



Season's Greetings!

*The gardening season officially begins on January 1st
and ends on December 31st. – Marie Huston*



Chesapeake Ecology Center **UPDATE**

Winter 2007

2007 HIGHLIGHTS and SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, Friends of College Creek met to make plans to conduct a new assessment of the environmental health, or lack thereof, of the College Creek watershed. Several surveys were conducted, including SAV Surveys, an Upland Stream Survey, a Macroinvertebrate Survey, and an Upland Photo Survey. Extensive data was obtained from various sources, including Water Quality Monitoring, Fish Survey, Impervious Cover and other overall watershed characteristics. This initiative—sponsored by the Lower Western Shore Tributary Team—was a collaborative effort involving several major watershed stakeholders, including the Chesapeake Ecology Center, Adams Academy at Adams Park, Department of Natural Resources, Naval Academy, Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Calvary United Methodist Church, St. John's College, and Germantown-Homewood Civic Association. The City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and others made significant contributions.

The results of the more than year-long effort were highlighted at a very successful and productive State of the College Creek Watershed Public Forum, held on November 3rd at Adams Academy. Approximately 60 community residents and others attended the half-day forum. The agenda format—of brief presentations, poster session, then reconvening for the final community input session—worked very well; and we still had a good size crowd and lots of citizen input during the open session with citizens at the end of the program.



What's next? The State of the College Creek Watershed Report will be completed in January 2008. Then the fun stuff begins, that is, hands-on restoration projects at, for example, the CEC, Calvary United Methodist Church, and the Naval Academy.

Two outstanding 2007 volunteer events, among many:

- On Earth Day, April 22nd, CEC and Adams Academy staff and volunteers were joined by Governor Martin O'Malley, several other dignitaries, and over 100 students and volunteers for a Native Tree and Shrub Planting Event, to celebrate the 37th Annual Earth Day. It was a truly wonderful event!
- In May, 40 Cigna volunteers, from several states throughout the country, joined the CEC to plant and help spruce up the gardens.

Invasive Species Removal / Reforestation Project at Adams Academy at Adams Park / CEC, implemented by Anne Arundel County's Forestry Program:

June 28th to July 10th, the Greenskeeper Environmental landscape crew--contractors for the County--removed invasive species throughout an approximately five acre area, from the front to the back of the middle school, along the riparian forest buffer at the tidal headwaters of College Creek. Most of the removal was done by hand; additionally, a herbicide was used during the final two days of removal. Workers used machetes, saws, loppers, etc. At times, a cable was wrapped around large logs which the truck wrench then pulled to a large chipper. Often, workers would individually carry large logs on their shoulder up steep inclines to the chipper. As logs, branches, and vines were fed into the chipper, they were sprayed back onto cleared areas in the riparian forest buffer as mulch to help stabilize cleared areas. Some areas are shallow slopes, while others are moderate to steep slopes. This was a very efficient operation; and the crew of 8 to 10 guys accomplished an amazing amount of work in several days, many of which were 90 to 100 degrees.

September 21st to 25th, the landscape contractors began and completed the reforestation by planting 920 native

trees and shrubs throughout an approximately five acre area in both the front and back of Adams Academy/CEC and on adjoining City of Annapolis property.

On October 1st, the CEC worked with two large groups of Adams Academy students to complete the final round of planting in the riparian forest buffer. Notably, the second group of students removed several bags of trash and metal items in the area by the old B&A railroad track, which is now visible, after the removal of a large thicket of multiflora rose and other invasive species.

September 8th, the CEC's 5th Anniversary Celebration was a great success thanks to the outstanding help of volunteers and the 100+ folks that attended. Enthusiastic visitors, including Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer, helped us celebrate our five years of successful environmental education and restoration efforts. Several guided garden tours were given, while others took self-guided tours; and lots of garden advice and handouts, including our new Rain Garden booklet, were provided. We also had a very successful native plant sale as a fundraiser to help cover garden maintenance expenses.

In the summer and fall, we were very fortunate to receive assistance from Girl Scouts, Eagle Scouts, and the CEC's many Garden Angels:

- Eagle Scouts did an outstanding job of assembling and installing five kiosks in CEC Gardens and Sites.
- Girl Scouts provided tremendous assistance on several occasions with trash removal and garden maintenance.

This year, the CEC provided assistance to:

- Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, by providing technical assistance, designing, and helping plant a Rain Garden.
- Lime Kiln Middle School in Howard County, by conducting several visits, providing technical assistance, designing, and helping plant a large Rain Garden.

Presentations were given throughout the year on the topics of Stormwater Runoff, Rain Garden Design and Installation, and Implementing Schoolyard and Community Restoration Projects, to:

- Maryland Native Plant Society, at the Kent Island Public Library.
- Greenstreet Gardens, a large nursery in Lothian.
- Three-day Maryland Maritime Heritage Festival at Annapolis City Dock.
- Maryland Native Plant Society, in-depth three-hour tour of the CEC Gardens and Sites to 20 members from widely varying areas covering at least six counties.
- Annapolis Eco Tour.
- Chesapeake Watershed Forum in Shepherdstown, WV.
- Spring through fall, numerous guided tours of the CEC Gardens and Sites were given to groups and individuals.

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in nature that is ours.
We have given our hearts away.
-William Wordsworth*

*Some solutions are the solution to a lot of problems.
-Colin Beavan aka No Impact Man*

GIVE A GIFT TO YOURSELF AND THE ENVIRONMENT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Check out The Story of Stuff at:
<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute film that takes viewers on a provocative and eye-opening tour of the real costs of our consumer driven culture—from resource extraction to iPod incineration.

Annie Leonard, an activist who has spent the past 10 years traveling the globe fighting environmental threats, narrates the Story of Stuff, delivering a rapid-fire, often humorous and always engaging story about “all our stuff—where it comes from and where it goes when we throw it away.” Leonard examines the real costs of extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal, and she isolates the moment in history where she says the trend of consumption mania began. The Story of Stuff examines how economic policies of the post-World War II era ushered in notions of “planned obsolescence” and “perceived obsolescence” — and how these notions are still driving much of the U.S. and global economies today.

Leonard's inspiration for the film began as a personal musing over the question, “Where does all the stuff we buy come from, and where does it go when we throw it out?” She traveled the world in pursuit of the answer to this seemingly innocent question, and what she found along the way were some very guilty participants and their unfortunate victims.

Written by Leonard, the film was produced by Free Range Studios, the makers of other highly popular web-based films such as “The Meatrix” and “Grocery Store Wars.” Funding for the project came from the Sustainability Funders (The Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption) and Tides Foundation.

For more information:

Visit our website at www.ChesapeakeEcologyCenter.org, or contact Zora Lathan at zoralathan@earthlink.net.

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