

Jenn Raulin

Directing Bay Restoration Finance & Policy



One would never guess that Jenn Raulin once called herself a *total city slicker*. That is, until she attended a 2-week summer camping trip with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in the seventh grade. The outing, she says, shaped where she went to school, what she studied, and why she came back to the Bay region.

Jenn earned her bachelor's degree in Marine Science Affairs and master's degree in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami. Having completed her studies right on the Florida Keys, you might wonder why she

would ever leave such a scenic area. But she always knew she would return to the great State of Maryland. And we are glad to have her.

Shortly after moving home, like most of us, she held a few positions unrelated to her field. Including one, she now looks back and smiles, as a substitute typing teacher at her high school. Not long after, however, Jenn accepted a position with the Chesapeake Bay Trust. As a program officer, she administered grants to help fund important restoration projects. After about five years, Jenn joined DNR.

When asked what she does here, Jenn might say she is the *Money Lady*. Although there is a lot more to her job as Acting

Assistant Director for Restoration Finance & Policy than that, her nickname sums it up pretty well.

Jenn works in the Chesapeake & Coastal Service, specifically with the *Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund*. Unique to Maryland, this program is dedicated to reducing nonpoint source pollution — runoff from rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation. As this water moves, it picks up and carries pollutants— such as sediments, nutrients, toxics and pathogens — which eventually reach lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and, in most of Maryland, the Bay.

Generated through motor fuel and rental car tax revenues, monies from the Fund are allocated to restoration projects. Jenn manages the grants given to local governments, nonprofits and other community organizations that need resources to implement their watershed restoration phases. (*Money Lady* is sounding more and more accurate).

Jenn sees herself as a little piece of a bigger puzzle. Her job allows her to work with other organizations to put all the pieces together into creating and sustaining a healthier Bay.

According to coworker Sarah Lane; “Jenn has the ability to retain so much information. She focuses on the foundation of the task at hand and uses her wealth of knowledge to outline our path forward.”

Jenn calls herself a generalist, knowing a little bit about a lot of things. Because of this, she says, she loves being surrounded by her coworkers. “There are so many amazing, smart and passionate people here and it just rubs off on you!”

Practicing what she preaches, Jenn speaks from first-hand experience while out in the field — she and her husband have begun a vegetable garden, planted native plants and installed rain barrels at home.

While Jenn may call herself the *Money Lady* or even a generalist, we call her passionate, smart and dedicated. We might even rename her the *Chesapeake Bay Lady*. ■

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