

# Watershed Watch

News from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

## Alliance Help Businesses Develop Green Roof Infrastructures

### Upcoming Events

#### Save the Dates!!!

#### Project Clean Stream

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Call for Volunteers/Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust

#### The Alliance River Sojourns

MD - Patuxent River

June 19-24, 2008

PA - Susquehanna River

June 15-21, 2008

VA - James River

June 25-29, 2008

For more information, please call 410-377-6270

The Alliance uses its signature RestoreCorp program to assist businesses by promoting green infrastructures. RestoreCorp includes bayscape gardens, rain gardens, architectural landscape design using native plants and tree planting.

The Alliance just recently completed two large-scale projects with major corporations utilizing RestoreCorp. In partnership with Constellation Energy, the Alliance completed a 75-acre riparian forest buffer planting program that began in the Baltimore region, and the 12,000 square-foot green-roof project at SunTrust Bank building in central Richmond.

In addition, the Alliance--in partnership with Union Bankshares in Caroline County--developed one of the first comprehensive environmentally-friendly development of its kind. Consisting of 14-acres, the Union Bankshares operations center has incorporated RestoreCorp technology in its landscape and building architecture; designed to reduce water and energy needs, to capture and reduce stormwater run-off with a bio-retention parking lot using native plantings.

With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Alliance will host a series of workshops at the operations center that focuses on low impact development techniques, conservation landscaping, training in restoration, monitoring techniques,

and water and resource conserving design features. *(Photo below: SunTrust Bank roof-top garden)*

The Alliance looks forward to beginning new projects in 2008 and bringing the RestoreCorp program to businesses that are interested in taking the valuable steps toward improving water and air quality. For additional information, please call 410-377-6270 or visit the website at

[www.acb-online.org](http://www.acb-online.org)



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## Advantages of Green Roof-Top Infrastructures

Although developing green roof projects can be expensive and can be a drawback to many businesses, there are some factors that all business owners must know prior to incorporating green-roof technology into your business plans.

One factor to consider is there are two types of green-roof projects. They are intensive roof-top and extensive roof-top development. Intensive roofs are similar to what used to be referred to as rooftop gardens and feature large scale trees, shrubs and elaborate irrigation systems and are usually expensive to do. However, extensive green roof projects are less expensive and typically contain low-maintenance drought-resistance plants. Overall, there are several advantages in developing green-roof technology.

Those advantages are as follows:

- Better water management.
- Reduces the amount of polluted rainfall from buildings and parking lots.
- Efficient at reducing air conditioning and heating costs.
- Reduces the effect of green house gases, hot air, and pollutants that encompasses most urban cities.
- Lengthen roof-life by two or three times.
- Reduces carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.
- Reduces outside noise heard inside a building.

For more information regarding rooftop gardens, please call the Alliance at 410-377-6270 or visit the website at [www.acb-online.org](http://www.acb-online.org).



## Philip Morris supports the Alliance's Signature RestoreCorp Program for Bayscape Installation

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia office, was awarded a grant for \$42,900 from the Philip Morris Foundation that will support the highly popular BayScapes program which is one of the components of the Alliance's RestoreCorps: Watershed Restoration Assistance Center program.

Funding from Philip Morris will allow the Alliance to further engage community needs in the greater Richmond metropolitan area and other parts of Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in training sessions and demonstration workshops promoting BayScape principles.

In the upcoming months, the Alliance has plans to build on the success of the BayScapes concept and program which was founded in 1992 and promotes the following principles:

- Water conservation through conservation landscaping
- Local stormwater management practices (rain gardens, rooftop run-off collection)
- Reduction of fertilizer application
- Establishing riparian "streamside" buffers
- Using native plants to promote biological diversity, and
- Increasing wildlife habitats

BayScape installation will incorporate elements designed to return developed areas to a stormwater outreach program, the average citizen, business owner, and landscaping professional can learn more about their impacts on stormwater and local water quality.

BayScape demonstration gardens are visual representations of environmentally-friendly landscaping practices that homeowners, businesses, and municipalities can adopt on their own properties. For more information about BayScaping, please contact the Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay at 410-377-6270 or visit the website at [www.acb-online.org](http://www.acb-online.org)

## RestoreCorp Works for the Bay

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's signature program RestoreCorp/Watershed Restoration Assistance Center provides project leadership, technical assistance, education, networking and training. Since the program's inception in 1991, the Alliance has utilized the RestoreCorp program in partnership with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife to achieve the following:

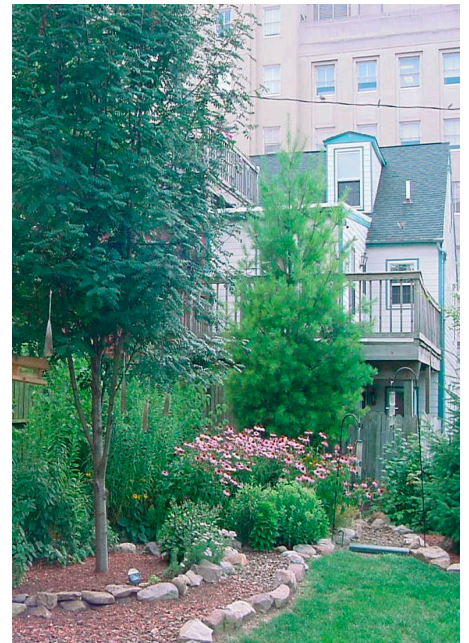
- Installed more than 41 bayscape gardens, rain gardens, and green roofs.
- RestoreCorp has trained more than 2,500 citizens in restoration and monitoring techniques,
- The "Growing Native" Seed Collection has collected more than 502,000 seeds
- Planted more than 54,000 trees within the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Developed monitor schedules for 414 stream and river sites with the Chesapeake watershed,
- Partnered with more than 50 watershed organizations, conservancy groups, riverkeepers, and local and state government agencies in developing

solutions to cut down pollutants entering into river and streams and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

- Collected more than 122 tons of trash and recruited more than 10,000 volunteers.
- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has offices that facilitate preservation and restoration projects in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and our nation's capital.

To learn more about the RestoreCorp program, please contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at 410-377-6270 or email at [mail@acb-online.org](mailto:mail@acb-online.org).

*"Bayscapes are environmentally-sound landscapes benefiting people, wildlife, and the Chesapeake Bay."*



# Around the Watershed

## MD--Volunteers Needed



The Alliance is looking for volunteers to take part in Project Clean Stream, one of Maryland's largest coordinated stream cleanups. Project Clean Stream will take place April 5, 2008, beginning at 9am until 12 Noon, at over 100 stream cleanup sites in Central Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Help us make our local streams and shorelines safer, cleaner, and more beautiful.

We are seeking volunteers on two levels: Site Captains, to lead clean ups and orient volunteers; we also need general volunteer crew. Basic supplies will be provided (trash bags, gloves, first aid kit). Interested individuals may contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for a list of local clean up sites in Central MD and the Eastern Shore.

Project Clean Stream volunteers improve their community by removing trash, tires and other discarded items from area streams and nearby roadsides. In 2007, over 2,500 volunteers removed more than 90,000 pounds of trash from area streams!

Project Clean Stream is coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and supported by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Partnering organizations include local watershed associations and regional county staff.

To volunteer, contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Kate Dowling at 410-377-6270 or [kdowling@acb-online.org](mailto:kdowling@acb-online.org).

## PA--Alien Plant Invaders

### Plant Invaders Workshop

*The Alliance conducts workshops on how to identify and remove Invasive Plants within your own landscape*

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in partnership with East Pennsboro Township Environmental Advisory Council hosted a training workshop on invasive and alien plants.

Workshop participants learned how to identify invasive plants as well as removal techniques to manage them in the home landscape. Workshops such as these are usually free and open to the general public however, registration is required. As a follow-up, workshop participants were able to put their training to the test in an invasive plant removal day at the Pine Hill Arboretum.

This project is part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's RestoreCorps program which recruits volunteers and trains local watershed organizations to undertake projects that accelerate restoration projects to improve the quality of the local streams and rivers that flow throughout the Chesapeake Bay region.

To register for future workshops or to get more information, please contact Rebecca Wertime or Donna Morelli at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay PA office at 717-737-8622.

## VA--Union Bankshares

### Union Bankshares/ Partnership with University Students

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay held a volunteer planting day on November 3, 2007 in Ruther Glen, Virginia. Student groups from Randolph-Macon College (RMC) and members of the surrounding community assisted with planting and landscaping which took place at the newly developed, 14-acre "green" facility, Union Bankshare Corporation Operations Center near I-95 in Caroline County.

The Randolph-Macon College's Environmental Sociology class has played a significant role in the research and design concepts of the bio-retention area. A variety of native plants have been used to help provide a natural habitat for various animals and students will also get first-hand experience in stormwater management, bioretention techniques, and community conservation.

Additional partners include several natural resource agencies and community organizations as follows:

Hanover and Caroline County Master Gardeners

Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Caroline County

Virginia Department of Forestry

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

For more information, contact Chris French, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, VA office at 804-775-0951.

## 2007 Businesses for the Bay Award Recipients



### Businesses for the Bay

Recently, the Alliance recognized and awarded various businesses that showed a marked increase in activities such as stormwater control, nutrient reduction and tree planting. Listed are various businesses and organizations that received recognition from the Alliance.

Since 1997, Businesses for the Bay has worked diligently to obtain consensus from current workgroups to address the need of tributary strategies that deal specifically with the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorous chemicals that enters the Bay via rivers and streams. Using the Alliance's signature programs and training modules, businesses, industries, state and local governments have been successful at reducing and recycling more than 8 billion pounds pollutants and contaminants.

#### **Corporate Office Properties Trust, MD**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Small Facility

#### **eCity Corporation, MD**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Small Facility

#### **Smithfield Packing Co, MD**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Large Facility

#### **Anheuser-Busch, Inc., VA**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Large Facility

#### **City of Charlottesville, VA**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Local Government

#### **Isle of Wight Family & Cosmetic DDS, VA**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Small Facility

#### **Norfolk Naval Shipyard, VA**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Federal Facility

#### **University of Virginia, VA**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, State Government

#### **York County School Division, VA**

Outstanding Achievement for Pollution Prevention, Local Government

#### **VA Regional Environmental Management System, (V-REMS) Partnership**

Partner of the Year

#### **Kristel Riddervold, City of Charlottesville, VA**

Mentor of the Year

# Special Focus

## The Alliance assists State Secretaries and Commissioners of Agriculture

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay provides staffing and support to the Chesapeake Agricultural Caucus of State Secretaries and Commissioners of Agriculture. The Chesapeake Executive Council— composed of the Governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, The chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—mandated the Caucus to develop the resolution “To Enhance the Role and Voice of Agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership.” The Caucus consists of agricultural secretaries and commissioners representing the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York.

The caucus met twice during 2007 calendar year, to put together recommendations for the executive council to consider regarding state nutrient management requirements, the suite of the Chesapeake Bay models; how biofuels are likely to affect regional agricultural practices, the Bay, and the 2007 Farm Bill. The Caucus’ goal is to continue to restore the Chesapeake Bay while assuring the economic viability of the region’s agricultural community.

As this committee is preparing to meet and discuss

issues regarding the Chesapeake Bay Program’s “State of the Bay – 2007,” within the last year, the Caucus has put together the following recommendations for the Chesapeake Executive Council to consider:

**Farm Bill** – Endorse additional dollars in the Farm Bill to Chesapeake farmers in order to implement the management practices outlined in the state tributary strategy plans for all six states.

**USDA Secretary on the Executive Council** – Recommend that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture be a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council.

**Bio-fuels** – Endorse the conclusion that cellulose-based ethanol have beneficial effects on both Chesapeake restoration and farm profitability.

This Chesapeake Agriculture Caucus mission is to improve Chesapeake water quality and provide a firm economic base for the future of agriculture in this region. The Caucus is supported and staffed by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. David Bancroft, President can be reached at 410-377-6270 should you have questions, comments or recommendations.

### The Chesapeake Agriculture Caucus

Michael Scuse, Secretary  
Delaware Department of  
Agriculture

Dennis Wolff, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Agriculture

Roger Richardson, Secretary  
Maryland Department of  
Agriculture

Tod Haymore, Commissioner  
VA Dept. of Agriculture &  
Consumer Services

Patrick Hooker, Commissioner  
New York State Department of  
Agriculture and Markets

Gus Douglass, Commissioner  
West Virginia Department of  
Agriculture

Supported and Staffed by: David  
Bancroft, President

## From the Program Office

### We “Got Nuts” for Clean Water!

The Alliance has partnered with the Herring Run Watershed Association and the Parks and People Foundation for a native seed collection and tree planting event at Herring Run Park in Baltimore City. Activities such as this help restore native forests, protect streams and the Chesapeake Bay... one acorn at a time. Our native nut collection was one of hundreds that were part of the *Growing Native*, a year-round volunteer program that engages people of all ages in getting nuts for clean water. The Alliance’s seed collection was the first time that a *Growing Native* event was held in the Baltimore region!

*Growing Native* is helping to make the streams, rivers, and ultimately the Bay healthier for future generations. At Herring Run Park, over 20 enthusiastic UMBC students donated their Saturday morning to help collect pin oak and white swamp oak acorns, as well as walnuts. Each seed that we plucked from the ground – about 1,000 all told – was donated to either the

Herring Run Watershed Association’s local nursery or to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources state nursery. There, they will be grown into seedlings that will be planted around the Bay watershed to help improve habitat and improve air and water quality. The seed collection was a great way to educate volunteers on the important connection between healthy, forested lands and clean waters.

Forested lands are key to keeping our waters clean. Without forests to filter the run-off, pollutants such as oil, pesticides, fertilizers and sediment run directly into our streams and rivers, fouling our water supply and killing off aquatic life in our waterways. Trees create the perfect buffer, acting as a sponge for pollutants and slowing run-off flow to reduce soil erosion. During *Growing Native* events, volunteers collect only from native tree species. Native trees – which are adapted to local rainfall, temperature, and soil conditions – as well as being resistant to many diseases and insects, are the most suitable for this type of cleansing role.

For more information about the Alliance’s *Growing Native* seed collection, contact Kate Dowling at (410) 377-6270 or [kdowling@acb-online.org](mailto:kdowling@acb-online.org) or check out <http://www.acb-online/GrowingNative.cfm>. For complete details about the *Growing Native* program, information can also be found at the Potomac Conservancy’s [www.growingnative.org](http://www.growingnative.org).

#### Volunteers Needed

Saturday, April 5, 2008

#### Project Clean Stream

Call for Volunteers/Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust

For info, please call 410-377-6270



Stream Clean Up Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, MD

Photo by: Amelia Matos