

the

Maryland natural resource

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

**Maryland Department of
Natural Resources**

Joseph P. Gill
Secretary

The Maryland Natural Resource
*...Your guide to recreation &
conservation in Maryland*

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Approaching Storm
Frank Tiralla III

the Maryland natural resource

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THE COMMON GOOD



Tom Napper

By the time you read this, I will have enlisted the help of an inaugural congress of environmental educators to begin development of a meaningful, results-oriented stream restoration program for Maryland students.

It's an idea that came to me because of the great work so many classrooms are already doing in the streams and creeks around their

schools. I firmly believe that by pulling together our environmental science, math and social studies teachers, forward thinking administrators, and colleges professors seeking to engage students in their communities, we can, in pretty short order, have every school — public and private — adopt the stream or streams that run through their communities and develop long-term restoration plans for them.

Through their studies, our children have already learned that there is no easy button to make the Bay better, no magic wand for

reversing the damage we have done. But — thanks in part to the work of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature — they are also learning that to make the Bay healthier, we must start with our local waterways.

I believe we can create a lesson that connects our actions with the health of the Chesapeake Bay that raises the bar for environmental literacy while giving our young people real-world experience in and responsibility. I believe that we can be the first state in the nation to use our schools as platforms — to crowd-source the talent and energy of our young people — to lead the regenerative work that will ultimately allow our Bay to come back.

Our goal is to have this program in place for the 2013-14 school year, and as we move forward, I hope you will join the larger conversation. Our scientific experts, conservationists, river keepers and watershed groups will all be critical partners as we engage our young people in a truly meaningful stream restoration program that will produce results over the long term.

The work will not get done in the course of one school year. It might not get done in four years. But, over time, by restoring buffers, repairing stream banks, and monitoring water quality and aquatic animals, we can create a lesson that goes far beyond learning. And we can do enough good work to be able to look over our shoulders five, ten or fifteen years from now and see real, measurable improvements in our State's life's blood — our waterways.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

THE NATURE OF THINGS

Like many of my peers, I came to more deeply appreciate the beauty and importance of our landscapes, waterways and ecosystems later in life.

As a boy growing up in Buffalo, I spent most of the year outside, playing in local parks, swimming at public beaches, walking, running, cycling and sledding. It was what we did. It was what came naturally to us. It was certainly not something we thought about.

In fact, in the 1960s, most of the people I knew weren't thinking much — if at all — about the nature of things. We didn't worry about water quality, about whether too much of our open space was being lost to development, about big cars and big industry soiling our air, about the ozone or climate change or recycling. We were mostly just trying to get people to stop throwing trash out of their car windows.

I don't recall the exact moment when things changed for me. I don't remember a specific camping trip or paddle or hike. I doubt there was a light bulb moment. I only know that somewhere along the line, I began to see the natural world for what it was — and what it still is today: a beautiful, grace-filled fragile and finite place that will not survive without the care and respect of its human inhabitants.

The next, most recent step in my evolution, however, was more lightning bolt than light-bulb when this spring I took an

oath to serve the citizens of Maryland in leading our State's efforts to restore, protect and conserve our natural and living resources.

I'm honestly not sure exactly how or why I have been so blessed in my career, or what the necessary qualifications are for undertaking such an awesome responsibility. But through the years I have learned that many of the natural resources

I so enjoyed as a child still exist only because of the wisdom of those who have come before me and worked to acquire, protect and preserve them.

I am honored to follow in their footsteps and — guided by the teachings of my predecessor John Griffin, supported by a team of dedicated natural resources professionals, and inspired by the commitment of our customers and stakeholders — pledge to do all I can to add to their legacy.



Loft Livingston

Joseph P. Gill
Secretary

Joe Gill was appointed Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources by Governor Martin O'Malley in May 2013, after having served 3 years as the agency's deputy and 14 years as Principal Counsel. Joe holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, and an A.B. in Liberal Studies from the University of Notre Dame.

The Way They Were

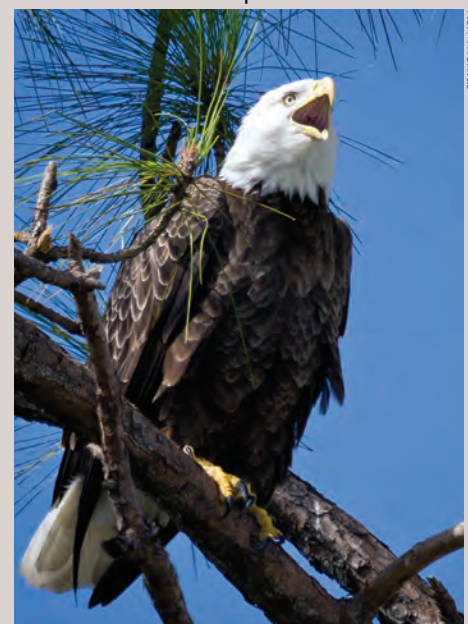
Maryland's Natural Areas

By Patricia Handy & Kerry Wixted

Imagine taking a stroll along a boardwalk spanning a spongy bog left behind from an ancient time when glaciers covered much of the northern United States and Canada. Today, Golden-crowned kinglets forage along the rare plants that grow in the bog. This scene describes just one of Maryland's 31 designated Natural Areas.

Preserving native Maryland

Maryland Natural Areas are tracts of land or bodies of water that represent the best remaining examples of the State's native landscapes. These tracts are



The once endangered bald eagle is now a fairly common sight along the Pocomoke River.

characterized by their biological diversity and ecological significance. Maryland's Natural Areas contain outstanding examples of native plant and animal communities, rare species' habitat, and/or significant geological features. While increasing public awareness this program seeks to identify and conserve these sites for future generations. Open to the public for all or part of the year, Maryland Natural Areas are recognized biological gems that span county, State, federal and non-governmental organization properties.

Western Maryland

In Western Maryland, Cranesville and Finzel swamps provide examples of primitive landscapes, holding pockets of cold air that support species found in more northern climates. The acidic soils in Cranesville Swamp sustain numerous flesh-eating plants like the northern pitcherplant. A small boardwalk weaves through the sensitive wetland, allowing visitors to experience the bog up close.

Swallow Falls is close to Cranesville Swamp. This Natural Area contains the highest waterfall in Maryland, Muddy Creek Falls, as well as a stand of old growth Eastern hemlock trees, some of which are 300 years old.

Finzel Swamp hosts one of only two remaining populations of American larch



Carnivorous pitcher-plant species survive the acidic, nutrient-poor peat soils here by capturing their own fertilizer.

trees — rare conifers that have been lost at four Maryland locations due to changes in climate and natural water flow. The trees sustain numerous bird species that avid watchers are eager to see. In the spring, masses of amphibians migrate through the wetland and breed.

Central Maryland

Masemore Hemlock Ravines supports a diversity of spring wildflowers along hemlock-lined trails. Despite its location in Baltimore County, this Natural Area feels like its more mountainous cousins.

Slightly to the south sits Soldier's Delight. This *serpentine* ecosystem

— an area underlain by oceanic rock susceptible to erosion due to extreme levels of magnesium and nutrients — is the largest in the eastern United States, and is home to more than 25 rare species that have adapted to the droughty mineral soils. In the late summer, visitors are treated to sights of native tall grasses, showy wildflowers and the grassland birds they attract.

Southern Maryland

Along the western shore, paddling enthusiasts can enjoy the sights and sounds of tidal marshes along Mattawoman and Parker's Creeks. Nearby, Calvert Cliffs provides ample fossil hunting for visitors of all ages. Ancient shark and ray teeth frequently wash up on the shores of the sandy beach along with an assortment of other fossils. In addition to the majestic cliffs and sandy beach, Calvert Cliffs offers hiking trails through more than 1,000 acres of old woods and wetlands.

Eastern Shore

Both Millington and Andover flatwoods on Maryland's Eastern Shore contain Carolina bays — seasonal wetlands that support numerous breeding amphibians in the spring. The combination of distinctive habitats at Millington supports seven rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals.

Idylwild, along the Marshyhope River, contains ancient sand ridges and high



American larch needles turn bright yellow in the fall prior to being shed for the winter.

quality streams and is home to the only Maryland population of the endangered coastal plain blue-eyed grass. Hickory Point Cypress Swamp presents amazing views to casual paddlers. Visitors can enjoy this northern extension of the Great Dismal Swamp, which contains bald cypress and Atlantic white cedars throughout.

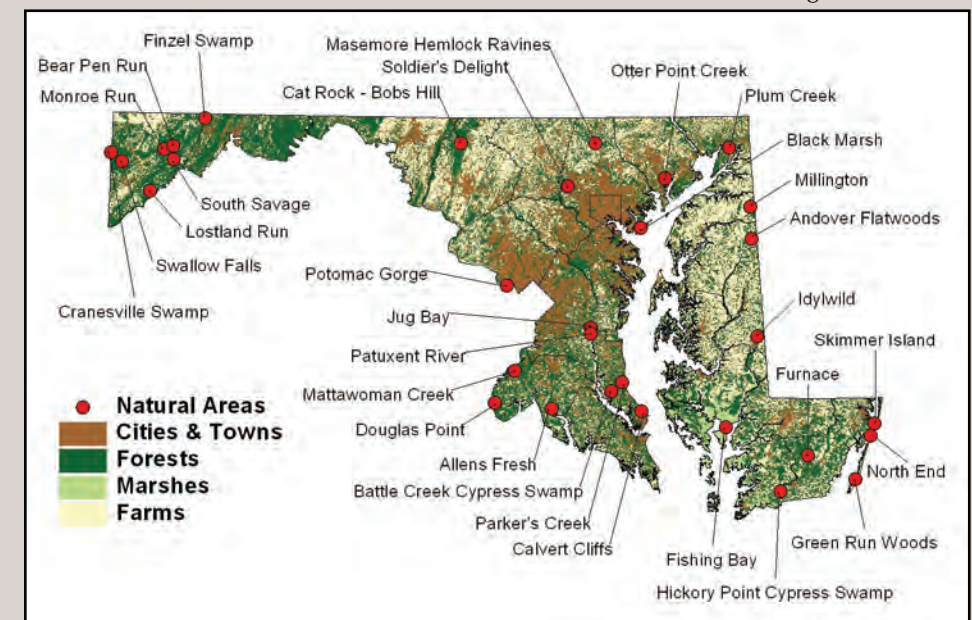
Sections of Assateague Island, such as Green Run Woods and the North End, serve as exceptional breeding habitat for piping plovers and least terns, and support extensive populations of the endangered beach plum.

These are but a few of the stunning and unique areas that are part of our collective natural heritage. Each area provides glimpses into the past — and thanks to the Natural Areas program — will hold allure for visitors long into the future. ■

dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/publiclands/natural_areas/index.asp



Patricia Handy is the Information and Education Program Manager and **Kerry Wixted** is a biologist with DNR's Wildlife & Heritage Service.



There are 31 Natural Areas spread out across the State.

VOLUNTEER OWNERSHIP

Stocking Brown Trout

By Jeff Holland

As a novice fly fisherman — defined as one still in the *flailing* stage — and a new member of the Free State Flyfishers Club, I was eager to make myself useful and discover a new waterway to fish. So I volunteered for Jay Sheppard and a group from the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited to help DNR stock Brown Trout in the Middle Patuxent River. It sounded like fun until I realized it was scheduled for early March — still winter in most parts of Maryland.

“Greetings!” said Jay, in an e-mail to the volunteers, “You will be pulling four boxes downstream from Eden Brook this Friday morning with (about) 500 Brown Trout... the rain and snow today will raise the flows a little more tonight, but in 36 hours it should be just fine and clear.”

He was right, if you call *fine* an air temperature of not quite 40 degrees and a water temperature hovering just above freezing. And if *clear* meant that you could almost see your kneecaps in thigh-deep water, but not the slippery boulders at your feet. I’d never been to that stretch of the river before, but at first sight, it seemed higher and faster than it should be for an intelligent person of a certain age and girth to go wading down for a mile and a half.

But a truckload of fish needed to be released, and the only way to get them there was to walk boxfuls downstream and let them go where they would thrive — until they’re caught. And releasing fish in the river just to be caught was the reason I was there.

Release and catch

According to Mark Staley, DNR’s Central Region Inland Fisheries Manager, that day’s effort to release 500 Trout in the Middle Patuxent was one small part of the total stocking endeavor. All said and done, 334,500 Trout were to be released into rivers and streams across five counties in central Maryland to benefit recreational fishermen.

“When we stock adult Trout, it’s not to establish population; it’s to provide fishing recreation,” Mark explained later. “And many, if not all of the places where we stock, are places where Trout do not naturally occur.”

The stretch we stocked is in Howard County about two miles from Murray Hill Road. It’s designated as a *Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Area*, which means it’s strictly catch-and-release with artificial lures between October 1 and May 31; but from June through September, you can catch up to five Trout per day with no tackle restrictions. “When we put Trout in the Middle Patuxent,” Mark went on, “the fish stay there until June when the water gets too warm. Then fishermen can start catching them.”



Photos by Jeff Holland



Pulling the fish behind in boxes, they are almost ready to be released.

Other areas are designated as traditional *Put-and-Take*, where fishermen can come and catch fish as soon as the streams are open. These are streams where Trout can’t survive because the water temperature rises too high due to land development and diminished forest buffer.

“We’re not changing the biology of the stream,” Mark continued, “we are providing fish for fishermen, giving our constituents Trout and providing recreation where there wouldn’t be otherwise. Stocking allows anglers to catch Trout in a rural setting that’s close to urban areas — close to where people live and work. Fishermen have a good time and they can keep a few Trout for dinner.”

Filling the stream

Larry Choate served as the head of the volunteer party that included Arnie Strand, Larry Coburn, Mark Gay, Brian Sirotkin, Bill Richkus and myself. Most of the others were veteran stockers of this particular stream and ardent fly fishermen. I was packed into my chest waders with layers of long underwear

and polar fleece. Surrounded by dense oak-and-holly woods, we were sheltered from the wind and comfortable despite the cold. It was a delight to realize there was beautiful nature so close to the city of Columbia.

We formed a fireman’s brigade between the truck and the riverbank, filling 5-gallon buckets with Trout and hauling them down to the water. The fish, all Brown Trout, were about the size of my hand.

At the bank, Brian stood knee-deep in the swirling water and held a large, grey box steady in the current. We dumped the buckets into the box. Once filled, we grabbed our walking sticks and carefully stepped into the river, towing the boxes behind us.

We spent the next several hours wading downstream, letting a dozen or more fish swim out of the boxes at each spot where Larry, in his experience, felt they would flourish — in the deep pools at the bends, at the foot of rocky cliffs, among jumbles of boulders or underneath fallen logs — making sure we had enough to cover the whole stretch of river.

Taking ownership

Since that day in early March, I’ve been back to the Middle Patuxent River several times and found not just Brown Trout, but also Rainbow Trout that had been stocked earlier. So I achieved one of my goals: I had found a great fishing hole 35 minutes from my house in Annapolis, in a stream surrounded by beautiful woods that I’ve shared with deer, beaver and birds, but few other humans. Paradise.

“Our Trout stocking program builds advocates for natural resources,” said Mark. “If you like to fish the Middle Patuxent, you become concerned about the health of the river. Hopefully people take a little ownership of these streams.”

That was the unexpected achievement. I now feel like a little part of the Middle Patuxent is mine. ■

Jeff Holland is a volunteer with DNR.



The author releasing Trout.



Brian Sirotkin steadies boxes for fish transfer and begins transport.



Moving Trout from the truck into buckets

CATCH & RECEIVE

The 2013 Maryland Fishing Challenge

By Martin Gary



Letha Gimnes

Families and friends enjoy a backyard fishing event at Warfield's Pond Park.

Looking for something fun to do? Something that allows you to enjoy Maryland's great outdoors and provides the opportunity to win prizes? For free? Whether you are looking to spend quality time with friends and family, or to be alone for some peace and quiet, fishing in Maryland offers the opportunities you seek.

The Challenge

Now in its 9th consecutive year, the 2013 Maryland Fishing Challenge offers extra incentives to fish our State's waters with chances to win great prizes. Thanks to generous sponsors, this year's rewards include a boat from Tracker Marine, an all-expenses paid fishing vacation from the World Fishing Network, tackle and merchandise from Bass Pro Shops, Bill's Outdoor Center and Under Armour, and maybe even a set of diamond stud earrings!

Up-to-Date Fishing Info

For tips on where to find the best fishing read DNR biologist Keith Lockwood's weekly Fishing Report at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport and the DNR Angler's Log at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp

Sponsored by DNR and fishing organizations and donors, the Challenge is a free, year-round recreational tournament funded by revenue from fishing licenses, motorboat fuel and a federal excise tax on sport fishing equipment.

Showcasing Maryland as a sport fishing destination with affordable, accessible, diverse and high quality fishing opportunities, the Challenge lures families and friends out to enjoy the State's wonderful aquatic resources.

Angler Award Program

Any recreational angler fishing in Maryland can qualify by catching a minimum size fish from more than 80 eligible species, and submitting it at one of more than 75 DNR-designated Angler Award Centers (tackle shops). An eligible catch earns an official entry to the Challenge awards ceremony in September. Catch and Release anglers may participate by bringing a photo of a qualifying catch — measured against a ruler along with the signature and contact information of a witness — to an Angler Award Center.

With Bluegills, Bass, Trout and Catfish in freshwater; Striped Bass, Bluefish, Croaker

and White Perch in the Chesapeake Bay; Flounder, Sea Bass, Tuna and Marlin off the Atlantic coast; and many more from the mountains to the ocean, there is plenty for everyone to catch. Even recreational crabbers have a chance to qualify by checking in a Blue Crab measuring at least nine inches from point to point.

Diamond Jim

The hunt for *Diamond Jim* honors Maryland's official State fish and the crown jewel of our waters — the Striped Bass. Established in 1956, the original *Diamond Jim* contest featured a single tagged fish and was sponsored by a Baltimore brewery, awarding \$25,000 to the lucky angler that caught him. In 1958, longshoreman William Simmons caught the elusive fish, wound up paying off several bills, and had enough money left over to buy a house and boat so he could fish more!



News American

\$25,000 BEAUTY—William Simmons, Baltimore, left, gets official confirmation from Brewery Official R. Leiter Fitz-Simmons, that the 10-pound rockfish he's holding is "Diamond Jim III," worth \$25,000. A local brewery in Baltimore turned the fish loose June 19 as a promotion stunt, offering the prize to anyone who caught the fish before Sept. 1. Simmons is unemployed.

A clipping shows one of *Diamond Jim*'s earliest winners.

Area tackle shops add to the excitement by providing bonus \$100 gift certificates to the first lucky angler who catches the real *Diamond Jim*. They include Alltackle and Anglers Sporting Goods in Annapolis, Marty's Sporting Goods in Edgewater, Fish Bones Bait & Tackle in Pasadena, Clyde's Sport Shop in Landsdowne and Herb's Tackle Shop in North East. As a special bonus, Zachary's Jewelers in Annapolis is offering a set of one-carat total weight diamond stud earrings for the first angler to reel in *Diamond Jim*.

Today, DNR Fisheries biologists and members of the Maryland Youth Fishing Club catch and tag as many as 600 Striped Bass over the summer months and release them back into the waters of the Chesapeake. Each month from June through Labor Day, one of these tagged fish is designated an authentic *Diamond Jim*.

The value rises each month he remains uncaught, with the potential to reach \$25,000. If no one snags the real deal, anglers who catch tagged imposters will split the reward. Those fish have a minimum value of \$500 each, and there is no limit to the number an angler can catch and enter. Therefore, by the first of August there will be more than \$300,000 in potential prize money swimming in the Chesapeake Bay and the tidal tributaries.

Be on the lookout for fish with bright green tags bearing the inscription *MD 2013 Diamond Jim Fishing Challenge* through midnight, September 2. If you catch a tagged fish, do not remove the tag (doing so will make your catch ineligible). Call the telephone number listed and keep the fish on ice or frozen until a DNR biologist can inspect and certify it.



Fisheries Service

A *Diamond Jim* tag

Youth Anglers

The third component of the Challenge features youth anglers — the future of the sport. At selected youth rodeo events sponsored by local community and fishing organizations, one young angler under the age of 16 will be chosen to advance to the Finale.



Letha Gimnes

A pleased participant in the Bill Burton Family Fishing Rodeo

Not all youth rodeos are included in the Challenge. Check with the organizer of the rodeo to find out if the winner can advance. More information is available at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/keepfishing.

The Grand Finale

The Challenge culminates at the Grand Finale during the Maryland Seafood Festival at Sandy Point State Park on September 7. DNR invites Angler Award winners, those who caught tagged *Diamond Jims* and/or imposters, and selected youth rodeo anglers and their families to the final awards ceremony for the chance to win prizes.

Since the Challenge began, DNR and the contest sponsors have given away more



DNR Archives

Anglers are recognized at the Grand Finale.



Edward Koubeck

This mini angler looks like a pro!



Lori Knight-Lakkey

Friends cast a line.

than \$600,000 in cash and prizes. The Maryland Fishing Challenge was created with input from more than 25 recreational fishing organizations. It remains a year-round contest, open to anyone who fishes recreationally in Maryland.

So gather your gear and cast a line. You will be a winner for going, and could be an even bigger winner by September!

For more information on the Maryland Fishing Challenge, contact Martin Gary at mlgary@dnr.state.md.us ■

dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge

Martin Gary is an ecologist with DNR's Fisheries Service.



Don O'Neill

Oak Creek Landing in Talbot County — which sees more than 5,000 launches each year — underwent renovations last November including a larger ramp and pier, a repaved parking area, solar powered security lighting and new bulkhead.



Sandi Pope



The Town of Oxford's Timber Dock was re-configured, expanded and rebuilt to accommodate larger, recreational transient boats. The former dock had been deteriorating.

Extreme Makeover

Boating Access Sites

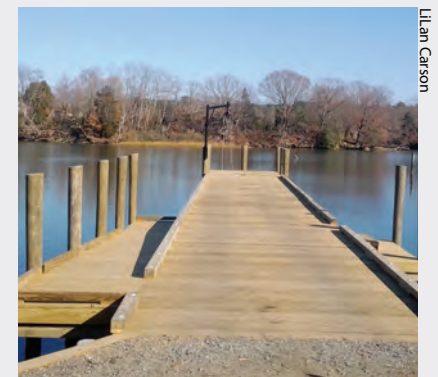
Boating Services renovates docks and piers across Maryland each year. Putting the 5% vessel excise tax to good work, the State Waterway Improvement Fund makes these sites safer and more accessible to the public. These photos speak for themselves!



Terry Eberhart



Lilan Carson



Lilan Carson

Fox Harbor, River Springs and St. George's Island Landings in St. Mary's County were renovated in the spring. Now ADA accessible, the piers offer an enhanced visit to the Potomac for all to enjoy.

INNOVATIONS IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

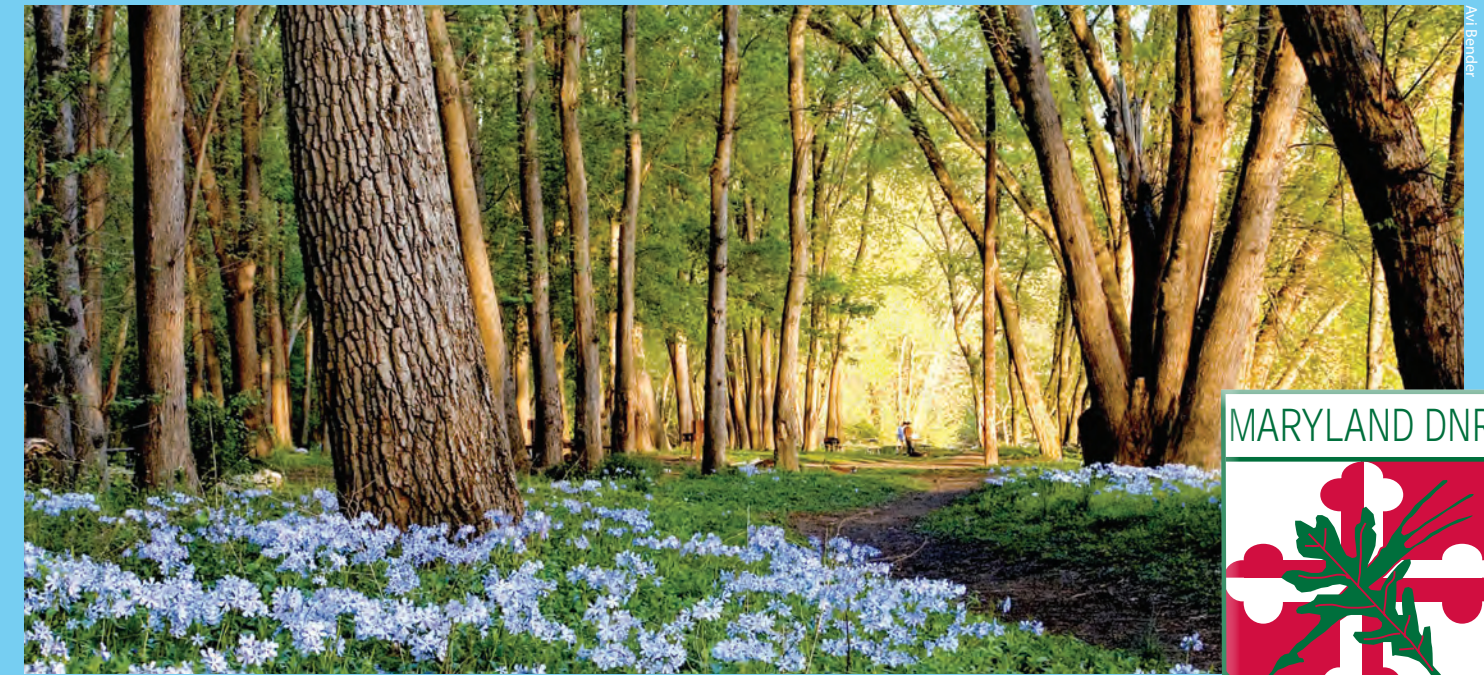
It is no secret that trees are good for their surroundings. People, air, water, land... we all reap from what trees sow. From 2009 to 2013, trees in Maryland have been sowing **a lot** — thanks to Governor Martin O'Malley, the Maryland Forest Service, citizens and volunteers throughout the State who have helped plant trees and protect our forests and the benefits they provide.

The past four years have been monumental — from plantings and legislation to tax breaks and awards, forests saw particularly good investments and collective successes.

"I am always amazed at what is accomplished in a year's time by a relatively small group of highly dedicated natural resource professionals," says State Forester Steve Koehn. "We worked together to accomplish all sorts of tasks that ran the gamut, from community tree plantings to wildland fire emergency response."

By Christine Runion

Kent Carlson



Trees protect air and water quality, reduce energy costs, increase property values and beautify neighborhoods and highways.

According to plan

Maryland has a long-term approach to achieving desired conditions in the State's woodlands, which is updated every five years. The Forest Service created an annual work plan to restore and sustain forest landscapes, ensure healthy and resilient forests, provide clean and abundant water, create jobs and sustainable communities, and make landscapes more resilient to climate change.

Keeping our tree cover

To ensure progress endures this year Governor O'Malley signed first-of-its-kind legislation, a statewide no-net-loss policy for forests. This means the State has pledged to maintain or surpass its current tree canopy, which stands at 40 percent. The Forest Preservation Act of 2013 also establishes new and expanded incentives to help landowners and local governments meet the canopy goal.

Crucial in the protection of our rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay, this legislation encourages smart growth by exempting redevelopment projects that are on an impervious surface from being eligible for incentives and increases penalties for offenders who maliciously start wildfires. It also requires a statewide forest resource inventory be conducted every five years to ensure local governments have the necessary tools to adequately protect tree cover.

Property owners have previously benefited from a tax credit for forestry expenses. The new legislation expands eligible acreage from 10-500 acres to 3-1,000 acres, encouraging more Marylanders to convert residential space to trees and increase, retain and manage forest cover.

A pioneer in forestry

Maryland is the first state in the nation to achieve dual certification under the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which protects the forest product industry and thousands of important jobs by providing certified *green* products to businesses, publicly validating the great work of State Foresters and creating rural revenue.



Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and staff join Earth Day planting efforts at the United Church of Christ.

Marylanders plant trees

As part of Governor O'Malley's *Smart, Green & Growing* initiative, citizens exceeded the statewide *Marylanders Plant Trees* goal of planting and registering 100,000 trees by 2013. The program is still going strong — 105,108 registered trees at time of publication — and continues to offer coupons, tips, gifts and more. Citizens can not only register trees online — they can calculate environmental impact through interactive maps and charts.

In 2011, the State also met its three-year goal of planting 1 million trees on public lands through the *Forest Brigade* — an inmate work program created through a partnership among DNR, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service, and the State Highway Administration.

Visionaries

In April 2012, the Arbor Day Foundation presented Governor O'Malley with its inaugural *Vision Award*. The new honor, which will be awarded only as merited, was created to recognize individuals who inspire and advance extraordinary on-the-ground actions to achieve the full benefits of trees and forests. Governor O'Malley was honored for his unparalleled commitment to



The Forest Brigade planted its millionth tree in 2011.

programs and practices that promote tree planting and sustainable forestry.

In recognition of Maryland Forester Steve Koehn's continuing efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay, the Arbor Foundation awarded him with the 2010 *Champion of Trees Award*.

These honors, certifications and innovative laws confirm Maryland's status as a leader in forest conservation.

However, it is the people on the ground — citizens and foresters working in tandem — that are responsible for expanding and protecting our forestland and urban tree canopy, thereby improving our air, our water, and our quality of life. ■

trees.maryland.gov

Christine Runion is a staff writer with DNR's Office of Communications.



A youngster pitches in at Patapsco Valley State Park.



Volunteers plant trees to serve their community.

INSECTS • BIRDS • SCENERY • PEOPLE ENJOYING STATE PARKS • WILDLIFE • PLANTS



TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

Novice and professional photographers have until

AUGUST 31
to enter DNR's 2013
PHOTO CONTEST

6 first and second place winners will be featured in the
2014 Maryland Natural Resource Calendar

1 GRAND PRIZE WINNER
will win \$500, a 2014 Park Passport and more!

Rules, entry forms and prizes are available at dnr.maryland.gov/photocontest





Leading the way down Tall Poplar Trail at Patapsco.



Playing fetch on the sand at Point Lookout.



This rockin' pair heads for Patapsco's Hollofield Area.



Adventure awaits at the Hollofield Area of Patapsco.

Photos by Stephen Badger

The Call of the Wild

Pet-friendly State Parks

By Stephen Badger

It calls to us. It beckons us. The allure of natural beauty begs us to leave behind the hustle and bustle of modern life, reminds us to go out and play. Many of us are enticed by the visual splendor — endless horizons of grasslands, pastures, trees, mountains and coastlines. For some it's simply a chance to fill the lungs with fresh air. Still others crave the pleasant refrains of nature's wild chorus. Whatever the reason, millions satisfy their passions each year by visiting Maryland's beautiful State Parks.

Such cravings are not, however, the domain of humans alone. We need only

look to our furry domesticated friends to find willing companions for just about any activity we can dream up. After all, our pets too long for outdoor adventure, the exercise it affords, and the chance to bond with friends and family.

A place for pets

Parks across Maryland are increasingly welcoming domesticated animals alongside their human companions. Each year, more and more patrons find new ways and new places to experience outdoor recreation with their pets. And what better state could backdrop these



Splashing around Patapsco's Daniels Area.



Exploring the McKeldin Area of Patapsco.

pursuits than ours? Keenly nicknamed *America in Miniature*, the diverse topography provides opportunity for just about any manner of excursion.

Will its connection to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean, Maryland's epic coastlines team with fascinations that will delight any animal's senses. In fact, the mighty Chesapeake gave rise to the first recognized breed of retrievers. But any breed — locally bred and titled or not — can enjoy a romp on a beach, a splash in the water or a boat ride.

The perfect example

Nestled on a peninsula framed by the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, Point Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County has long been a destination for pet owners. Several areas — including a section of campground — are pet-friendly and well-visited. Park management recently set aside a new section of beach that caters specifically to guests with animal companions, replacing an older section that was lost to erosion.

In response to public demand, Park Manager Christy Bright and her staff have designated a safe and wonderful stretch along the Chesapeake as a year-round, animal accessible beach. It runs just south of the causeway, extending as far as the

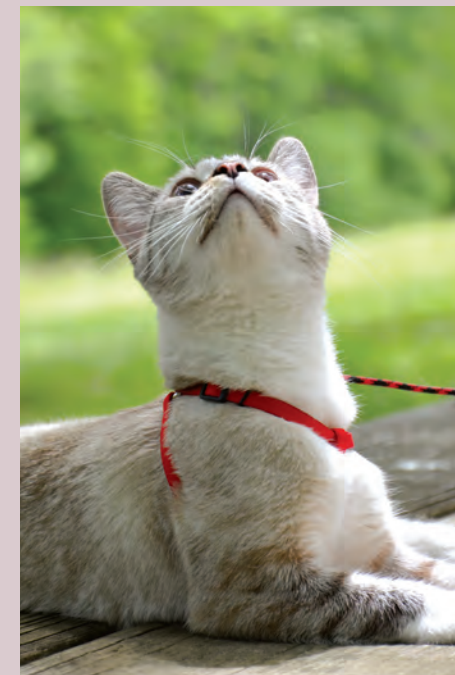
Guidelines

The Maryland Park Service offers many excellent pet-friendly opportunities and asks only that visitors adhere to fairly simple guidelines. In general, the policy can be summed up as responsible ownership. Dogs and cats are to be licensed and all necessary vaccinations — including rabies — need to be up-to-date. Guests should keep their pets leashed — except while swimming — and under control at all times. Such control minimizes stress for

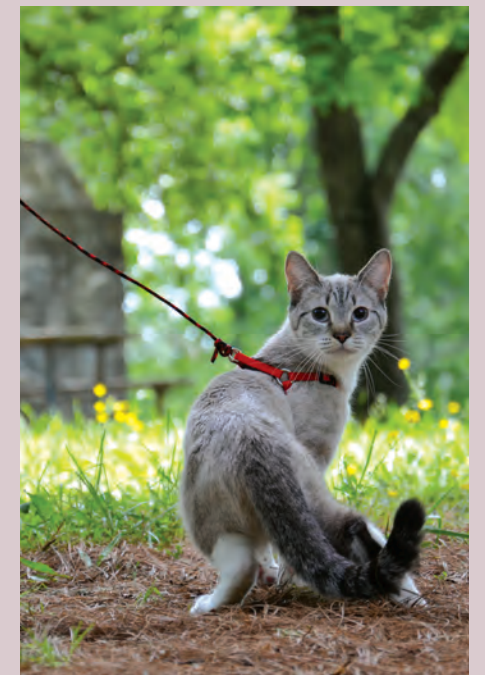
native wildlife, is appreciated by non pet-owning visitors, and ensures the safety of visiting pets.

All waste should be treated as trash, either disposed of in proper receptacles or taken home for disposal. Non-service animals are prohibited in public buildings and playgrounds.

We all share the responsibility of keeping wild places wild. Pets, like we humans, can have significant impacts on our natural world, so it's important to minimize that impact.



State Parks aren't just for the dogs...



This cat enjoys the McKeldin Area too!

Rock Jetty, which serves not only as a boundary but also as a helpful buffer for would-be problematic hooks and lines from the nearby fishing pier.

Other opportunities

Maryland has no shortage of water access elsewhere — countless rivers and streams crisscross our fair State. Several are followed by spectacular trails that wind their way alongside the water, offering not only beautiful scenery but also many spots where pets can seek a cool respite on a hot summer day.

With over 2.7 million forested acres spanning the State, there are nearly endless options for trail users to spend days in the shade. Hikers can opt to

wrestle with challenging elevations in the mountains and foothills of Western Maryland, or enjoy a more leisurely stroll through the flatter Loblolly Pine forests on our eastern shore. Some parks even offer paved, handicapped accessible trails.

Nearly all of these trails are pet-friendly. Whether you're walking, jogging, running or biking — miles and miles of Maryland's best natural offerings are out there, ready to be seen and enjoyed at a moment's notice. ■

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pets.asp

Stephen Badger is part of the Maryland Park Service's Social Media and Marketing Team.

Year-Round Access

The following locations allow pets all year in day-use and picnic areas.

Big Run	Gathland	Rocks
Calvert Cliffs	Gunpowder Falls	Rocky Gap
Casselman River	Janes Island	Rosaryville
Cedarville	Martinak	Seneca Creek
Cunningham Falls	New Germany	Smallwood
Dans Mountain	Patapsco	St. Clement's Island
Fort Frederick	Pocomoke	Tuckahoe
Gambrill		Washington Monument

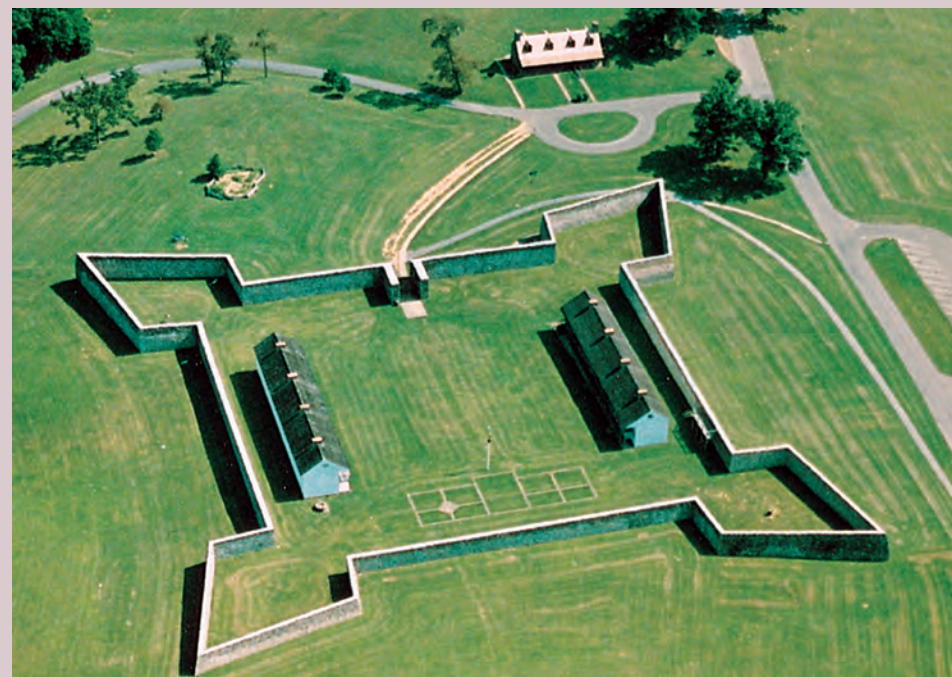
Accessibility and amenities vary from park to park. Additional seasonal and conditional pet-friendly areas are listed online.

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pets2.asp

A Journey Through Time

Fort Frederick and the Western Maryland Rail Trail

By Steve Carr



DNR Archives

Aerial shot of Fort Frederick



DNR Archives

Re-enactors depict 18th century scenes.



DNR Archives

To those seeking adventure in Western Maryland this summer, look no further than two hidden gems just off I-70.

Past Hagerstown at the foothills of the ancient Appalachian Mountains, the gigantic white-stoned Fort Frederick remains perched upon a flat bluff at the edge of the woods. A short drive west

reveals the Western Maryland Rail Trail — an abandoned railroad line converted into what the *Rails to Trails Conservancy* calls one of the top 12 bike trails in the United States.

An historic structure

Fort Frederick was erected in 1756 to protect Maryland's frontier settlers during

the French and Indian War. The 355-foot-long square with 18-foot-high walls features four bastion points that jut out from each corner like towering arrowheads. Inside the thick walls are all sorts of interesting historic structures and artifacts.

Its illustrious past includes serving as a prison for British soldiers during the Revolution, farmland during peacetime and a station for Union troops guarding the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. In 1922, the State of Maryland acquired the fort, and a company from the Civilian Conservation Corps began developing the State Park. Two soldiers' barracks reconstructed in 1975 are still open seven days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day and weekends during the off-season. Staff and volunteers occupy the fort, and, dressed in period clothing, demonstrate daily 18th century life.

From rails to trails

The Potomac River Valley has always been the way west, traversed by Native Americans who called the area home, and European settlers following their dreams along the National Road. The Western Maryland Railway was a lifeline to the tri-state area of Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

DNR acquired the 3-part Western Maryland Rail Trail from CSX in 1990, using \$1 million in Program Open Space funding. Today the trail offers nearly 23 miles of flat, paved surface paralleling the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, tracing a path rich in nature and history.

Hosting 135,300 cyclists and generating \$1.8 million in 2011, the trail has quickly become a popular place to ride and a significant source of local revenue. It offers cyclists a chance to visit countless historic treasures — interpretive



Any cyclist is sure to enjoy the ride.

signs along the way help tell the stories of those who came before.

The first 10-mile section, which opened in 1998, runs from Big Pool to Hancock. This portion parallels many historical sites and scenic areas, including the Park Head Level Graveyard, Millstone Station, Moffet Station, Little Pool and Hancock Station. The picturesque town of Hancock marks the halfway point, where shops sell homemade pies and ice cream, restaurants feature down-home cooking and services include bike rentals, repairs and shuttles.

From Hancock to Polly Pond, a second, more remote 10-mile segment passes through mountainous terrain and offers breathtaking views of the Potomac River. Numerous rock *outcroppings* — portions of bedrock protruding above the soil — located along this section are ideal for geological exploration.

The final 2.5-mile section runs along the southern slope of Sideling Hill Ridge and also passes several interesting historic sites associated with the Potomac.

Blazing forward

Development of a fourth phase is underway through a joint effort between



Photos taken by park staff



Up-close splashes of color found along the trail

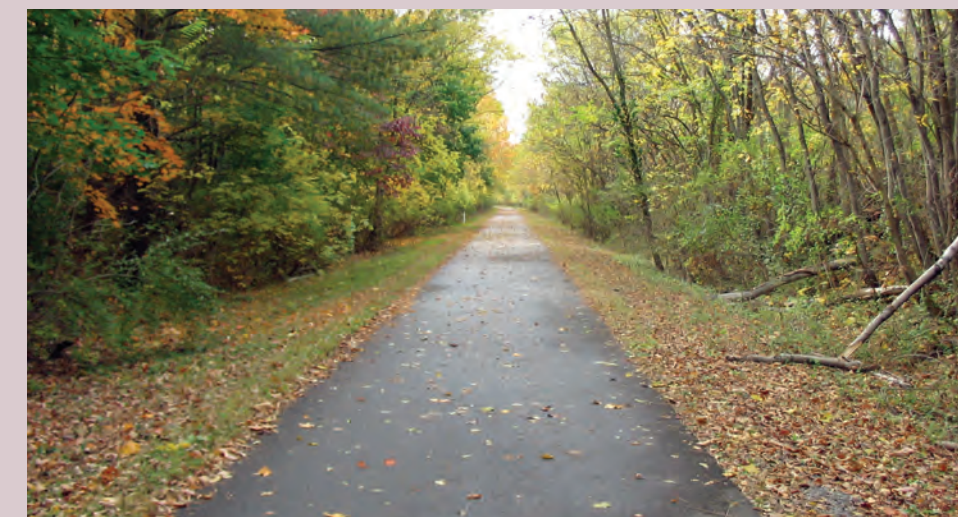
DNR, the National Park Service and the Maryland Department of Transportation. A 14-mile extension to Paw Paw, West Virginia will bypass the Indigo and Stickpile Tunnels to protect nesting areas for several species of bats, including the Little Brown-Nose, and will utilize short stretches of the C&O Canal Towpath.

As DNR Trail Manager Angie Hummer likes to say, "There is no better way to

watch the Appalachian Mountains come alive in full bloom than to ride the Western Maryland Rail Trail."

With summer offering warm weather and vacation days, now is a great time to head out to Western Maryland to enjoy this jewel. ■

Steve Carr is the Land Trails Planner with DNR's Land Acquisition & Planning unit.



Each season brings a beautiful journey along the Western Maryland Rail Trail.

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/western/fortfrederick.asp
dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/western/wmrt.asp

Rain Gardens

Safely absorbing pollutants

By Claudia Donegan and Lauren Dorrill



DNR's rain gardens were originally built in 1998.



They were two of the first in the State.



By 2011, they were overgrown with weeds.



MCC volunteers begin the clean-up process in March, 2012.



They raked, clipped and cleared the area.



Ashton Manor Environmental Services prepped the site.

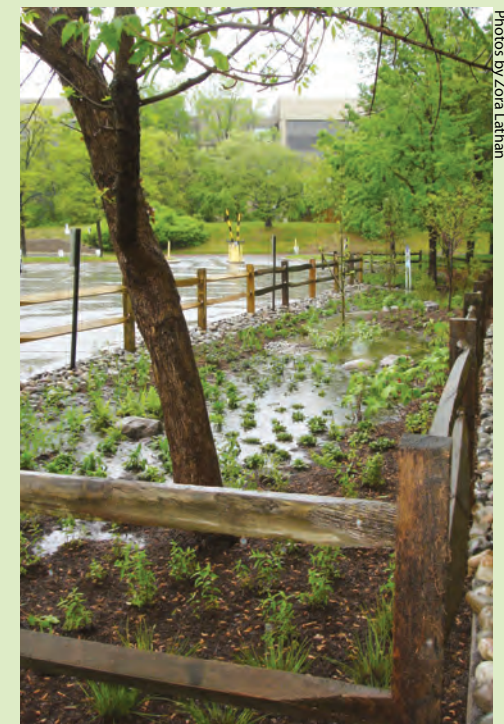


They added new holes (later filled with gravel) for better drainage.



Volunteers from DNR, Adams Academy and other groups installed hundreds of perennials in April.

Soil Sample Results		
POLLUTANT	Before	After
Lead	26	1.83
Chromium	68.09	2.83
Nitrogen	0.30	0.11
Phosphorus	0.07	0.007
measured in parts per million (ppm)		



The garden appropriately faces its first rain on Earth Day.

Stocked with native plants, rain gardens seem like a restoration dream come true — they soak up excess fertilizer, petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants that run off parking lots, driveways and rooftops before reaching waterways, while beautifying the properties they occupy.

As great as that sounds, however, they worry some people. *If they absorb such harmful contaminants, wouldn't they produce toxins and affect plant growth, family members or pets?* The short answer is no, they do not.

Where the pollutants go

Experts agree that rain gardens are not dangerous to humans or animals. Studies have shown bacteria in the soil breaks down metals and petroleum while the plants absorb and utilize pollutants. In other words, contaminants are typically destroyed as they decompose.

A DNR example

College Creek — less than a quarter mile from DNR's headquarters — has been the focus of extensive monitoring for 10 years. Crabs, oysters, false dark

mussels, submerged aquatic vegetation and numerous fish and bird species thrive there.

Striving to protect such aquatic ecosystems, DNR built two of the State's first rain gardens in 1998 to prevent parking lot runoff from reaching the creek. At the time, the gardens also served as a test to the then-new concept of using natural filters to clean up pollution.

Current conditions

Fast forward to 2011. After more than a decade, the gardens needed a face lift. With

the help of the Chesapeake Ecology Center, Low Impact Design Studio, the Maryland Conservation Corp, Groundwater and Environmental Services and volunteers, DNR cleaned out, excavated and planted the 3,096 sq. ft. plots.

New gravel, native plants, mulch, geotextile and biosoil — permeable fabric and soil packed with naturally occurring bacteria — replaced the weeds and deteriorated soils that had built up over the years.

Soil samples were taken before and after the updates, and tested for nitrogen,

phosphorous and several carcinogens — including copper, lead and chromium — by the Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory. Comparison results show much lower metal and nutrient levels in the new sample. With monthly weeding and annual planting programs, the current soil will last for the better part of a century before requiring replacement again.

DNR's rain gardens have safely filtered out and absorbed heavy metals and nutrients for the past 15 years, enhancing the local landscape in the

process. Best of all, these specially designed natural filters protect the water quality of local rivers like College Creek — thus safeguarding the fish and wildlife that live there — and contributing to a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. ■

dnr.maryland.gov/ccp

Claudia Donegan is a specialist with DNR's Chesapeake & Coastal Service unit. **Lauren Dorrill** is a designer and staff writer with DNR's Office of Communications.

{ WILD SHOT }

Eastern screech owls — small, nocturnal raptors — stand just 8-9 inches tall and are rarely seen by people. In fact, they are probably more easily recognized by sound, as their quavering, low-pitched call is often used in spooky movies. ■

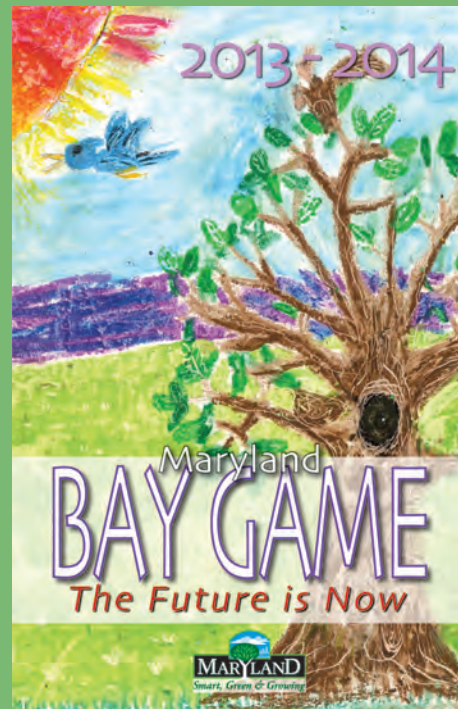


MARYLAND IS... SMART, GREEN & GROWING



Maryland Bay Game Explores Climate Change

The 16th annual Maryland Bay Game activity booklet — featuring artwork from the *Color Maryland Green* contest — is now available online and at local libraries, State Parks, visitor centers and other locations throughout the State.



Themed *The Future is Now*, the 2013-2014 edition focuses on the causes and effects of climate change. Within its pages, children and their families will find insight, tips and fun to last all summer long.

Classic pages include bingo and coloring, while new games, riddles and experiments demonstrate concepts such as sea level rise and solar energy. Governor Martin O'Malley's *Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights* continues to serve as a guide to a backyard scavenger hunt.

The book made its debut at the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's annual Green Schools Youth Summit, where the Governor spoke with 1,200 students and teachers, "I hope you understand what a beautiful, beautiful gift God has given us in the Chesapeake Bay and what an awesome responsibility we have to pass her on to the next generation. I love you guys very, very much. I'm proud of you and we need you."

dnr.maryland.gov/baygame
maeoe.org



Fresh vegetables for sale

Farmers' Market Open Throughout Summer

From 3 to 6 p.m. each Thursday through September 5, the Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market that occupies the Tawes State Office Building parking lot in Annapolis.

Featuring tomatoes, corn, melons, berries and peaches, as well as homemade jerky, candy, baked goods and much more, this popular event conveniently provides family necessities. New additions this year include wine from Green Frogs Winery, fruit-and-herb ice pops from SOCO Artisan Pops and meat from Enticement Farms.

Shopping locally for produce and other goodies helps cut down on packaging and fuel costs, protects and keeps farmland in production, and supports small businesses and local economies. More than 130 farmers' markets are registered with the Department of Agriculture, making local buying easier than ever.



aaedc.org
mda.maryland.gov

Paul Kazyak Chosen as Green Employee of the Year

For the second year, DNR has extended special recognition to the greenest, most sustainability-conscious employee. Paul Kazyak of Resource Assessment Services met that description in 2012.

Paul has been advocating, educating and practicing sustainable living within and outside DNR for many years. Frequently consulted by his colleagues on energy and conservation issues, Paul has helped oversee a myriad of green activities, including establishing an all-LED cabin at New Germany State Park, planting thousands of trees — 4,900 this past spring alone! — and reusing old highway signs for a multitude of department projects.

Among his top accomplishments, Paul established *Frostburg Grows* — a greenhouse-training center that instructs people to grow local food and raise native trees. This program generates two permanent jobs per acre in an area with a 50 percent poverty rate.

Paul also teaches graduate level Applied Sustainability at Johns Hopkins, presents ways to generate stewardship at the State Fair, consults schools on greening activities and serves as a member of the Maryland Association of Environmental



Construction of the *Frostburg Grows* greenhouse is well underway. Paul used old highway signs to make the raised beds, water storage tanks and parts of the greenhouse itself.

and Outdoor Educators certification board. Peer instructors he trained while starting the Highlands Environmental Leadership for high schoolers in Western Maryland now run the program.

Even his home-life features sustainable practices, from composting and gardening to driving an electric car

and producing nearly all electricity from solar roof panels.

Fellow biologist Ron Klauda remarks, "I guarantee that anyone who spends 15 minutes talking with Paul about what they should do to live more sustainably will be persuaded by his enthusiasm and vast knowledge."



Governor O'Malley addresses 1,200 green student and teachers at the Green Schools Youth Summit at Sandy Point State Park.

Become an SGG Partner!

Are you proud of your organization's green successes and initiatives? Share them as an **SGG Partner**.

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Top: Matt Teffeau, Maryland Farm Bureau; Del. Michael Smigiel; Del. Steve Hershey; Del. Jay Jacobs
Bottom: President of Senate Mike Miller; Governor O'Malley; Speaker Michael Busch

Sundays Open for Game

Governor Martin O'Malley has signed legislation allowing for additional Sunday hunting opportunities in Carroll County, Queen Anne's County and Dorchester County.

Hunters play a large role in the State's conservation efforts. Not only will

families gain additional opportunities to share in this time-honored tradition, but local businesses and economies will benefit from more citizens and out-of-state residents choosing Maryland as their hunting destination.

DNR offers many programs —



A Mentored Youth Hunt at Pintail Point on the Eastern Shore

including Junior Hunter Field Days, Mentored Youth Hunts and Becoming an Outdoors Woman — that provide wildlife management and hunting education in a safe setting.

dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide

Major Oyster Restoration Project Receives Approval

Governor Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works approved a wetlands license enabling a landmark oyster restoration effort to move forward. The \$31 million project — funded by the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA and the State of Maryland — will ultimately

replenish 371 acres of oyster bars on the bottom of Harris Creek in Talbot County.

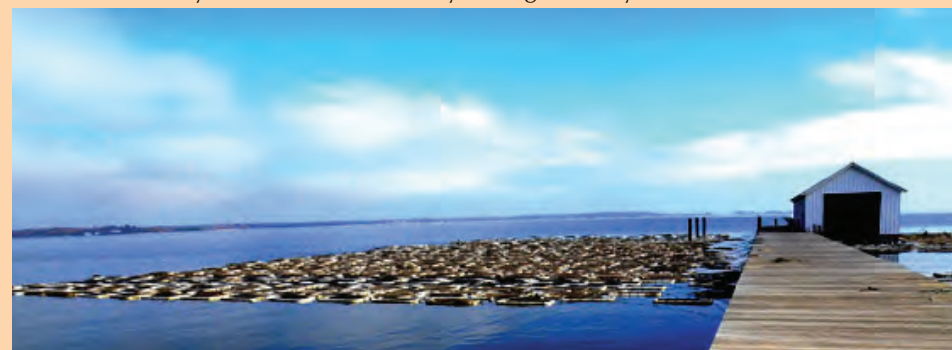
DNR created the sanctuary as part of the 2009 Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan. As more facilities followed suit, the State significantly increased its network of

oyster sanctuaries — from 9% to 24% of remaining quality habitat. The project now underway will again serve as a prototype for future endeavors.

Replenishing the oyster population is a critical component to restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Oysters themselves naturally filter water — one can filter up to 50 gallons a day — and the reefs they form provide habitat for other marine life.

That's good news for water, good news for marine life and good news for people who enjoy the recreational activities and delicious dishes provided as a result.

To learn more about what's to come at Harris Creek, watch the Oyster Restoration video at youtube.com/accessdnr.



Results of Maryland's 2012 Fall Oyster Survey showed population and reproduction increased for the second consecutive year.



A wheelchair access platform for fly fishing is available to anglers at the Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area.

Accessibility for All

DNR makes special efforts to ensure all agency facilities, programs and public lands are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

The Universal Disability Pass provides free, lifetime day-use entrance into State Parks for an impaired guest and one accompanying person. DNR also offers complimentary lifetime hunting and fishing licenses to Maryland citizens certified as former prisoners of war and veterans with service connected disabilities. Passes and licenses are available only at licensing and registration centers.

The DNR Advisory Council — consisting of staff as well as members of the public — meets quarterly at the Tawes Building in Annapolis. Citizens interested in joining can contact Richard Allen in the Office of Fair Practices at 410-260-8058.

The council is currently gathering information from individuals with disabilities to improve their experiences on park trails. Anyone able to provide feedback can do so by contacting Steve Carr at 410-260-8478.

dnr.maryland.gov/ofp
dnr.maryland.gov/download/udpfaq.asp



A fishing trip made possible by DNR's accessibility commitment.

Gene Deems Named Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Gene Deems of the Office of Communications for being selected as the 2012 Employee of the Year! While dozens of other deserving employees were nominated, Gene's colleagues chose him for his tireless efforts promoting the agency's great work.

As e-Gov and Online Services Manager, Gene's unwavering attitude and contagious good cheer provides top-notch customer service. Whether working with internal partners or external stakeholders, he offers not only advice but real, hands-on support as well.

In more than three decades with DNR, Gene has lent his diverse talents to an extensive list of accomplishments. In helping develop the department's first website — which also began Maryland government's online presence — he established the statewide Internet and privacy policy. Though the multi-faceted site today receives hundreds of thousands of hits per year, Gene continues to generate e-newsletters and social media than any other agency.



Secretary Joe Gill presents Gene with the award.

He created and manages shopdnr.com, providing Marylanders with easy access to items such as Park Passes and the *Gift of Trees* while increasing DNR's revenue by thousands of dollars a month. He also plays a huge role in the Black Bear Conservation program, Maryland Seafood and DNR's partnership with Maryland Public Television.

Former Secretary Griffin Honored by Sportsmen's Foundation



Griffin served as Secretary for 9 years over two terms.

The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation presented Former DNR Secretary John Griffin with its distinguished Sportsmen's Best Friend of the Year Award at their 12th Annual Banquet and Auction.

He accepted the award on behalf of all of DNR, noting the "extraordinary team of dedicated natural resource professionals who work to manage Maryland's fish and wildlife populations while providing opportunities to sportsmen and women."

John left DNR in May to take on a new role as Governor Martin O'Malley's Chief of Staff.

mdsportsmensfoundation.org

Jenn Raulin

Directing Bay Restoration Finance & Policy



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*. ■

dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/funding/trust_fund.asp

Christine Runion is a staff writer with DNR’s Office of Communications.



WHAT IS WATER SAFETY? VIDEO CONTEST

Presented by DNR, NRP, West Marine and BoatUS

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for your chance to win...

paddle board

1ST PLACE

family life vests set

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park passports pack

3RD PLACE

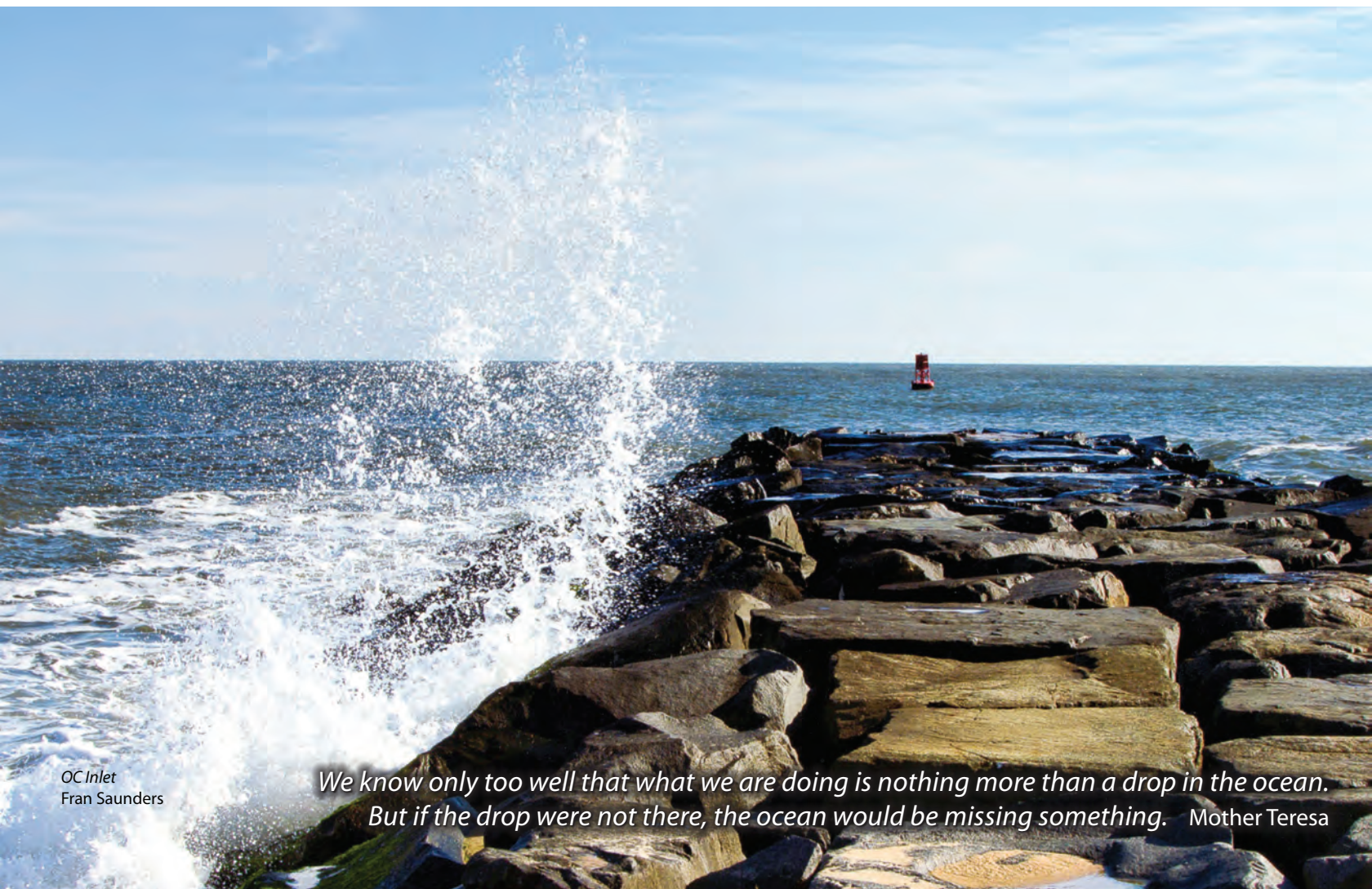
MUST BE...

up to 3 minutes long
family-friendly • **CREATIVE!**

Complete rules and entry forms can be found at dnr.maryland.gov/videocontest



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OC Inlet
Fran Saunders

*We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean.
But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something. Mother Teresa*