



Chesapeake Ecology Center **UPDATE**

Summer 2007

*******Save the Date*******

**September 8th, 10 AM-2 PM
Chesapeake Ecology Center
5th Anniversary Celebration**

Garden Open House & Native Plant Sale

On Saturday, September 8, 2007, the Chesapeake Ecology Center (CEC) will celebrate its 5th Anniversary. You are invited to join us for festivities including a Garden Open House and Native Plant Sale. Guided tours of the 20 Native Plant Demonstration Gardens and Sites will be held at 11 AM and Noon. We will have refreshments and a book signing of a new rain garden booklet and *Ecoscaping Back to the Future...Restoring Chesapeake Landscapes*, by Zora Lathan and Thistle Cone. The CEC is located just minutes from downtown and the State Capital, at Adams Academy at Adams Park, 245 Clay Street, Annapolis, Maryland.

Invasive Species Removal and Native Species Reforestation



On June 28th, a major invasive species removal project in the riparian forest buffer at Adams Academy at Adams Park began. The CEC is spearheading this project, which is being implemented by Anne Arundel County's Forestry Program, and will culminate in replanting with native species in the fall.

Many existing native species are being overgrown with invasive vines such as English Ivy, Japanese Honey-suckle, and Asiatic Bittersweet. There are numerous invasive shrubs such as Multiflora Rose and Privets, and invasive trees such as Tree of Heaven and Mulberry. The forest buffer along the headwaters of College Creek will greatly benefit from the removal of invasive species and follow-up restoration with native trees and shrubs. In October, students and volunteers will be invited to get their hands dirty and participate in educational planting sessions.

Friends of College Creek Watershed Initiative

The College Creek watershed, located in the heart of Annapolis, covers 732 acres (1.14 square miles), and contains over 57 percent impervious surface.

Friends of College Creek—an informal coalition of watershed stakeholders—has been active on and off since the mid-1990s. The coalition has been re-energized by the Lower Western Shore Tributary Team to continue work to protect and restore the watershed.

Stakeholders initiate and work on restoration projects, in collaboration with partners from within and outside of the watershed, for example: St. John's College Living Shoreline; major bio-retention and other restoration projects at the Department of Natural Resources and the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium; and the Chesapeake Ecology Center's forest buffer and rain garden projects at Adams Academy at Adams Park. New efforts are in the planning stages, for example, a living shoreline project at the Naval Academy, and restoration projects at Calvary United Methodist Church.

Friends of College Creek is facilitating watershed stakeholders working in an informed and coordinated manner by, first, working together to update and add to the 1997 College Creek Watershed Assessment in order to better ascertain the environmental health and needed restoration and protection efforts for the watershed. The results will be presented at a State of the College Creek Watershed Conference in the fall. Stay tuned for more details at www.ChesapeakeEcologyCenter.org.

On Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 2007, we were joined by Governor Martin O'Malley, several other dignitaries, and over 100 students and volunteers for a Tree Planting Celebration of the 37th Annual Earth Day. The planting of native trees and shrubs by students and volunteers at Adams Academy at Adams Park—home of the CEC—was truly a wonderful event!



This was a very special occasion thanks to Governor O'Malley's remarks and assistance with tree planting. We were also fortunate to be joined by Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold, Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary John Griffin, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari Wilson, Chesapeake Bay Trust Chairman of the Board Midgett Parker, DNR Director of Urban Forestry Michael Galvin, staff and students from Adams Academy and Bates Middle Schools, the CEC Board of Directors, and numerous volunteers.

The Adams Academy Principal Jeff Tillar, Assistant Principal Shawn Ashworth, and the teachers and students of Adams Academy were thrilled to have had this event at their school. Notably, Jeff's son, Max Tillar, who, at the time, was an 8th grader, video taped and edited an outstanding video of the event!

The Chesapeake Ecology Center has worked steadily since 2002 to increase Maryland's Urban Tree Canopy. We have created over 20 Native Plant Demonstration Gardens and Sites at Adams Academy with the tremendous assistance of CEC members, volunteers, community groups, teachers, and students. The CEC strives to provide environmental education, and, at the same time, develop on-the-ground habitat restoration and protection projects.



On May 3, 2007, 40 Cigna volunteers from several states throughout the country joined the Chesapeake Ecology Center, thanks to the assistance of the Volunteer Center For Anne Arundel County! The volunteer work session at the CEC was one of the best and most helpful volunteer experiences we've had. After a tour of the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens and Sites, folks got busy planting, transplanting, weeding, hauling and adding mulch to several gardens. Having a group of volunteers join us from several states throughout the nation was a first, and it was a wonderful experience. Thank you Cigna volunteers!



Special Offer

For \$25 you can become a member of the Chesapeake Ecology Center and receive a complementary copy of *Ecoscaping Back to the Future...Restoring Chesapeake Landscapes*

This 92-page conservation landscaping primer highlights native plant rain gardens and xeriscapes at the CEC. Please send checks—made payable to CEC—for the primer (\$15), or for membership and primer (\$25), to:

**Chesapeake Ecology Center
c/o Treasurer
at Adams Academy at Adams Park
245 Clay Street
Annapolis, MD 21401**

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