

West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Trib Team



Fall 2022 | Issue 45

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

WV
Highlights

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Owls: Top Forest Predator

There are several owl species that call the Bay their home, and many of which are a top predator in their forested environments. These birds of prey use many unique adaptations that make them superior hunters. Click the link below to learn more!

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How Lasers Help Restore The Bay

The Chesapeake Bay region is about 64,000 sq. miles and is shared between six states and D.C. This means that it can be difficult to obtain the important data required to plan conservation practices. So recently, researchers have turned to the skies and began using laser and satellite sensing to collect data for future projects. Click the link below to learn more!



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Program Recaps

"Dead Zone" was the 10th Smallest Since 1985

The "Dead Zone" in the Bay is an area of low oxygen created by warm temperatures and high nutrients spurring algal blooms. This year, because of cooler water temps and a windy September, the "Dead Zone" was significantly smaller and short-lived than most years. To learn more, check out the link below!



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Green Horizons Turf Farm, Winner of WV

Conservation Farm of the Year



Green Horizons Turf Farm, located in Jefferson County, has been selected as the winner for WV Conservation Farm of the Year! Owned and operated by the Ware Family, these 125 acres of turfgrass sod are one of only two sod farms in the state and have been a supplier of sod for PGA courses and country clubs all across the mid-Atlantic.

To read more about this interesting operation, click the link below!

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EPA Tours WV Bay Region

During the first week of November, WV Conservation Agency staff joined with WV Department of Environmental Protection, EPA, Canaan Valley Institute, and Sleepy Creek Watershed Association to review many conservation practices that have been installed in the region. The group stopped along Back Creek, Elks Run, Tuscarora Creek, and other sites. To learn more, click the link below!



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G3 Program is Open for Project Proposals

The Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) grant program is currently accepting project proposals! This is a joint initiative between the WVDEP, Chesapeake Bay Program, and the



Chesapeake Bay Trust and is aimed toward reducing runoff, increasing green spaces in towns, and improving the health of local waters and communities. The deadline for proposals is March 8th, 2023. Click the link below for more information!

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Webinar

Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 14th at 10am to learn more about the G3 grant opportunities in our region. This webinar is held as a joint effort with the WVDEP and the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Click the link below to register to this Zoom call!



[View Here](#)

Current Job Opportunitites



There are currently a few job openings in our region, including a WV Stream Partners VISTA position with the WVDEP and an Education and Outreach employee with Eastern Panhandle Conservation District. Keep an eye on our social media and websites for future posting as well! Click the link below to learn more about these positions!

[View Event](#)

Carla Hardy CommuniTree Sign-Up

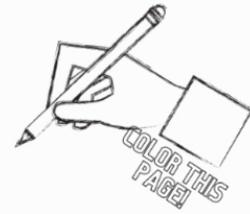


Cacapon Institute will be accepting applications for the CommuniTree program for Spring plantings starting January 1st. To learn more about this opportunity and see if it fits your project, click the link below!

[View Event](#)

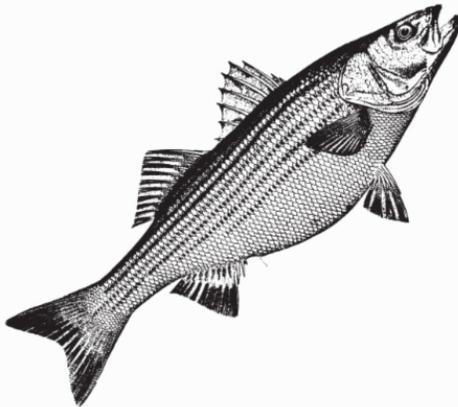
Activity Sheet

MARINE LIFE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



THE GREAT BLUE HERON grows to 4 feet tall with a 6 to 7 foot wingspan. Despite its large size, its hollow bones allow it to weigh only 5 to 6 pounds. The great blue heron eats mostly fish, but will also feed on insects, amphibians, crustaceans and other small animals. It silently stalks its prey in shallow waters, and then plunges its bill into the water to capture it. It will spend about 90 percent of its waking hours hunting for food.

THE BLUE CRAB is a swimming crustacean with bright blue claws and an olive green shell. It is one of the most recognizable species in the Chesapeake Bay. Blue crabs will feed on nearly anything they can find, including clams, oysters, mussels, smaller crustaceans, freshly dead fish, and plant and animal detritus. They will even eat smaller and soft-shelled blue crabs. Predators include large fish like croakers and red drum; fish-eating birds like great blue herons; and sea turtles.



CHESAPEAKE BAY ROCKFISH, or striper, is the regional name for a striped bass. The rockfish is a large predatory fish with dark stripes running across its metallic sides. It lives throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries year-round. The brackish water of the bay helps sustain the rockfish population. Brackish water is water having more salinity than freshwater, but not as much as seawater. It may result from mixing seawater (salt water) with fresh water together, as in estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay. Although recently in danger of being over-fished, new regulations have the species on the rebound.

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.