

SHORELINES

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

FALL/WINTER 2019



Team FishTalk Magazine competes in 2017 Rod & Reef Slam Fishing Tournament.

Calling all Eastern Shore Fish Fanatics!

September is one of the best months for fishing in the Chesapeake. But before you get out on the water, we're inviting you to join us for a Shore Anglers' Fall Preview on Thursday, September 5, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Jimmie & Sooks Raw Bar in Cambridge. Talk about all things fish with representatives from CBF, Coastal Conservation Association Maryland Chapter (CCA), and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)! Come out to get your questions answered, pick up awesome giveaways, learn about upcoming tournaments, and enjoy heavy appetizers. This event is free and open to the public, but please register at cbf.org/shoreanglers.

At the fall preview DNR staff will detail the "Click Before You Cast" app that provides answers to the age-old question, "where are the fish?" The app uses real-time, scientific data on indicators such as salinity, water clarity, and dissolved oxygen levels to help anglers target specific species more easily. Learn more about this tool and see a demo from the developers themselves.

CBF, CCA, and DNR will also talk about DNR's new rockfish advisory system, catch and release best practices, and upcoming management actions for rockfish and menhaden for the 2020 fishing season. The event includes iAngler fishing tournament app demonstrations to teach attendees about the fast-growing tournament platform for catch and release tournaments. Those who attend this event will receive a discounted registration to the Rod and Reef Slam Fishing Tournament on September 21 (additional details about that tournament are on the back page and at cbf.org/slam).

Rockfish, known outside the region as "striped bass," are often pointed to as a Chesapeake success story. When the fishery collapsed in the 1980's, a complete moratorium was put in place—no one could catch these iconic fish for a decade as the population was left alone to build back up to sustainable levels. Since the moratorium was lifted in the early 1990s, Marylanders have been fishing for our beloved bass. Recent reports, however, show that fishery numbers are decreasing again, and anglers can expect

From the Desk of
Alan Girard
EASTERN SHORE
DIRECTOR



Few things define the Chesapeake Bay like rockfish, oysters, and crabs. So making sure their habitat is clean and healthy is a top priority.

When we treat runoff and wastewater at the highest industry standards, the Bay gets clearer. Clearer water means more sunlight for underwater grasses, which continue to increase in acreage.

And where there's grass, there are crabs. Scientists estimate the crustaceans' population rose by 60 percent this year. More crabs and grasses are signs that controlling pollution is working.

The equation is simple: stop pollution and Bay critters come back.

Want more wildlife in your river or creek? Read on for how you can help.

changes to fishing regulations next year. Get the latest on rockfish—and their favorite food source, menhaden—during the Shore Anglers' Fall Preview.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure



HILARY GIBSON/CBF STAFF

Volunteers help restore a wetland on a Kent County, Maryland farm. The wetland will treat runoff from nearby cropland and create wildlife habitat.

How's the Bay Doing?

At CBF, we get that question a lot. Luckily the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint makes it easier than ever to see if we are making progress to save the Bay.

The Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, established in 2010 after years of slow progress cleaning up the Bay, is our best chance for success in removing the Bay from the federal impaired waters list. The Blueprint includes pollution limits for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as plans to meet those limits for each of the six Bay states and the District of Columbia. It also includes two-year goals to keep progress on schedule.

The State of Maryland just released the final update to their Blueprint plan for cleaning up the Bay and is on track to meet overall nutrient-reduction targets by 2025. The state plans to meet the goals primarily with investments to upgrade sewage treatment plants and in annual farm management practices, such as by subsidizing cover crops.

However, there is concern that the state should be investing in more long-term practices that will ensure clean water for Marylanders beyond 2025. Efforts to address polluted urban runoff and septic systems have stalled. Stronger investments in practices such as tree plantings, encouraging pastured livestock, and green infrastructure in towns and cities will cut pollution and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Since 2010, business owners, local governments, nonprofits, and private citizens have all worked to do their part for clean water. And we are seeing results in increasing acreage of underwater grasses, abundant crabs, and water quality that has been resilient in the face of record rainfall in recent years.

This fall, we are showcasing some of the work being done locally to clean up our Eastern Shore rivers. Join CBF and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance for a Rain Garden Walking Tour on October 23 at 5:00 p.m. at Long Wharf Park in Cambridge. See examples of both city and private stewardship and learn how to bring similar projects to your community.

Can't make the tour? Plan to attend Making History: Saving the Bay Through the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint on November 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Dorchester Center for the Arts. CBF's Eastern Shore Director Alan Girard will describe the Blueprint, its results, and how it's becoming a national model for cleaning up polluted waterways. Both events are part of the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit, which will be at Dorchester Center for the Arts from October 19 until November 30.

To learn more about the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint and to see how the states are doing, see CBF's State of the Blueprint at... cbf.org/StateOfTheBlueprint. For more on the Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit in Cambridge, go to visitdorchester.org/waterways.

JOIN US as we fish on six oyster restoration sites near the mouth of the Choptank River.

Winning anglers in adult, youth, power boat, and kayak divisions will be determined by number of species caught and their lengths.

Saturday, September 21
Fishing Begins: 6:30 a.m.

Afterparty and Awards: 3:00 p.m.
Lowe's Wharf Marina Inn
21651 Lowe's Wharf Road, Sherwood, MD

Entry Fee: \$40/individual
\$120/boat (minimum 2/maximum 6 people) includes entry, afterparty, food, and giveaways

Don't fish?
\$10 will get you into the afterparty for food, entertainment, and cash bar

Get more information and register at **CBF.ORG/SLAM**



Oyster Gardening workshops are held each fall on the Eastern Shore.

Save the Oyster, Save the Bay

The Bay's most beloved bivalve needs some help. After a devastating bout with disease in the late 1980s, decades of overharvesting, habitat destruction, and water pollution, the oyster is hanging on by a thread. The 2018 Maryland oyster stock assessment found that the state's oyster population is less than half what it was 20 years ago.

Oysters are one of the Chesapeake Bay's best natural filters. They grow in a reef structure, which provides essential habitat for fish and other Bay creatures. We cannot save the Bay without saving the oyster.

CBF's Oyster Gardening Program gives people the opportunity to help bring back this vital species by growing oysters alongside their docks; a friend or neighbor's dock; or at community piers, marinas, and waterfront businesses. Each participant attends a fall workshop to build a set of oyster wire mesh cages to hang from the dock. Gardeners receive several thousand seed oysters to put in the cages and instructions for keeping their oysters in tip-top shape over the winter. In late spring, the adult oysters are returned to CBF for planting on sanctuary (non-harvest) reefs.

Sign up for CBF's Eastern Shore Oyster Gardening Workshop on Sunday, October 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Eastern Shore Conservation Center in Easton. Visit cbf.org/oysters or contact Pat Beall at pbeall@cbf.org to register.

Leading by Example

Worcester County's 2018 Teacher of the Year, Karen Holland, brings her students out to CBF's Arthur Sherwood Environmental Education Program for a field experience.

After winning the title of Worcester County Teacher of the Year, Karen Holland, and her fellow Maryland Teachers of the Year finalists, were gifted a CBF environmental education field experience by program sponsors, Northrup Grumman.

Mrs. Holland's class from Cedar Chapel Special School visited the Arthur Sherwood Environmental Education Program in Annapolis for two days this past spring. Over the course of their day, students canoed, tested the Bay's water quality, conducted biological surveys, and dissected oysters aboard CBF's educational workboat, the *Marquerite*.

CBF offers many opportunities for students, teachers, and other adults to get outside and learn about the wonders of our Bay region. For more information on CBF's environmental education programs, visit cbf.org/apply.



Of the experience, Holland said her "students were so proud of what they accomplished and learned!"

CBF in the Community

SHORE ANGLERS' FALL PREVIEW

Thursday, September 5

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Jimmie & Sooks Raw Bar & Grill
527 Poplar Street, Cambridge

Talk about all things fish with representatives of CBF, the Coastal Conservation Association's Maryland Chapter, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources! Come out to get your fishing-related questions answered, pick up awesome giveaways, learn about upcoming tournaments, and enjoy heavy appetizers. This event is free and open to the public, but please register at cbf.org/shoreanglers.

ROD & REEF SLAM FISHING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 21

After Party at 3:00 p.m.

Lowes Wharf Marina Inn
21651 Lowes Wharf Road, Sherwood

CBF is partnering with CCA Maryland and Maryland DNR on a slam tournament to celebrate the extraordinary habitat benefits

of oyster reefs. Entry fee is \$40 per person or \$120 per boat (maximum 6 anglers) to compete and attend the afterparty. \$10 to attend the afterparty only. Additional information and registration can be found at cbf.org/slam.

OYSTER GARDENING WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 6

Time: 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 later be planted on sanctuary reefs in the Chesapeake Bay. Advanced registration is required at cbf.org/oysters or by contacting Pat Beall at pbeall@cbf.org.

VOICES ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Tuesdays: October 15 to November 19

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Guerrieri Student Building, Salisbury University
Camden Avenue, Salisbury

Come "back-to-school" with CBF in a six-week course to learn about the Bay's biology, environmental issues, and how volunteers and their communities can help restoration efforts in their local waters. Classes feature speakers from non-profit, government, and citizen groups. Registration is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and includes a CBF membership. Space is limited, so register today at cbf.org/voices-sa.

RAIN GARDEN WALKING TOUR

Wednesday, October 23

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Long Wharf Park, Cambridge

Find out what green infrastructure is and how the City of Cambridge has jumped on board to protect local waterways. Join CBF and Nanticoke Watershed Alliance for a tour around Cambridge to see some beautiful new rain gardens, rain barrels, and porous pavers. This event is part of the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit. Find out more and register at www.nanticokeriver.org

MAKING HISTORY: SAVING THE BAY THROUGH THE CHESAPEAKE CLEAN WATER BLUEPRINT

Thursday, November 14

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Dorchester Center for the Arts Water/Ways Exhibit
321 High Street, Cambridge

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. Decades of pollution have caused impacts on everything from wildlife to economic productivity. Now, citizens and groups are coming together to restore the Bay's health under the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. And it's working. CBF's Alan Girard will describe the blueprint, its results, and how it's becoming a national model for cleaning up polluted waterways.

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