University of Maryland Extension
Solutions in your community

Sea Grant Maryland

Issue 1 Volume 1
February 2014

Headwaters

Publication of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Watershed Educators

Spa Creek, Annapolis, MD
Photo Credit: Krisztian Varsa

Inside this Issue

Dear Readers:

Welcome to Headwaters! Allow us introduce the UME Sea Grant Extension Watershed & Coastal Communities Specialists: Jennifer Dindinger, Amanda Rockler, Amy Scaroni, Jackie Takacs, Krisztian Varsa, and Vicky Carrasco.

We are educators in water quality, watershed restoration and protection, coastal community protection, and climate change adaptation. As Extension Educators, we work with our communities to provide traditional opportunities for education and outreach but we also build partnerships, identify and leverage support for funding, and advise /assist in the planning, implementation and monitoring of stormwater remediation projects.

Erosion in your backyard? That's us. Local organization needs funding to rip out a parking lot? That's us. Capturing private stormwater practices with state-of-the-art technology? That's us.

In this first issue, we bring you a new rain garden app for your smart phone, trees in Chestertown, feeling "Dib" in 2014, and climate adaptation. You can expect a new issue quarterly and find us everyday at www.extension.umd.edu/watershed!

Sincerely,
The Maryland Sea Grant Extension Watershed Educators Team

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A Tree Grows in Chestertown

+ Amy Scaroni

+ Chestertown is looking noticeably greener these days- thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers who recently planted 4 acres of trees

Students from Kent County Middle School add mulch to the base of a newly planted tree. Photo credit: Kees de Mooy

Chestertown is looking noticeably greener these days, thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers who recently planted four acres of trees at Margo Bailey Community Park. The 210 new trees, which include species such as the American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), River Birch (*Betula nigra*), Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*), Tulip Polar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and Tupelo (*Nyssa spp.*), were planted in close proximity to a tributary of the Chester River, re-establishing a stream-side buffer that likely existed before the area was developed.

Restoring vegetation in the riparian zone helps to slow stormwater runoff, allowing water to soak into the soil and filtering out pollutants before reaching local streams.
Led by Kees de Mooy, Zoning Administrator for the Town of Chestertown, volunteers from Washington College's Student Environmental Alliance and students from Kent County Middle School, along with their teacher Ed Stack, braved near-freezing temperatures to plant and mulch the

According to de Mooy, "The tree planting project at the Community Park has been a tremendous success."

trees. Using shovels and rakes loaned by local Master Gardener Sabine Harvey, trees were planted along the new walking path that circles the perimeter of the park.

The project was funded by a grant from the Governor's Stream Restoration Challenge, which intends to establish 1,000 new acres of stream-side forests by 2015.

The verdict? According to de Mooy, "The tree planting project at the Community Park has been a tremendous success. Everyone who has visited since the trees were planted is thrilled with the transformation of a former farm field into a beautiful tree-lined park."

The new stream-side forest, and similar projects around the watershed, are not just improving local water quality, but also creating wildlife habitat. Volunteers have built bluebird boxes, which will soon be installed in the park. As if in anticipation, the bluebirds have already begun to appear.

As the trees grow, they will provide shade, wildlife habitat, and water quality benefits. Photo credit: Kees de Mooy

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Need a Rain Garden? There's an App for That!

+ Jennifer Dindinger

+ UCONN helps make it CLEAR how to install a rain garden... even in Maryland!

Have you ever thought about putting in a rain garden but worried the process was too complicated? Do your clients need help but don't know where to turn? Now there's a great solution – the Regional Rain Garden app! Designed by the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) at UCONN and brought to Maryland by the Sea Grant Extension Watershed Team, this free app walks users through the process of learning about, designing, planting, and maintaining a rain garden.

Video tutorials demonstrate each of the steps involved in creating a rain garden. A sizing calculator, soils map, and cost calculator help users decide where to put the rain garden and how much it might cost to do the installation. The native plant guide is customized for your state (selected in Settings or when you first download the app), and allows you to choose plants based on the desired plant type, bloom color, and the sun availability in your yard.

And, most importantly, the maintenance section depicts how to do proper maintenance and even has an option to set reminders

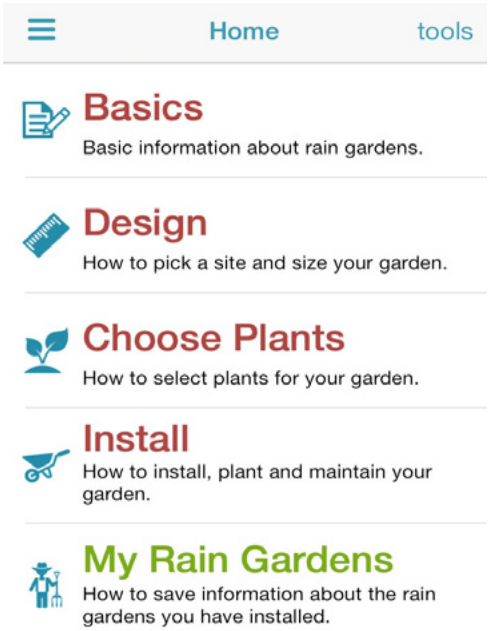
Available on the App Store

Download for Android

"The app does everything but get out there and build the garden for you!"

for yourself. The app does everything but get out there and build the garden for you!

The Regional Rain Garden app is free and available for both Android and iOS products. Visit extension.umd.edu/watershed and click on "Regional Rain Garden App" for download instructions. Happy rain gardening!



Working hard to implement a rain garden in Columbia, MD. Photo credit: Amanda Rockler

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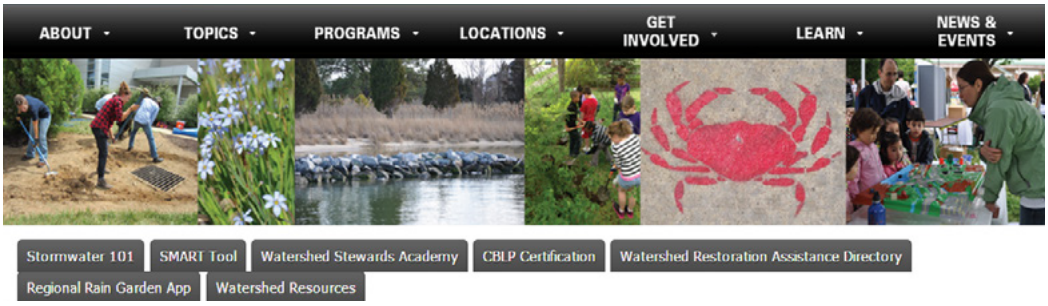
New Website

+ Jackie Takacs

+ the UME Watershed Protection and Restoration Program website is the place to go for information about stormwater and watershed restoration efforts across Maryland

www.extension.umd.edu/watershed



Launched this past October, the UME Watershed Protection and Restoration Program website is the place to go for more information about issues related to stormwater and watershed restoration efforts across Maryland. Whether you are looking to control runoff from your own property, restore natural habitats or help others in their efforts – our site offers everything from factsheets and videos to state-of-the-art Apps and online tracking tools to get you started. Highlights from our site include:

1) *Don't understand Watershed Restoration and Stormwater Protection Fee?* (no we don't call it the rain tax!) In 2012, the State of Maryland passed the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (HB-987). This program, which currently only applies to the nine largest counties in Maryland (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's) and Baltimore City mandated the creation

of a stormwater remediation fee. The purpose of this fee is to manage and treat polluted stormwater that is running into local waterways. Fee structure is established independently by each county/city and differs across the State. For more information about the stormwater remediation fees, as well as stormwater rebate and reimbursement programs for your county visit, our Water Resources page!

2) *Looking for Money?* Visit the Maryland Watershed Restoration Assistance Directory. This is a one-stop shop for anyone looking for funds or technical assistance to implement projects that restore Maryland's streams, rivers, bays, and watersheds. The directory includes information from federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private foundations. Entries are listed in alphabetical order by topic area and are marked with symbols that indicate whether their assistance is funding ($), technical (T), or both.

Like all websites, ours is an ever-changing and evolving site. If there's something you are looking for and cannot find it – *let us know!*

Feeling "Dib" in 2014

+ Amanda Rockler

+ The word became part of our vernacular and our social norm because it means something to us and we believe in it

My sister loves to play scrabble. The fact that she likes word games is ironic because she is dyslexic, but it is also one of the reasons that playing games with her is so fun - she ALWAYS makes up words! Recently, in the middle of an intense scrabble game, my sister played the word "dib." When asked to define the word, she gave a concrete dictionary definition without flinching, "Dib - unusually good, of the highest kind or quality: notably superior." When asked to use it in a sentence, she said, "I am feeling dib about this scrabble game." We all laughed and the game went on, but my family and friends still find ourselves using the word "dib" regularly to describe things we like or how we are feeling. The word became part of our vernacular and our social norm because it means something to us and we believe in it.

What does the word "dib" have to do with stormwater? Nothing. However, it offers us a lesson. Creating a social norm, or an accepted practice, requires that the audience connect with the idea, practice, or behavior.

Stormwater is an obscure topic that many people do not understand. Recently, I attended a stormwater conference and a passerby asked me about our large

group. I told her we were at a stormwater conference. She answered, "What is stormwater?" After I explained what stormwater is she responded, "People from all over the country and all over the world are working on that issue? Why!?!"

I immediately began to doubt my explanation of stormwater and its importance, but then I realized: if something is not your highest priority, if it does not directly impact your day-to-day life, your health, or your pocket book, then why would you care?

The answer, of course, is that stormwater *does* directly impact all of these things, but without a personal connection or an understanding of the concept of stormwater, the word is meaningless. So in 2014, lets work together to make stormwater a "dib": a known word, about which people people care, and a new social norm!

This is an excerpt taken from the All About Stormwater blog written by Amanda Rockler in 2013.

Climate Corner

+ Vicky Carrasco

+ In Climate Corner, we will focus on climate change adaptation, which explores how to limit our vulnerability to climate change impacts

A King Tide event in Annapolis, MD.
Photo credit: Flickr @ Forsaken Fotos

Climate change is often the elephant in the room, stemming from trying to address two issues: mitigation and/or adaptation. The science of global warming mitigation - its causes and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - is well-explored in the climate change community. In *Climate Corner*, we will focus on climate change adaptation, which explores how to limit our vulnerability to climate change impacts through various measures and how to enhance the resilience to observed and anticipated impacts of climate change.

In recent years, Sea Grant Extension programs throughout the nation have examined the issue of climate change in the context of adaptation in coastal communities. Maryland Sea Grant is exploring ways of addressing some of these questions in partnership with other University of Maryland faculty and state agencies. The Climate Change Forum (report) in 2012 brought together faculty, state agency representatives, and local communities to initiate a conversation about research needs and better

coordination about climate change adaptation. Another forum is planned for 2014. Maryland Sea Grant was also part of the project Mobilizing the NOAA Sea Grant Network for Coastal Community Climate Resilience (funded by NOAA SARP) which was lead by Oregon Sea Grant, and included national and state analysis surveys on climate adaptation (results for Maryland forthcoming).

Our goal is to help answer several important questions which resonate with coastal communities, such as:

1) What are the impacts of climate change on your region's life, economy, and resources?

2) What are the short and long term impacts of climate change in coastal areas of Maryland?

3) What actions can be taken today to reduce negative impacts and improve climate preparedness and resilience?

4) What are the current attitudes, barriers, and perceptions about incorporating climate change into community planning?

We will keep you informed of Maryland Sea Grant's outreach efforts around climate adaptation and its interface with sustainability, land use planning, and watershed planning.

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Headwaters is a publication providing information and resources for Extension and watershed protection professionals. It is a joint production of the University of Maryland Extension and Maryland Sea Grant Program. If you have any comments, questions, or ideas for Headwaters, please contact the Specialists:

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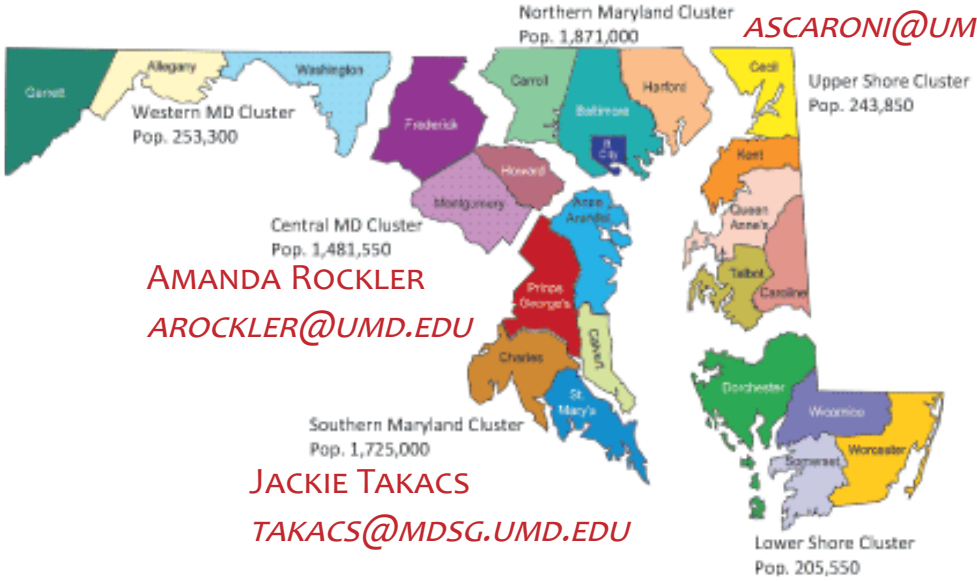

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For more information on related publications and programs, visit extension.umd.edu/watershed. Please visit http://extension.umd.edu/ to find out more about Extension programs in Maryland.

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