

# SHORELINES

News & Notes From the Eastern Shore Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

FALL/WINTER 2018



Volunteers helped install 10 projects throughout Cambridge to slow and filter polluted runoff before it hits local waterways.

## Cambridge Acts for Clean Water

With all of the recent rain, a lot of water is running off the land. This runoff picks up pollution and fouls our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. But the community of Cambridge is working hard to reduce polluted runoff, and to clean up the Choptank River and save the Bay.

As part of a Cambridge 10-year plan for clean water, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has partnered with ShoreRivers, the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, and community members to reduce runoff from residential properties, and to educate homeowners. These partners and others are part of the Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee that is working to help the city and its residents do their part for clean water.

In the month of June, Cambridge residents and volunteers from the committee's partner groups, as well as from Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth, gathered together to help implement the plan. They dug and

planted rain gardens on 10 different residential properties. Planting a rain garden is a great way to add natural beauty to a lawn as well as protect the environment. In the words of homeowner Paul Harrison, "the gardens help filter the rain water that would normally carry excessive sediment and chemicals straight into the rivers." With the 10 new rain gardens in place working to filter polluted runoff, the Choptank River and the people around it will benefit greatly.

The Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee aims to educate homeowners about runoff and flooding issues as well as implement projects that filter the water going into the river. This program is crucial to sustain the health of local waterways. As the committee finds solutions to runoff and stormwater, and involves the community in fun and interesting ways, Cambridge, the Choptank River, and the Chesapeake Bay will be much better off.

From the Desk of  
**Alan Girard**  
EASTERN SHORE  
DIRECTOR



People appreciate  
the Chesapeake

in countless ways: fishing, boating, working on the water, or just finding peace by being near the Bay. No matter your race, religion, or political affiliation, clean water is something we all want and deserve.

In these uncertain times, the Bay reminds us how we are all bound together. Astronauts know as well as anyone that we cannot easily survive separate and apart from our environment. Here on earth, our success depends on how we succeed at relating to each other, and to all living things.

We value our environment, no matter our differences. A clean and healthy Bay transcends political divides. Be sure to vote this election season. The health of the Bay—and living beings everywhere—depends on it.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION  
*Saving a National Treasure*



A new subdivision encroaches on a rural and agricultural area. Smart growth is one of many issues Eastern Shore candidates should be considering.

## For the Bay, 2018 Elections are Key to Sustaining Progress

**H**ere at CBF we often say what happens on the land is mirrored in the water. Similarly, what happens in the county council or commissioner chambers can have a major impact on efforts to restore our waters to health.

Much progress has been made, and scientists who study the Bay are now pointing to conclusive evidence that investments in clean water are getting results. But this inspiring recovery is also fragile.

Now halfway to the 2025 deadline for Bay restoration practices to be fully implemented, progress addressing key pollution sources is lagging behind. In Maryland, polluted runoff, septic system effluent, and drainage from agricultural fields still contribute too much pollution to sustain a long-term recovery.

Local governments on the Eastern Shore have a major role to play in closing the gap. Your local elected officials can take the actions listed here to keep the region's waters and the Chesapeake Bay on the road to recovery. Ask your candidates what they will do to clean up the Eastern Shore's rivers and creeks. If you live in Talbot, Queen Anne's, or Wicomico Counties, you can learn more about your candidates at an upcoming forum.

**Stop polluted runoff.** Adopt and fully fund a local watershed restoration plan. Stop polluted runoff at its source with stronger local forest conservation laws.

**Grow smart.** Adopt comprehensive plans, zoning, and site development rules that protect forests, open space, and water resources, and invest in existing communities.

**Enforce environmental laws.** Fully fund permitting and inspection activities. Use local authority to improve erosion controls at construction sites. Issue consequential penalties for violations.

**Address septic system pollution.** Adopt a local septic stewardship plan. Consider where extending sewer service to correct septic system failures could reduce pollution without triggering additional development.

**Support the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint.** Provide leadership that motivates communities to finish the job of restoring the Bay. Publicly report actions taken and insist on transparent and verifiable results.

For all information on candidate forums visit: [cbf.org/mdforums](http://cbf.org/mdforums).

### GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUMS

#### Wicomico County Council

September 11, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Salisbury University's Fulton Hall, Room 111

#### Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners

September 13, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Chesapeake College's Cadby Theater

#### Talbot County Council

September 27, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Talbot County Free Library Easton Branch

#### Maryland's First Congressional District

Visit [cbf.org/events](http://cbf.org/events) for date, time and venue information.

## REGISTER TODAY!

### Annual Rod & Reef Slam Fishing Tournament

Join CBF's Eastern Shore team and the Coastal Conservation Association's Maryland Chapter (CCA) as we celebrate the beginning of a turn for the better in the Chesapeake's fish and crab habitat. CBF and CCA are co-hosting the second annual Rod & Reef Slam Fishing Tournament on Sept. 22. We are excited to welcome our Presenting Sponsor: Curtis Stokes & Associates, Inc.!



This tournament is a little different.

Anglers will fish on restored oyster reefs, which provide habitat for numerous species. These include reefs at Bill Burton Fishing Pier, Harris Creek, the Little Choptank River, the Tred Avon River, Cooks Point, and Tilghman Island. The number of species caught and their lengths will determine the winning anglers. It's all about variety and experiencing the diversity of life that reef habitat supports.

Come join us! This event is open to adults, youth, power boaters, and kayakers. Registration is required at [cbf.org/slam](http://cbf.org/slam). Contact Hilary Gibson at [hgibson@cbf.org](mailto:hgibson@cbf.org) or 410/543-1999 with questions.



## JOIN US!

**October 4, 2018**  
6:30 p.m.  
Talbot County Free Library  
Frederick Douglass Room  
100 West Dover Street  
Easton, Maryland

Curl up with William Warner's classic, *Beautiful Swimmers* and join the Chesapeake Bay Book Club! You don't need to be an expert on the Bay or environmental issues; you just need a desire to read, learn, and enjoy a lively discussion with snacks and good company.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Hilary Gibson at [hgibson@cbf.org](mailto:hgibson@cbf.org) or 410-543-1999.

**Happy Reading!**



## WELCOME TOM LEIGH



Eastern Shore native and veteran conservationist Tom Leigh is now CBF's Regional Watershed

Services Manager based in the Eastern Shore Office. The three-year position helps partnering local governments build more capacity to reduce pollution under the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. Financially supported by the Maryland Department of the Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and six counties and municipalities, Tom's work is focused on creating efficiencies that help accelerate water quality improvement on the Shore while demonstrating a model for locally shared technical service that can be replicated throughout Maryland and beyond.

Welcome Tom!

# CBF in the Community

## SLURP AND LEARN

September 13, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Dorchester Center for the Arts  
321 High Street, Cambridge

Have you ever wondered where the oysters on your table come from? More and more, these delicious delicacies are being produced on oyster farms, where they contribute to improving the Bay's water quality and habitat before hitting your table. Join us for a FREE event where you can sample local oysters and brews while learning about the ins and outs of oyster farming from a local grower.

Visit [cbf.org/events](http://cbf.org/events) to learn more and register!

## ROD & REEF SLAM FISHING TOURNAMENT

September 22, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Lowes Wharf Marina Inn  
21651 Lowes Wharf Road, Sherwood

CBF is partnering with the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland Chapter, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and presenting sponsor Curtis Stokes & Associates on a slam tournament to celebrate the extraordinary habitat benefits of Eastern Shore oyster reefs. Entry fee is \$50 to fish, compete, and attend the after-party; \$10 to attend the after-party only. Register at [cbf.org/slam](http://cbf.org/slam) to participate.

## OYSTER GARDENING WORKSHOP

September 29, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Eastern Shore Conservation Center  
114 South Washington Street, Easton

Learn to grow and tend oysters at your dock or pier that will be planted on sanctuary reefs. Advanced registration is required at [cbf.org/oysters](http://cbf.org/oysters).

## CHESAPEAKE BAY BOOK CLUB: BEAUTIFUL SWIMMERS BY WILLIAM WARNER

October 4, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Talbot County Free Library,  
Frederick Douglass Room  
100 W. Dover Street, Easton

October's Chesapeake Bay Book Club pick is a classic: William Warner's Pulitzer Prize winning *Beautiful Swimmers*. You don't need to be an expert on the Bay or environmental issues to join the club; you just need a desire to read, learn, and enjoy snacks over a lively discussion. The Chesapeake Bay Book Club is co-sponsored by CBF and the Talbot County Free Library. Free and open to the public.

## VOLUNTEERS AS CHESAPEAKE STEWARDS (VOICES) ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Tuesdays, October 9 to November 13,  
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wye River Upper School  
316 South Commerce Street, Centerville

Come "back to school" with us in a six-week course to learn about the Bay's biology, its issues, and how volunteers can help restore local waters to health. \$25 per person; \$40 per couple. Registration is required at [cbf.org/voices-qa](http://cbf.org/voices-qa). Space is limited!

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