sleepy Creek Video !](#)

Citizen Scientists Needed for New Stream Temperature Study

Do you live in the Eastern Panhandle and want to know more about your favorite stream or spring? Then this opportunity may be for you! Researchers with the US Geological Survey (USGS) Leetown Science Center are launching a new study to understand how groundwater affects stream temperature - and how this may affect future conditions. Here's how you can get involved:

1. Contact USGS with a proposed stream or spring site.
2. USGS will mail you a stream temperature gage (for free) with instructions to deploy it.
3. You'll deploy the gage, let it sit in the stream for a few months, then mail it back to USGS.
4. USGS will provide you with a summary of the data, including an analysis of how your stream compares with others in the region.

For more information and to get involved, contact: Dr. Nathaniel (Than) Hitt, nhitt@usgs.gov



Hands-On Activity for Kids:



Save the Dates for the Chesapeake Stormwater Network's spring series of panels on hot topics in the field of stormwater management. Registration is free, and more information will be available on their [website](#) in early February.

March 10:

The BUBBAs Awards Ceremony

March 16:

Climate Change and Extreme Rainfall: Translating Future Projections into More Resilient Urban Communities

March 18:

New Paradigms to Manage Urban Floods in the Bay Watershed

March 22:

Developing the Next Generation of Stormwater Design Criteria

March 26:

Rendezvous Virtual Happy Hour

March 29:

Confronting DEIJ Issues in Urban Watersheds and our Stormwater Profession

March 31:

Secrets of the Rich and Famous: Tips on More Effective Restoration Grantmanship

April 2:

Seeing the Forest Through the Trees in the Bay Watershed

April 6:

Finished and Unfinished Business in Stream Restoration

See the **Full Agenda** [here](#).

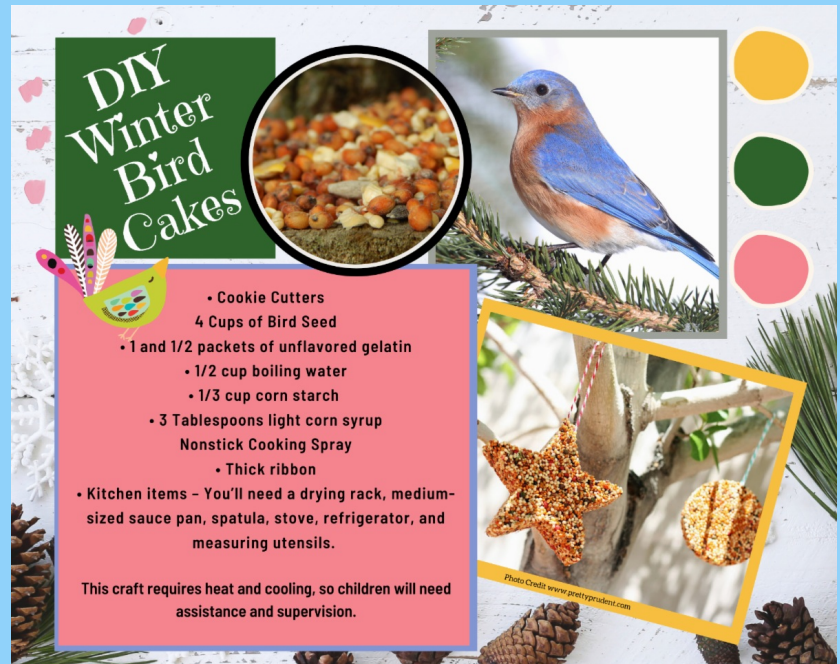
**West Virginia Envirothon
moving to a virtual
competition this April**

This year's West Virginia Envirothon will be a first-ever virtual

Winter Bird Cakes

Putting out bird seed cakes is a great way to attract all kinds of birds to your yard throughout the year. Birds will especially benefit from supplemental food during winter months since their food sources are limited. Making your own bird seed cakes is easy and can be done in your own kitchen with some simple ingredients and tools. Follow the link below for a family friendly step by step DIY guide to making your own bird cakes at home with simple ingredients.

[VISIT: Winter Bird Cakes Step-By-Step Instructions](#)



competition and will be held April 15-16, 2021.

Each year we see strong participation in the Envirothon from teams in the Potomac Valley and Eastern Panhandle conservation district areas, and we again strongly encourage teachers and high school students from those counties within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to participate in this year's virtual competition.

Follow this website to find out more about the WV Envirothon: <http://www.wvca.us/envirothon/>

[Full Article Here](#)



Mallow Farms, Pendleton, WV

Cover crop signs like the one in this photo above are a way to promote the use of cover crops and their many benefits on agricultural lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) and partners have distributed them in counties throughout the Eastern Panhandle, and in both the Potomac Valley Conservation District (PVCD) and the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD). Partners appearing on the signs are the Chesapeake Bay Program, the WVCA, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and, depending on county, the PVCD or the EPCD.

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

— 2020 —

Conservation Easements within Drinking Water Protection Areas in Berkeley & Jefferson Counties

NEW Conservation Easements

6

Acres of Protected Land

1,110

Easement Value
\$4 million

Conserving our natural resources...

1.2 miles of Streams

20 acres of Riparian Forest Buffers

340 acres of Forest

500 acres of Karst Topography

...and our rural heritage

250 acres of Civil War Battlefields

975 acres of Prime Farmland

Protecting Drinking Water for
37,500 residents



www.SafeWaterCollaborative.org

Our partners include the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, Berkeley & Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board, WV Land Trust, & more!

[Check out the Article in the Martinsburg Journal !](#)

[Full Release Here !](#)

This is a courtesy photo taken by Adam Boner at Mallow Farms in Pendleton County. The photo of the crimson clover that appears on the sign was taken by Edwin Remsberg with USDA-SARE.

TROUT UNLIMITED NAMED CACAPON CONSERVATION CHAMPION



Trout Unlimited's Dustin Wichterman and his daughter beside a stream; photo by Josh Duplechain

The Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust's Board of Directors selected Trout Unlimited (TU) as the 2020 Cacapon Conservation Champion due to the organization's dedication to protecting and improving habitat for native brook trout and water quality in the Cacapon watershed.

"When we established the Cacapon Conservation Champion Award in 2019, we wanted to give recognition to individuals or organizations that lead the way toward conservation outcomes in the watershed and provide exceptional expertise and counsel to our organization to help us further our mission. TU has been an exemplary partner for more than a decade and personifies what this award is all about," said Jennifer Jones, CLRLT's Executive Director.

Click [here](#) for the full press release from CLRLT.

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

