

THE IMPACT OF MARYLAND'S AMAZING VOLUNTEER FORCE!

GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY & MIRAMAR LANDING COMMUNITY

1ST PLACE: BEST EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM



<https://chesapeakestormwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/1597-3.pdf>

Awareness to Action

The Arundel Rivers Education and Outreach program focuses on engaging and educating everyone in the South, West, and Rhode River watersheds. Our goal is to take community members from curiosity to awareness to action; everyone deserves to know what challenges our local environment faces and what each of us can do to help.

Our Education and Outreach Program reaches the community by:

- Getting volunteers on, near, or in the water through programs like Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Watchers
- **Working with schools, camps, and clubs to engage and empower our youth**
- Bringing Arundel Rivers to YOU through informational tables at community events, presentations, and even on your phone screens.

Arundel Rivers has reached over a thousand school aged children through meaningful environmental education each year.



EXPONENTIAL IMPACT

In 2024, Watershed Stewards and Tree Troopers led their communities to engage in a record-breaking number of environmental activities!

- 728** projects installed to catch polluted runoff
- 28,081** native trees, shrubs, and perennials planted to reduce erosion
- 29,927** hours volunteered to WSA
- 57,369** residents engaged to take action
- 722,785** sq. ft. of invasive removed to protect native habitat

Join the



Image of Marley Middle School Garden, courtesy of WSA



"This wasn't just about planting trees - it was about planting connection. Between people. Between communities and the land. Between who we are and who we're becoming as stewards of this earth."
-Ralinda Wimbush, Tree Ambassador

Chesapeake Bay Trust

2024 - 2025 Year in Review

Wildlife and Habitat	Stormwater	Education & Outreach
237,661 native area, pollinator plants, native grasses and other native plants installed	41 acres of riparian area restored or enhanced	51,520 acres engaged through 5,832 workshops
77 acres of forests, stream buffers, riparian wetlands, and wet areas created or restored	113,241 square feet of rain infrastructure installed or enhanced	61,370 people educated through 5,832 workshops
52 miles of invasive species removed	303 educational materials	25,149 residents engaged through 5,832 workshops
1,443,500 pounds of trash and debris removed	70,886 pounds of trash removed through programs	



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS TRAINED TO DATE

- 386 Certified Watershed Stewards
- 166 Tree Troopers
- 28 Tree Ambassadors

2024 - 2025 RESULTS

- 35,000+ native trees & plants installed
- 31 acres of invasives removed
- 42,000+ residents engaged
- 715 new projects

Restoration >

CBF performs hands-on restoration work with community partners across the watershed to reduce pollution at its source and rebuild the Bay's natural filters—oyster reefs, forests, soil, and wetlands. These efforts not only improve water quality in the Bay and its rivers, they also protect shorelines, provide habitat for wildlife, cool cities, and increase our resilience to climate change.

Collaboration - Local



Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, Leonardtown Butterfly Trail, St. Mary's County Garden Club, and University of Maryland Master Gardeners

Wild About Wildflowers

Over 200 residents new to native planting installed 2250 native wildflowers at their homes, creating habitat for pollinators and taking meaningful action for local biodiversity with our easy, ready-to-plant *Wildflowers in a Weekend* native plant kits!



Key strategies suggested by community



Involve children of all ages in the Project



Educate first-time home buyers on how to nurture natural spaces



Provide fun, interactive, social, events and workshops

Get to know your local watershed-focused NGOs!

- ★ **All watersheds:**
 - Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy
 - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
 - Chesapeake Bay Trust
 - Scenic Rivers Land Trust
- ★ **Patapsco:** Anne Arundel Patapsco River Alliance
- ★ **Magothy:** Magothy River Association
- ★ **Severn:** Severn River Association & Severn Riverkeeper
- ★ **South/West/Rhode:** Arundel Rivers Federation
- ★ **Patuxent:** Patuxent Riverkeeper
- ★ and many more!



Visit AARivers.org > Education & Outreach



GARY GAKENHEIMER

Gary Gakenheimer completed a massive shoreline restoration project with BGE in his community, Chestnut Hill Cove in Pasadena. The site, which suffered excessive erosion and slope failures, is now home to over 20,000 square feet of new tidal wetlands with over 17,000 plants. Gary is also working to restore a highly eroded tributary stream so that the new wetland is not overwhelmed by sediment.



Collaboration - Local, National, International



Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, Nurture Natives, Wild Ones National, BBC Natural History Unit

What Can I Do?

Plant Trees and Native Plants



The Impact of our Restoration Programs

In 2024, with our steadfast volunteers and partners by our side, we planted billions of oysters and dozens of acres of streamside forests, picked up nearly 100,000 pounds of trash, and more. Take a look at the impact you made possible:

1.7 billion oysters added to the Chesapeake Bay

98 acres of streamside forests planted

4,930 volunteers donated 67,858 hours of time to restoring the Bay

BEST YEAR YET!

In 2025, Stewards led their communities to engage in environmental action, resulting in thousands of moments of impact:

689 projects installed to catch polluted runoff

31,575 native trees, shrubs, and perennials planted to reduce erosion

67,298 residents engaged to take action

740,000 sq ft of invasive removed to protect native habitat

Help Make 2024 Even Better!

aawsa.org/donate



Explore the Bay | Where We Work | Our Programs | Get Involved | Membership & Giving | Donate

ALL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Restoration Volunteer

It's so easy to bring your skills to help make the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and coastal watersheds healthier, a better place to live and work. There are plenty of ways you can contribute.

Maryland, Pennsylvania, VA only



Clean Water Captains



Clean Water Captains are ambassadors for clean water in their communities. CBF staff can't be in all 92 localities that drain to the Bay, so we rely on captains to help be the eyes, ears, and voice for the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. Clean Water Captains take action in support of clean water by sharing information with their neighbors, congregations, community, and elected officials to help raise awareness and help realize practical, effective, local solutions. Captains help find solutions that work to restore clean water in their communities. Learn more about being a [Clean Water Captain](#) in Maryland and Virginia.

How raising awareness leads to community engagement : AAWSA was built on the idea of the Master Gardener Program, training individuals who then volunteer in their communities, giving lectures, conducting outreach, and organizing projects.

**Raising Awareness leads to Action - Let's make a Better Planet for our Youth -
We Can Do this Maryland !**

