

Watershed Stewards Academy
February 2026 Newsletter

WSA Stewards,

Please remember to enter your projects and volunteer hours into the WSA database and reporting system. Click [here](#) to log in!

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Click here for [WSA's Facebook Page!](#)

To access this private group from the main Facebook page, click on 'More' and then 'Group' to request to join the group.



Continued Education

Natives at Noon – Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 12pm – 1pm

Join Lisa Kuder, from UMD Extension as she delves into various topics related to native plants. *Rethinking lawns: turning green carpets into diverse ecosystems, Dr. Liz Anna Kozik, Research Scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden.* Whether you're a novice or a seasoned professional, this series provides an opportunity to expand your knowledge and engage with experts in the field. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, these sessions are an excellent way to earn Continuing Education Units. Although the presentations are free of charge, registration is required to attend. Don't miss this chance to enhance your understanding of native plants while enjoying your lunch. Register to attend one or more of the first three live only sessions.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Natives at Noon – Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 12pm – 1pm

Join Lisa Kuder, from UMD Extension as she delves into various topics related to native plants. *Importance of mycorrhizal fungi for plant propagation: where to start?, Dr. Adriana Corrales, Lead Field Research Scientist & Underground Explorers Program Director at the Society for the Protection of Underground Network.*

Whether you're a novice or a seasoned professional, this series provides an opportunity to expand your knowledge and engage with experts in the field. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, these sessions are an excellent way to earn Continuing Education Units. Although the presentations are free of charge, registration is required to attend. Don't miss this chance to enhance your understanding of native plants while enjoying your lunch. Register to attend one or more of the first three live only sessions.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

Scenic Rivers Winter Walk 2026

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 10am - 12pm

Location: Philip Merrill Environmental Center, Herndon Avenue, Annapolis

Experience Winter's Unique Beauty on a Serene Hike through Your Local, Protected Woods! Join Scenic Rivers Land Trust and Certified Forest Therapy Guide Laura Armstrong Falvey of Chesapeake Nature Connection for a contemplative walk through the conserved trails of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Environmental Center.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

First Saturdays – Invasive Plant Management Workdays (Washington, DC)

Saturdays, 2/7/26 & 3/7/26, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Join DOEE staff to remove invasive plants near the entrance of Kingman + Heritage Islands and the Anacostia River Trail on the First Saturday of each month. DOEE will provide tools, gloves, and instruction. Please wear closed-toe shoes and long pants, and bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray. We will meet at the RFK Lot 6 entrance to Kingman + Heritage Islands (575 Oklahoma Ave NE).

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Saturday Morning Bird Walk at Woodend Nature Sanctuary (Chevy Chase, MD)

Saturdays, Feb. 14th and March 14th, 2025, 8am - 9am

Location: 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase

Join enthusiastic birders at Woodend Nature Sanctuary to learn birding basics. One will learn binocular basics and how to identify common birds as well as explore the wonders of migration.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Invasive Plant Removal at Good Luck Estates Park (Lanham, Maryland)

Friday, February 6, 2026, 10 am – 12 pm

Join the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County as we work to remove invasive plants from our parks! For this event, we will continue on-going work at Good Luck Estates Park in Lanham to remove English ivy from the trees and from the ground. We'll also be removing some invasive shrubs along the way. All tools and training will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite work gloves and/or hand tools.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Data to Decisions: Using the METRIC Tool to Measure Watershed Progress (Webinar)

Monday, February 9, 2026, 12 pm – 1 pm

Join our webinar to explore the Monitored and Expected Total Reduction Indicator for the Chesapeake (METRIC) Tool, an innovative resource enhancing our understanding of Chesapeake Bay watershed health. The METRIC Tool allows users to look at data collected from non-tidal monitoring stations and compare what is being observed with what the partnership models are showing. This information can help in assessing the impact of best management practices (BMPs) and such changes in the watershed, like land use, in reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment at the local level. Currently, the tool offers comparisons for 92, 80, and 78 non-tidal monitoring stations for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment, respectively.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Become a #WeedWarrior in Prince George's County

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 6 – 8pm, virtual

Help celebrate National Invasive Species Awareness Week (#NISAW) by taking the first step to becoming a certified Weed Warrior in Prince George's County! By taking an 8 hour series of trainings, both online and in-person, you will become certified to remove invasive vines from M-NCPPC parklands in Prince George's County on your own.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

WSA's 15th Annual Spring Into Action! Conference (Linthicum Heights, MD)

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 8:45 am – 4:45 pm

Location: Maritime Conference Center, Maritime Boulevard, Linthicum Heights, MD

Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) is a non-profit organization training community leaders to drive change for sustainable landscapes and clean waters in Anne Arundel County (AACo) and we have a truly exciting conference planned for you this year!

Our speakers will explore wildlife habitat, climate optimism, the history of our local lands, and the power of raising your voice, all centered on restoring communities and protecting the waterways that connect us. Whether you're a Watershed Steward, stormwater professional, or just interested in environmental restoration, this year's conference has something for everyone!

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Gardening with Native Plants: One Square Yard at a Time

Saturday, March 14, 2026, 9:15 am – 12 pm

Location: 1120 Spa Road, Annapolis

Native plant and sustainable gardening expert Alison Milligan will speak at Unity Gardens annual spring lecture. Backed by numerous environmental certifications and extensive experience designing and installing sustainable spaces that support wildlife, add beauty and manage stormwater runoff in Anne Arundel County, Alison is a sought-after speaker and adviser. She will explain how and why to use native plants in your own yard and will provide concrete solutions for various site locations and conditions. Novice and experienced native plant enthusiasts alike will leave with actionable ideas!

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Building Accessible Birding Programs and Places

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 4 pm – 6:30 pm

This extended workshop builds on the introductory presentation, Birding CAN Change the World, and is designed for those who are ready to move from learning into implementation. Participants will take a deeper dive into what accessibility in birding truly looks like in practice. Together, we will explore real-world case studies from across the country that show how organizations, municipalities, parks, and nature centers have assessed barriers, made meaningful changes, and created more inclusive birding experiences for people with disabilities and other health concerns. Attendees will leave with concrete tools, frameworks, and next steps they can use immediately to advance accessibility and inclusion in their own work. By the end of this session, participants will be better equipped to move beyond intention and toward action, helping ensure that birding and nature spaces and programs are welcoming, usable, and meaningful for every body and every mind.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Level 1 CBLP Training Winter Schedule

We're excited to announce that registration is now open for Level 1 Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) training! This program provides a strong foundation in sustainable landscaping, stormwater management, and ecological practices.

Winter 2026 Training Dates & Locations:

February 4–5 – Arlington, VA

February 19–20 – Lancaster, PA

February 25–26 – Norfolk, VA

March 3–4 – Annapolis, MD

March 10–11 – Charlottesville, VA

March 17–18 – Baltimore, MD

Hybrid Option:

Online sessions January 27–28

(Participants also attend one in-person field day of their choice.)

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Healthy Forests Workday: Invasive Plant Removal at Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Crownsville, MD)

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Hawkins Trailhead), Hawkins Road, Annapolis

Scenic Rivers' Healthy Forests Program engages community volunteers to help protect the long-term vitality of our largest conservation easement located within Bacon Ridge Natural Area. Our workday will focus on vines, shrubs, and grasses. These aggressive invaders threaten vegetation at all levels of the forest from the ground up into the forest canopy. Volunteers will be working on designated trail sections to remove specific invasive plant species.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Sale!

Saturday, March 28th, 2026, 9am – 4pm

Location: U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC

This all-day event features a slate of expert speakers who will touch on a variety of topics, exploring themes both new to the Symposium and familiar. Join us for an engaging day of presentations and conversation as we delve into the world of native plants.

This year's topics include:

Traditional ecological knowledge and the relationship between people and plants

The ecological link between native birds and plants at the U.S. National Arboretum

Regenerative gardening, agroforestry, and supporting a healthy planet

How to utilize native plants in designing a four-season garden

The intersection of native plant purism and sustainable horticulture and superior garden performers

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Healthy Forests Workday: Invasive Plant Removal at Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Crownsville, MD)

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Hawkins Trailhead), Hawkins Road, Annapolis

Scenic Rivers' Healthy Forests Program engages community volunteers to help protect the long-term vitality of our largest conservation easement located within Bacon Ridge Natural Area. Our workday will focus on vines, shrubs, and grasses. These aggressive invaders threaten vegetation at all levels of the forest from the ground up into the forest canopy. Volunteers will be working on designated trail sections to remove specific invasive plant species.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Scenic Rivers Land Trust's 2026 Walk for the Woods

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 7am – 3pm

Location: Farm Road, Crownsville

Walk for the Woods is Scenic Rivers Land Trust's signature community event celebrating the joy of the outdoors and our local, protected woods. Scenic Rivers will again partner with Anne Arundel County's Department of Recreation and Parks to offer a wonderful opportunity to hike and explore this beautiful wilderness just minutes from downtown Annapolis. Experts in wildlife, native plants, birds, and more will be on-site and available to attendees. Plus, self-guided hike options will be offered, complete with trail maps and educational signage posted along the trails.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Healthy Forests Workday: Invasive Plant Removal at Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Crownsville, MD)

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Bacon Ridge Natural Area (Hawkins Trailhead), Hawkins Road, Annapolis

Protect the Health of YOUR Local Forest: Join us at Bacon Ridge Natural Area in Crownsville to spend a morning removing harmful invasive plants from along the trails! Scenic Rivers' Healthy Forests Program engages community volunteers to help protect the long-term vitality of our largest conservation easement located within Bacon Ridge Natural Area. Our workday will focus on vines, shrubs, and grasses. These aggressive invaders threaten vegetation at all levels of the forest from the ground up into the forest canopy. Volunteers will be working on designated trail sections to remove specific invasive plant species.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



Funding and Material Support

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program is now open!

Application Deadline: March 13, 2026

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, US EPA Region III, Chesapeake Bay Program, and WV DEP are excited to announce that the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program is now open!

This grant program aims to help communities:

Reduce stormwater runoff.

Increase urban green spaces.

Improve local water health and the Chesapeake Bay.

Enhance community quality of life and livability.

Example projects include green streets, rain gardens, green roofs, pollinator gardens, white papers/tools on green infrastructure, and more!

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) Grants 2026 Request for Proposals

Deadline: Thursday, April 9, 2026

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

Through the 2026 Chesapeake Watershed Investment for Landscape Defense (WILD) grants program, NFWF will award funding through three distinct funding opportunities:

WILD Implementation grants of \$75,000 to \$500,000 will be awarded for projects that result in direct and measurable on-the-ground actions to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitats.

WILD Collaborative Conservation grants of up to \$200,000 will be awarded for projects that support and enhance the capacity of partnerships, networks, and other collaborative models working collaboratively to advance place-based, landscape-scale, and cross-jurisdictional habitat restoration, conservation, and connectivity outcomes.

WILD Planning and Technical Assistance (PTA) grants of up to \$75,000 will be awarded for projects that help advance future on-the-ground actions to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation benefits in the Bay watershed through community-based assessment, planning, design, and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

NOW OPEN -The Mid-Atlantic Community Forestry Fund

Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2026

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, and our regional/local partners are excited to announce that the Mid-Atlantic Community Forestry Fund – Chesapeake Bay Trust is now open! This fund supports projects that leverage community forestry to address public health, air and water quality, workforce development, flood risk, among other environmental justice issues in the Mid-Atlantic Region (Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia). See page 4 of the RFP for more eligibility criteria.

Eligible Project Tracks and Funding Request Amounts:

Track 1: EJ Organization Capacity Building (up to \$100,000)

Track 2: Tree Implementation for Public Health (No maximum request)

Track 3: Workforce Development in Community Forestry (up to \$200,000)

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Unity Gardens Spring Grant

Deadline: February 15th – April 1st, 2026

Unity Gardens will be accepting applications to fund the installation of native plant gardens in community spaces in Anne Arundel County. Non-profit organizations such as schools, churches, community centers, scout troops, garden clubs and other qualified organizations can receive grants of up to \$1,000 for native perennial gardens, \$2,000 for native meadows and \$3,000 for projects comprised of at least 75% native trees and shrubs.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Urban Trees Grant Program - Chesapeake Bay Trust and 5 Million Trees for Maryland

Virtual Information Sessions: Friday 2/13/26 from 12-1pm.

Application Deadline: March 5, 2026

The Urban Trees Grant Program, called for by the Maryland General Assembly as a component of a 5,000,000-tree goal by 2031, welcomes requests for tree planting projects in urban underserved communities. The goal of the Urban Trees Grant Program is to green communities; enhance quality of life, human health, and community livability by improving air quality, and reducing urban heat island effect; and mitigate some of the effects of climate change.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

The Anne Arundel Community Tree Planting Mini Grant Program is Accepting Applications for Small Tree Planting Projects

Deadline: Rolling

Let's grow Anne Arundel County, one tree at a time! The Anne Arundel Community Tree Planting Program is accepting applications for small community grants (up to \$5,000) to plant trees and boost tree canopy in neighborhoods, parks, and public spaces throughout Anne Arundel County including the City of Annapolis.

These community projects are helping:

- Add more trees where they're needed most
- Build local stewardship
- Restore and protect our urban and suburban tree canopy
- Raise awareness about tree health and benefits

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Jones Falls Watershed - Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program

Deadline: Thursday, March 5, 2026

The Chesapeake Bay Trust and partners, Blue Water Baltimore, are excited to announce the Jones Falls Watershed Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program is open! This program will support restoration projects in the Jones Falls Watershed.

Eligible Project Types:

Applicants can request funds for project types that fall into one of the following:

- Environmental action projects that improve the environment/natural resources in the community Watershed/environmental restoration projects
- Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, community, homeowners, and/or neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, service, youth, and civic groups, and more.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Anne Arundel Watershed Restoration and Forestry Grant - Chesapeake Bay Trust

Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2026

The Watershed Restoration and Forestry Grant Program funds projects located in the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, including projects that support the reduction of pollutants flowing into local waterways, implement cost-effective reforestation and greening efforts, and increase protected forested land.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Urban Trees Mini Grant Program is now open – Chesapeake Bay Trust and 5 million Trees for Maryland

Deadline: Rolling

The Urban Trees Mini Grant Program is part of the Maryland General Assembly's initiative to plant 5,000,000 native trees across the state by 2031. This grant program welcomes requests for tree planting projects in urban,

underserved communities that cost up to \$10,000. The Urban Trees Mini Grant Program aims to empower communities with the resources they need to plant trees, and thereby transform their neighborhoods into healthier, greener environments for current and future generations. Local governments, non-profit organizations, community and homeowner associations, faith-based organizations, and more are encouraged to apply.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Trust - Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant

Deadline: Rolling

Designed to support activities that enhance communities, engage residents, and improve natural resources. They fund small-scale activities such as tree plantings, rain gardens, stream cleanups, and storm drain stenciling, among others. To see a longer list of potential projects, read the full Request for Proposals (RFP).

For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Trust Grants and Opportunities

The Chesapeake Bay Trust's grant-making strategies are shaped by three core objectives; environmental education, demonstration-based restoration, and community engagement. We look to these objectives as basic touchstones for developing our programs, engaging new partners, and communicating about our work.

Click here for more information or to apply, click [here](#).



Employment Opportunities

[Senior Compliance Officer](#) | Chesapeake Bay Trust

[Development Manager](#) | Potomac Riverkeeper Network

[Staff Accountant](#) | The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

[Urban Community Specialist - Historically Underserved Communities](#) | Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

[Communications & Outreach Coordinator](#) | Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

[Grants Manager](#) | Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

[Butterfly House/Environmental Education Internship](#) | Ladew Topiary Gardens

[St. Mary's River Watershed Association](#) | Communications and Administrative Manager

[Education Summer Program Assistant](#) | Chincoteague Bay Field Station

[Environmental Education and Interpretation Internship](#) | The Maryland Coastal Bays Program

[Conservation Manager](#) | Casey Trees

[Resource Analysis Program Assistant Positions](#) | Montgomery Parks

[Conservation and Stewardship Specialist](#) | Lower Shore Land Trust

[Arundel Rivers' 2026 Monitoring and Education/Outreach Summer Interns](#)

[Communications and Content Intern – Hybrid/Flexible – Baltimore Area](#) | Green Trust Alliance

[Vice President of Operations](#) | The Chesapeake Conservancy

[2026-27 Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps Member Application](#) – NOW OPEN!

[Restoration Program Coordinator](#) | Chesapeake Bay Trust

[Construction Surveyor \(experienced\)](#) | Underwood & Associates, Inc.

[Community Conservation Manager](#) | NeighborSpace of Baltimore County

[Environmental Educator](#) | Ladew Topiary Gardens

[Conservation Data Specialist](#) | Chesapeake Conservancy