

SHORE RIVERS ADVOCATE

CHESTER RIVER | CHOPTANK RIVER

MILES & WYE RIVERS | SASSAFRAS RIVER



AUTUMN 2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this article, some of our rivers are unsafe to swim in as a result of high bacteria counts caused by runoff from extreme seasonal rains. Consistent spring rains canceled athletic events, suppressed river recreation, and the runoff produced some of the unhealthiest water quality we have seen in a while. Though we've made progress, our efforts to restore and protect our rivers are needed as much today as they were in December of 2010 when, after years of missed pollution reduction deadlines, the EPA implemented enforceable pollution reduction limits.

We must find new ways to work with all members of our community to stop the sources of pollution that damage the natural environment and make our waterways unsafe. This is why, to become more impactful, we merged our three organizations to become ShoreRivers. I am pleased to report that after nine months, this effort has been a great success and a powerful driver of program expansion, successful policy advocacy, and fundraising to support our clean water efforts.

Our staff and boards have been the foundation for this positive outcome. They began working together collaboratively from the start, and are sharing their experience, varied expertise, commitment and enthusiasm, building a powerful new organization to defend our waterways. Articles in the following pages attest to this.

Our governing board has taken up the challenge of working harmoniously in guiding, supporting, and assisting both the merging process and our sprint out of the starting box. Each member has contributed. Our finance and development committees have already developed needed financial planning blueprints. Our governing committee is already identifying new board members. And our agricultural committee is in the process of developing a multi-year agricultural outreach strategic plan. In the pages that follow you will read about some of our expanding agricultural outreach and the opportunities that lie ahead as we find ShoreRivers at the key intersection of agriculture and environment.

Similarly, our three watershed boards—Sassafras, Chester, and Choptank/Miles/Wye—have each been busy, have already developed new structure, and have begun



Pictured (left to right) are Choptank Riverkeeper Matt Pluta, US Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD), Chester Riverkeeper Tim Trumbauer, and Miles-Wye Riverkeeper Elle Bassett at the State of the Rivers presentation in St. Michaels in April 2018.

supporting our efforts with local engagement, membership development, and fundraising events. Each is comprised of passionate, committed community members, and each is already attracting and adding new people.

Perhaps most important has been the reaction from supporters like you, from our communities, even from communities around the state. We hosted five State of the River presentations this spring, from the Sassafras to Cambridge. All were packed with supporters enthusiastic over our new, stronger organization, but delighted, as well, that we were reaching out locally and maintaining our close connections to our respective watersheds.

And we have received support and praise from all around the region. The Maryland League of Conservation Voters has chosen ShoreRivers to receive its prestigious 2018 John V. Kabler Award for state environmental leadership, and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, just awarded us a grant of over two million dollars to fund restoration projects in our watersheds.

I believe that with your continued support, our appeal, our membership, our influence, and our significance will continue to grow, and with it the likelihood that we will, indeed, restore and protect our rivers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeff Horstman".

Jeff Horstman, Executive Director



SHORERIVERS HONORED WITH KABLER AWARD

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters announced that it will honor ShoreRivers this year with its prestigious **John V. Kabler Memorial Award** presented annually to Maryland's most outstanding environmental leaders and organizations.

Past recipients have included such noteworthy environmental champions as Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen, former Maryland Congressman Wayne Gilchrist, former Maryland Governor Harry R. Hughes, and former Maryland DNR Secretary, John Griffin.

The award ceremony will take place Tuesday, October 9 at the Westin Annapolis (100 Westgate Circle), beginning at 6 pm with cocktails and 7pm for dinner and program. For program details or to sign up as a sponsor, contact Karen Polet Doory at kdoory@mdlcv.org or 202-281-8780.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY ADVOCACY



Tim Rosen (left) and Choptank Riverkeeper Matt Pluta on a farm visit.

The governing board of ShoreRivers includes five farmers, all members of ShoreRivers' agricultural committee. Working with our scientists and policy staff, they have embarked on developing a multi-year agricultural strategic plan to help us expand our efforts and influence.

ShoreRivers' staff members already occupy a number of positions where agricultural policy is influenced. We sit on the executive board of the Delmarva Land and Litter Challenge, a collaboration of leading agricultural leaders, scientists, and environmentalists trying to address difficult issues in the industry such as manure management. We serve on the board of the Hughes Center for Agro-ecology, addressing evolving agricultural science, practice, and ecological protection. We are active in the Maryland Clean Agricultural Coalition, the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Envision the Choptank, and our Choptank Riverkeeper chairs the Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Group.

With the involvement of our new board agricultural committee and through the impact of our merger, ShoreRivers is poised to work collaboratively within the essential nexus of agriculture and environmental stewardship.

EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL OUTREACH

It is no secret that agriculture is by far the largest industry on Maryland's Eastern Shore, that it encompasses the majority of the Shore's land use, and, consequently, that it is the largest source of pollution inputs to our waterways. This is one reason that each of the three organizations that merged to become ShoreRivers has been working for years with farmers and landowners to assist in finding ways to reduce water pollution.

Collectively, we have designed and installed dozens of innovative practices that both work for the farm and improve water quality, and we have been active in state and regional agricultural policy issues for some time.

Now, with our combined staff expertise, our greater member base, our growing influence on regional policy, and our increased ability to attract funding for larger region-wide projects, we are in a position to truly impact and assist the ongoing collaborative effort to reduce water pollution from farming. Key to our new posture is that we now have guidance from a governing board that includes a contingent of five agricultural leaders who are committed to our mission, and who are on the cutting edge of progressive agricultural reform.



Kristin Junkin at a restoration site.



Tim Rosen with monitoring equipment.

Reducing Pollution on the Eastern Shore

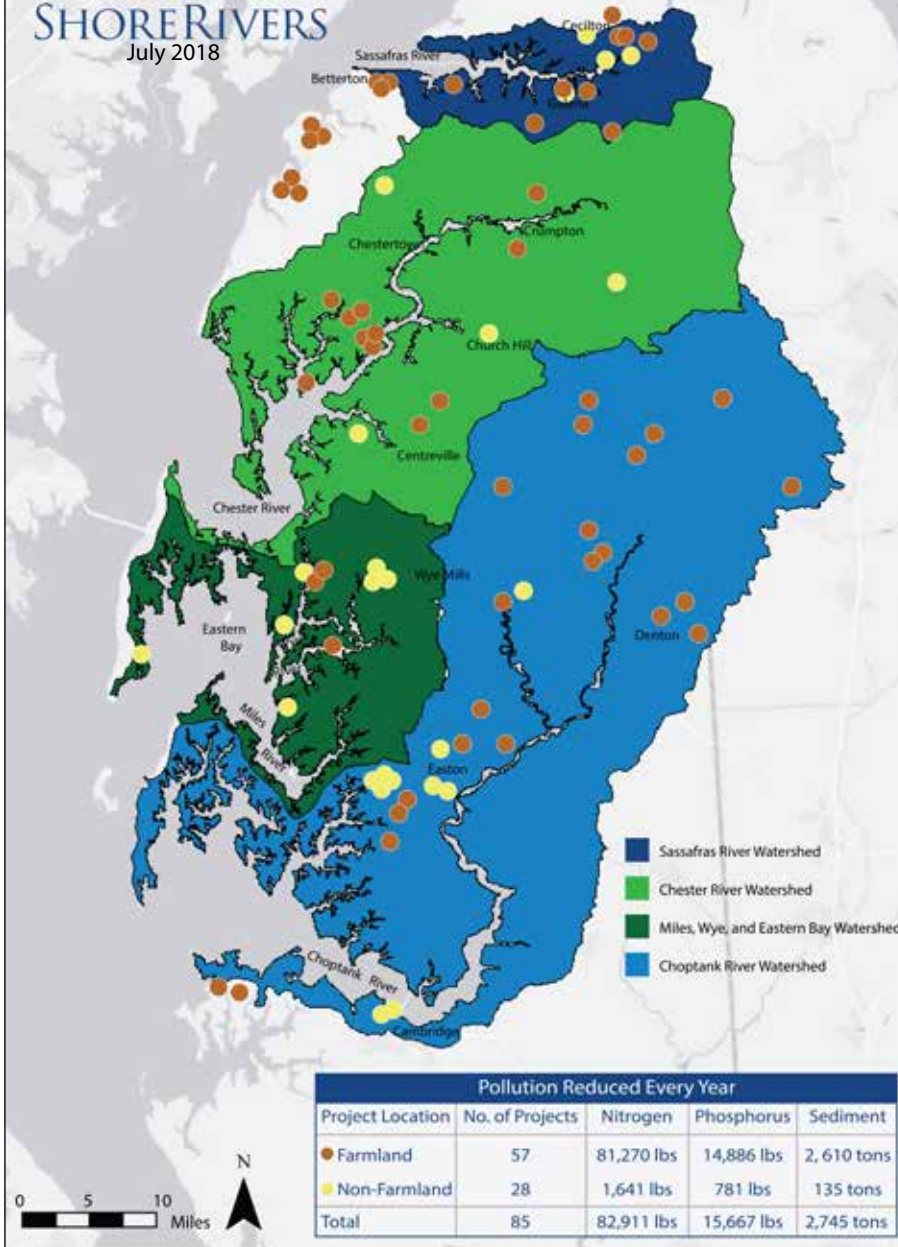
AGRICULTURAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

Bringing together the varied expertise and restoration experience within the three organizations has enabled ShoreRivers to expand into regional projects and attract increased project grant funds.

Our Project Map (left) references the extensive array of innovative pollution-reducing projects that we have already installed.

A recent new project that exemplifies our work is our Conservation Drainage Program extending into several counties. This project could become a blueprint for state-wide efforts to address failing drainage tiles that are an extensive problem on the Eastern Shore.

Numerous additional projects are underway, and numerous potential projects have already been identified. As a result of the award of a 2.2 million dollar grant from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust, many of these agricultural projects are funded.



PUMP, DON'T DUMP!

The pumpout boat is a free service offered on the Miles and Wye Rivers. Last season, our pumpout boat pumped 12,000 gallons of concentrated marine waste.

Our goal for the 2018 season is 15,000 gallons!

- Frídáys 4–7 p.m.
- Saturdays 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Sundays 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Labor Day (September 3) 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

For service, call or text 410-829-4352; or VHF Channel 9



MATT PLUTA

CHOPTANK RIVERKEEPER LOG

“Is it safe for my kids to swim in the river?”

“Where can I find out if the water quality is good for swimming?”

“How long should I

stay out of the river after it rains?”

These are all questions that I have been asked frequently this season by people in our community who are concerned about their health and swimming in the river. Our rivers offer us natural beauty. They fill us with desire to net blue crabs that are swimming through recovering underwater grasses, catch a sunset over Dorchester County from a kayak, grow oysters off the dock, or to just jump in and cool off during the hot and humid days of summer.

But the disturbing and painful reality for someone who enjoys such activities is that when it rains, our rivers are not swimmable. So much so that the State of Maryland’s Healthy Beaches Program recommends staying out of the water for 48 hours after a significant rain event of 1” or more in order to prevent water-related illness! Even oysters and other shellfish become unhealthy after it rains, causing harvests to be prohibited. “What’s the deal with that?” is usually the next question I get. Let me explain:

What’s in the water that can make it unsafe for my kids to swim after it rains?

When it rains, the runoff from our roads, fields, and homes washes bacteria into the river. This specific type of bacteria, *Enterococci*, is commonly found in human and animal waste and most commonly originates from failing septic systems, animal waste washing off fertilized fields, leaking sewer lines in a town, pet waste near a beach, or geese and other wildlife passing by.

How does it impact our health?

Enterococci bacteria can impact the health of people, dogs and other pets. Most common illnesses include ear and urinary tract infections, infected cuts or wounds, and intestinal problems if the river water is swallowed.

Where can I find information to decide if I should take my kids swimming?

ShoreRivers, through our #SwimmableShoreRivers campaign, is testing for *Enterococci* weekly and bi-weekly

at local swimming spots throughout all of our rivers from the Choptank up to the Sassafras. We use The Swim Guide website (theswimguide.org) to post the results and show whether or not those samples passed the Beach Action Value (BAV) of 104 CFU/100 ml (CFU = Colony Forming Units) – the standard used to determine safe levels for water contact and recreation. Results are posted on Friday to help inform weekend swimmers.



What else is impacted by high bacteria levels in the water?

When bacteria levels exceed the BAV it’s not just swimmers who are impacted. Polluted water impacts our whole community and the local economy. Real estate, tourism, oyster harvesting and recreation are all industries that rely heavily on water that is clean enough to be swimmable and fishable. But for now, at least for every 48 hours after a major storm, those industries and their workers suffer a hardship because of what washes into our rivers when it rains.

What advice do you have?

First and most importantly, get informed about current bacteria levels so you can make the right decision about safely swimming in the river. Download the Swim Guide app to easily check your favorite beach in the Choptank, Miles, Wye, Chester and Sassafras Rivers. Know that there are inherent risks associated with open water swimming including, but not limited to, bacterial infections. Stay out of the water for up to 48 hours after a major rain event in your area. Always rinse off after swimming in the river and never swim with open wounds.

What can I do to help?

Don’t accept the fact that this is how it has to be. Take individual responsibility to become educated. Help us reduce polluted runoff, and advocate for regulations and controls that improve our water quality. Join our #SwimmableShoreRivers campaign on social media to stay connected with updated information on current water quality conditions.

SHORERIVERS AWARDED 2.2 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT

ShoreRivers was honored this summer with a \$2.2 million grant from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund managed by the **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** to support our regional agricultural restoration work. The grant will fund projects in the watersheds of the Bohemia, Sassafras, Wye, and Choptank Rivers.

Together these projects will prevent over 14,200 lbs of nitrogen, 740 lbs of phosphorus, and almost 270 tons of sediment from entering our Eastern Shore waterways annually.

We are honored that the Department of Natural Resources supports the pollution-reducing projects that ShoreRivers is implementing in our communities across the Eastern Shore region.

In other grant news, this year marks the beginning of two grants provided to ShoreRivers by the **NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**: \$451,959 to develop our conservation drainage program, and \$48,972 for a Williston Lake Assessment and Management Plan to identify sources of nutrient and sediment loads impacting this lake and, ultimately, the Choptank River, and to prioritize actions that stakeholders can take to improve the lake's water quality.

This year ShoreRivers has received six grants from the **CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST**: two grants totaling \$142,973 to develop engineered designs for agricultural pollution reduction projects; a \$15,000 capacity building grant to assist us in developing a new ShoreRivers long-term strategic plan; a "River-Friendly Yards" program grant of \$12,000 to support our education and outreach efforts to homeowners about steps they can take on their property to reduce polluting runoff; a \$39,864 grant to support our 3rd grade "Sturgeon Discovery" environmental education program in Talbot County public schools; and a \$52,928 grant for construction and materials for a greening project on two vacant lots in Cambridge, Maryland.

Numerous private and family foundations and individuals are also supporting the programs of ShoreRivers this year with generous grants. We are grateful to be able to bring these resources to our communities in a collaborative effort to protect and restore our precious waterways.

STURGEON TRACKING!

New Student Program Inspiring Action
around an Ancient, Endangered Creature

by Suzanne Sullivan



Third grade students in Talbot County are in for a BIG surprise this school year as they investigate the Atlantic sturgeon, a fish native to the Chesapeake Bay that can grow to a whopping 14 feet-long and weigh 800 pounds. Through a new collaborative curriculum, students will investigate why Atlantic sturgeon, once plentiful in the Chesapeake Bay, are now endangered.

Sturgeon are an ancient and mysterious fish. They've been on the planet, unchanged, for over 120 million years. Docile bottom feeders with few natural predators, Atlantic sturgeon populations have been declining for centuries due to overfishing (they were once *the* caviar fish), habitat degradation (man-made dams and poor water quality), and naturally slow spawning rates (sturgeon reach spawning maturity at 10-years-old).

The Sturgeon Discovery Program emphasizes using data to inform and inspire better environmental decisions. A unique and exciting element of this program is that each 3rd grade class will "Adopt-a-Sturgeon" and use real Maryland Department of Natural Resource and National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration tracking data to follow their sturgeon as the fish migrate from the Atlantic Ocean into the Chesapeake Bay and up our local rivers.

Students will also analyze water quality samples from local rivers, looking at water clarity and dissolved oxygen. Teachers will guide students to make connections between human actions on land and the implications for the health of our river habitats, and the effects on native species. The culmination of the program is a student-led action project that will benefit sturgeon habitat in our local rivers, such as a native plant buffer to reduce runoff entering our rivers. Another highlight, students will see sturgeon up-close at University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science at Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge. *This program is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.*



TIM TRUMBAUER

CHESTER RIVERKEEPER LOG

For most of the 39 years I've been on this planet, I have lived on the banks of Rosin Creek, a small tidal tributary of the Chester River just upriver of Chestertown. This spring, for the first time in those 39 years, I was so

concerned about water quality that I would not allow my kids to swim in Rosin Creek or the Chester River. This was a terrible disappointment to us as we had to skip the time-honored Trumbauer tradition of cannonballing off the bow of our baby-blue Carolina Skiff on the first annual boat ride. What happened?

We experienced tremendous amounts of sustained rainfall throughout the late spring and early summer, causing runoff polluted with bacteria, nutrients and sediment. While agriculture is the largest source of pollution in our watershed, it should be noted that many of our local farmers are working with ShoreRivers in leadership roles to develop more sustainable agricultural practices. But their work, and our work, is just beginning.

With climate change causing increased frequency and intensity of rain, increasing population driving more demand for food and more intense agriculture, and increasing development pressure, we face challenges. ShoreRivers, our community, and our agricultural partners are making strides, but we must continue to innovate and push to protect and restore our rivers.

To learn more about what ShoreRivers is doing with our agricultural partners, be sure to read "Expanding Agricultural Outreach" on page 2. Here is a small sample of the other exciting things we are working on in the Chester to improve water quality:

Environmental Regulatory Enforcement Initiative

Working with Chesapeake Legal Alliance, local government, and technical experts, we are developing a program to increase the effectiveness of environmental law implementation, including critical area, stormwater, and sediment and erosion control regulations.

Corsica Implementers Committee (CIC)

The CIC is a partnership with the Chester Riverkeeper/ ShoreRivers, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Maryland Forest Service, Town of Centreville, Queen Anne's County Soil Conservation District, Queen Anne's County, and the Corsica River Conservancy to restore the Corsica River. Current projects include a water quality study to inform a restoration plan and DNA source tracking evaluation for bacteria pollution.

River-Friendly Yards

The goal of River-Friendly Yards is to show residents that a yard that mimics the natural environment improves wildlife habitat and local water quality. We are hosting a series of workshops in local neighborhoods and conducting other outreach efforts. Funding partners include the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Keep Maryland Beautiful program, and Queen Anne's County.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Planting

Through a partnership with DNR, ShoreRivers planted several acres of wild celery just upriver of Chestertown. We are monitoring the planting sites, and will potentially expand the program depending on results.

Chestertown and Washington College Stormwater Management Initiative

The historic area of Chestertown, including Washington College, has little existing stormwater treatment infrastructure, but we hope to change that. ShoreRivers is currently seeking funding to develop a stormwater strategy in partnership with the town and college.

ShoreRivers'
BOAT DONATION PROGRAM

PUT THAT UNUSED BOAT TO GOOD USE BY DONATING IT TO SHORERIVERS!

Proceeds will go directly to ShoreRivers' programs. For more information, contact Kristan Droter at kdroter@shorerivers.org or 443-385-0511.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR YOUR RIVERS

There is no greater way to ensure that generations to come will have the ability to enjoy the beauty of the rivers of the Eastern Shore than to give a gift that will continue to give in perpetuity. ShoreRivers is proud to partner with Mid-Shore Community Foundation to allow you to make a gift that will keep on giving. Please contact Kristan Droter, Director of Development, kdroter@shorerivers.org or 443-385-0511.

MILES-WYE RIVERKEEPER LOG



ELLE BASSETT

This past June, I had the opportunity to attend my first Waterkeeper Alliance Conference in Buffalo, NY. I participated in productive workshops on permitting, advocacy, and outreach, but perhaps more enlightening

were the new connections I made with waterkeepers from around the world. There are currently more than 350 waterkeepers globally, 300 of which were in attendance at the conference representing 29 countries. Listening to lessons learned and triumphs from other “keepers” inspired me to work even harder toward healthy, fishable, swimmable rivers.

New inspired initiatives:

- **Stronger Erosion and Sediment Control plans in our watershed.** Let’s support smart development that won’t jeopardize or devalue our rivers. As our climate changes, we are seeing more frequent rain events that consequently result in more runoff if not properly controlled.
- **Collaboration among stakeholders.** We recently had a productive meeting with soft shell clam watermen and the Department of Natural Resources to discuss environmental impacts from the hydraulic escalator dredge, better protection for submerged aquatic vegetation, and the economic and ecologic benefits of the soft shell clam.
- **Promote and provide environmental stewardship opportunities within the community.** Our pumpout boat has had a record season so far, including pumping

1600 gallons on Memorial Day weekend! This is a free service that allows boaters on the Miles and Wye Rivers to pump instead of dumping marine waste into our rivers. Call 410-829-4352 to schedule your pump out.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: ST. MICHAELS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL STORM DRAIN PROJECT

Working with ShoreRivers’ environmental education program, *Students for Streams*, St. Michaels Middle High School biology students have successfully completed an environmental action project that improves both their school campus and local water quality. They investigated local water quality in the Miles River, assessed nearby land use, and identified both positive and negative environmental factors on their school property. During their assessment of the grounds, students focused on an eroding storm drain behind the elementary school, noting how sediment entering the drain negatively impacted water clarity in the nearby river. Students proposed correcting the erosion by stabilizing the slope leading to the drain and planting native species in the drainage area.

After presenting their ideas to both ShoreRivers and Talbot County Public Works, students successfully created an implementation plan. Talbot County donated time and equipment, and students implemented the plan on



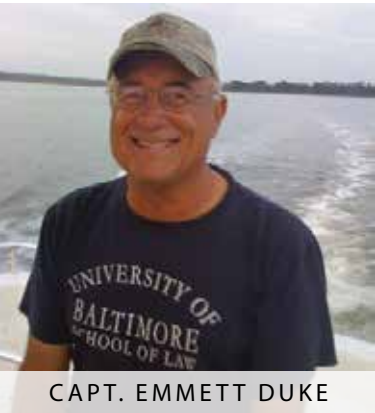
SMMHS on-campus student action project



Waterkeeper Alliance Conference trip to Niagara Falls

April 24. Chesapeake Bay Trust funded the project. On May 2, students had the opportunity to share the success of their program at the Howard County Conservancy’s Environmental Summit in Annapolis, where they presented their work, data they collected in partnership with ShoreRivers, and final project outcomes to elected officials and schools from across Maryland.

SASSAFRAS RIVERKEEPER LOG



CAPT. EMMETT DUKE

This summer on the Sassafras was all about establishing a bacteria testing program, eradicating invasive plants while planting native underwater grasses, inspiring our next generation of river stewards, and connecting

with our Sassafras community. This year, we added River-Friendly Yards presentations to our many outreach programs and are encouraged with the response from participants. Hope you and your family are enjoying the many benefits of being on and around our Sassafras, and I'll see you on the river!

Bacteria Testing

This summer ShoreRivers developed a bacteria testing program on the Sassafras to better understand water quality and the answer to the age-old question: is it safe to swim? I tested bacteria at three locations: the Sassafras River Bridge, inside the mouth of Dyer Creek, and near the beach at Indian Acres. Results are posted on my Sassafras Riverkeeper Facebook page as well as on SwimGuide (theswimguide.org).

Eradicating Water Chestnuts

The *Sassafras Water Chestnut Wars* continue to rage. *Trapa natans*, a native of Europe, Asia, and Africa, was first observed in the river in 1969 and has been rapidly spreading and choking many of the creeks that feed into the Sassafras. Water chestnuts cover the surface of the water with dense mats of floating leaves, completely blocking sunlight from reaching the bottom. This kills

our native grasses and destroys habitat for fish and crabs. Every summer I organize a concentrated, multi-month effort to keep the spread of these damaging plants in check. A cadre of dedicated volunteers, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), works diligently to remove plants from each of the Sassafras creeks. Keeping this plant at bay, or eliminating it completely, will improve native underwater grass beds, natural habitat and water quality.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Planting

In addition to eradicating water chestnuts, I also work to increase the population of beneficial grasses. This summer, DNR provided at no cost about four million wild celery seeds (a native underwater grass) that we planted in designated areas of Foreman Creek in Cecil County and Island and Woodland Creeks in Kent County.

Native grasses are important to the health of our waters because they provide food for migratory birds and aquatic life, produce oxygen, provide shelter for small fish and shedding crabs, and help stabilize sediment to increase clarity of the water.

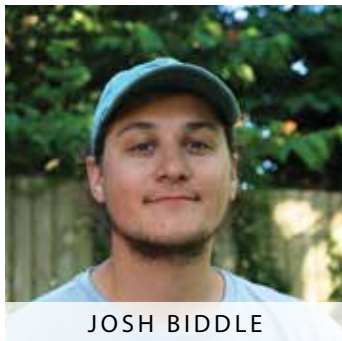
Environmental Education

Educating the next generation of river stewards is vitally important to our mission. I work with Kent County Public Schools and Sassafras Environmental Education Center to teach outdoor classes for all Kent County 4th graders. Every spring and fall I introduce over 150 students to the concept of a watershed, how humans are impacting our water resources, and all the many things we're doing to mitigate our impacts.



Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteers "All Hands On Deck" project helped clear water chestnuts from Island Creek.

SHORERIVERS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THREE NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR STAFF:



JOSH BIDDLE

JOSH BIDDLE is ShoreRivers' new Agricultural Specialist. Josh is an Eastern Shore native, having grown up on a farm between Denton and Ridgely, where for the last 15 years, he has worked in his family's greenhouses growing flowers. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Salisbury University, and for the past two years he has been employed as a Soil Conservation Technician at the Talbot County Soil Conservation District, working with a number of state and federal conservation programs, and assisting in the planning, design, and installation of a variety of best management practices. Josh will be working with state, federal, academic, and local farm partners to apply agricultural conservation projects within our watersheds. Along with Director of Agriculture & Restoration Tim Rosen, Josh will assist in all ag-related operations, conducting outreach within the local agricultural community to promote conservation programs and encourage responsible and river-friendly farming.



JULIA ERBE

JULIA ERBE has joined ShoreRivers as our Development & Events Coordinator. A lifelong Marylander, Julia attended Washington College, where she studied the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. She went on to earn her master's degree in Environmental Studies from Goucher College, where her studies focused mainly on environmental education and food sustainability. She is happy to be back on the Eastern Shore contributing to clean water efforts at ShoreRivers.



RACHEL PLESCHA

RACHEL PLESCHA is the new 2018-2019 ShoreRivers Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) Volunteer. She recently graduated from the College of William and Mary with a B.A. in International Environmental Policy and a minor in Economics. Her education and previous internships have focused on how federal policy affects state and local environmental efforts. Rachel will take the place of 2017-2018 CCC Volunteer Rebecca Murphy, who is staying on as Education & Volunteer Coordinator.

The CCC program is funded through the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Rachel made ShoreRivers her first choice from over seventy other competing nonprofits in the Bay area. ShoreRivers has participated in the CCC program since 2012, hosting a total of 11 fantastic volunteers between the three merged organizations, several of whom have become permanent staff members.

We are happy to welcome Josh, Julia, and Rachel to our growing team!

NEW CHESTERTOWN OFFICE

ShoreRivers is excited to announce our Chestertown office will be moving into new space this fall! Our northern headquarters will be located in the new Chestertown Marina building on the Chester River waterfront. This will serve as a home base for our Chester and Sassafras Riverkeepers as well as our northern programmatic staff, watershed boards, and dedicated volunteers. Moving to the marina will increase ShoreRivers' visibility to the public and allow us to be more connected to our river. Thank you to everyone who donated at our Summer Solstice Gala reverse auction to make this move a reality!



SUMMER SOLSTICE SUCCESS AND SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR



A **DEEP THANKS** TO
ALL OF YOU WHO
SUPPORT OUR WORK!



*If you missed all the fun, be comforted by the fact that you can mark your calendar and **SAVE THE DATE:***

Our next solstice party will be Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Clovelly Farm!

On Saturday, June 23, over **330 REVELERS** from all over the Eastern Shore ate, drank, and danced the night away to celebrate our rivers; together, we raised a record amount of funds to support our efforts for cleaner water!

Thank you to everyone—local business sponsors, donors, and, of course, the winning bidders during the live auction—who made this night such a great event.

Special thanks to Osprey Sponsors at the \$2,500+ level: Keith Campbell Foundation, Alan and Penny Griffith, Gunther McClary Real Estate, LaMotte Company, Herbert and Patrice Miller, Susan and Watson Warriner, and Yerkes Construction.

We have big plans for next year! For more information, please contact Julia Erbe at jerbe@shorerivers.org or 443-385-0511.



CHESTER RIVER CHALLENGE HALF MARATHON AND 5K RUN/WALK

**Sunday, October 28, 2018 (Downrigging Weekend)
9 a.m. | Wilmer Park | Chestertown**

Join over 100 runners for our annual Chester River Challenge—this run is good for you and good for our rivers! Proceeds support our work to protect and restore Eastern Shore waterways. The race begins and ends in Wilmer Park, Chestertown, during the iconic Downrigging Weekend. Visit shorerivers.org for more information and to register.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

COCKTAILS 5 P.M., TIDEWATER INN
FILMS 7 P.M., AVALON THEATRE

Join us for a night of food, drinks, and inspiring adventure and environmental films. Purchase a premiere ticket and enjoy a pre-film cocktail party at the Tidewater Inn at 5 p.m. featuring delicious appetizers and a full open bar. You'll have a chance to win exclusive silent auction items, including a trip to Maine or Kittyhawk, NC, among other gorgeous locales and exciting items. You may also take the opportunity to directly support our next generation of river stewards by funding a field trip, kayak trip or other items to support our education programs.

At 7 p.m., we'll cross the street to the Avalon Theatre, and join more filmgoers for a night of stellar short films carefully selected by the ShoreRivers Film Festival Committee. The program is designed to instill a deep appreciation and a sense of wonder for the natural world that surrounds and supports us. Get your tickets early!

PREMIER TICKETS
\$100 Cocktail Party & Films
5 p.m. Tidewater Inn
7 p.m. Avalon Theatre

FILM ONLY TICKETS
\$40 | 7 p.m. Avalon Theatre

Buy tickets or become a sponsor at shorerivers.org or contact Julia Erbe, jerbe@shorerivers.org or 443-385-0511

SPONSOR SHORERIVERS WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

Sponsorship levels begin at \$100

100% of proceeds go directly to support ShoreRivers projects

14th Annual RIDE for CLEAN RIVERS



Sunday, September 16

8 a.m.

Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD

Come out to enjoy the last week of summer sun and bike with our fun crew along Maryland's gorgeous Eastern Shore! You will be supporting the great efforts of ShoreRivers to protect and restore the waterways that we so much enjoy. Choose from 20-mile, 35-mile, or 65-mile (metric century) routes.

All rides include SAG support and multiple rest stops with food and drinks. After the ride, we will all sit back and enjoy a delicious lunch, complete with beer, other non-alcoholic beverages, and live music on the lovely grounds of Chesapeake College.

Ride with us! Sponsor the event! Join a team! Grab some friends and create a team!

Register online at rideforcleanrivers.org, or sign up the morning of the ride. All proceeds go directly to fund ShoreRivers' restoration, education, advocacy, and agriculture programs. Thank you to lead sponsors Dock Street Foundation and KELLY Benefit Strategies for continuing to make Ride for Clean Rivers a success! Other sponsors are Dr. Computer, Resource Restoration Group, and Shore Orthopedics.

To register or learn more: rideforcleanriver.org or contact Julia Erbe at jerbe@shorerivers.org.



SHORE RIVERS

Eastern Shore Conservation Center
114 S. Washington St., Suite 301
Easton, MD 21601

THE SHORERIVERS FAMILY THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Governing Board of Directors Staff

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John Kelly, Vice Chair
Tim Junkin, Secretary
Dan Hayes, Treasurer
Anna Wolgast, Exec Committee
William Anderson
Ted Carski
Brice Gamber
Trey Hill
Robert Ingersoll
Toby Lloyd
Andrew McCown
Al Sikes
John Vail
Philip Webster
Peter Welling

Elle Bassett, Miles-Wye Riverkeeper
Josh Biddle, Agricultural Specialist
Kristan Droter, Director of Development
Emmett Duke, Sassafras Riverkeeper
Julia Erbe, Development & Event Coordinator
Ann Frock, Office Manager
Isabel Hardesty, Regional Director
Emily Harris, Watershed Manager
Jeffrey Horstman, Executive Director
Kristin Junkin, Director of Operations & Finance
Tim Junkin, Advisor
Rebecca Murphy, Education & Volunteer Coordinator
Rachel Plescha, Conservation Corps Volunteer
Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper
Kim Righi, Sassafras Program Manager
Tim Rosen, Director of Agriculture & Restoration
Suzanne Sullivan, Education & Restoration Manager
Josh Thompson, Restoration Specialist
Tim Trumbauer, Chester Riverkeeper
Laura Wood, Watershed Coordinator

Choptank and Miles-Wye Watershed Board:

Bruce Abel and Meta Boyd, Co-Chairs,
William Anderson, Barbara Boyd, Tom Fisher,
Brice Gamber, Melanie Jackson, Tim Junkin, John Kelly,
Tom Leigh, Larry Rovin, Jane Selden, Al Sikes,
Colin Walsh, Dan Watson, Peter Welling

Chester River Watershed Board:

Thomas Pierson, Chair; Vic Pfeiffer, Vice-Chair;
Courtney Leigh, Secretary;
Richard Budden, Scott Budden, Robert Ingersoll,
Toby Lloyd, Andy McCown, Matt Nielsen, Gail Owings,
Brook Schumann, Brennan Starkey, Ben Tilghman,
Anna Wolgast

Sassafras River Watershed Board:

Susan Warriner, Chair; Cindy Hayes, Vice Chair;
Pat Starkey, Secretary;
John Burke, John Carroll, Ted Carski, Frank DeGennaro,
Dan Hayes, Trey Hill, Pat Kern, Jere Lucey, Kelly Reed,
Janet Ruhl, Jeff Russell, Ken Shumaker, John Vail

SAVE THE DATES

Ride for Clean Rivers

September 16
8 a.m. | Chesapeake College | Wye Mills, MD

Chester River Run

October 28
9 a.m. | Wilmer Park | Chestertown, MD

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

November 16
5 p.m. | Cocktail Party | Tidewater Inn, Easton, MD
7 p.m. | Films | Avalon Theatre, Easton, MD

2019 ShoreRivers Summer Solstice

June 22, 2019
6 p.m. | Clovelly Farm | Chestertown, MD