

## **About Us**

The Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance (MCWA) is a mutual, collaborative non-advocacy effort among individuals and organizations desiring to work together to improve the health of the Monocacy and Catoctin watersheds. Growing out of more than two years of action planning for the Monocacy Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS), a Frederick County coordinated and State assisted local planning process, participants decided to continue their affiliation and cooperation at its conclusion in order to help foster WRAS plan implementation.

## **Mission Statement**

The Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance coordinates the efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders dedicated to the protection and restoration of the natural resources in the Monocacy & Catoctin watersheds.

## **Vision Statement**

We envision a broadening and deepening stewardship ethic among an informed citizenry, which will help protect the County's agricultural heritage and rural character, maintain and improve the quality of life, protect and treasure our natural resources, and manage future growth more wisely. We envision healthy streams and rivers with forested buffers supplying clean drinking water and supporting healthy communities of aquatic and terrestrial life, as well as diverse and popular recreational uses. We envision a healthy and vibrant agricultural community built on links with citizens who support local agricultural and renewable forest products. We envision increasingly concentrated residential development using conservation design principles with access to collective transportation modes and a web of well-maintained trails. We envision watershed conservation folks from all sectors and communities collaborating to implement effective conservation and restoration practices and foster a creative stewardship consciousness.

## **Alliance History**

The Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) program was developed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) using funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Its goal is to provide grant money and technical assistance in the form of three reports to local governments throughout Maryland in order to develop strategies to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

Frederick County Government applied for its first round of WRAS funding in August 2002 for the Lower Monocacy River Watershed and received the grant award in January 2003. The County used the grant money to hire a part time WRAS coordinator to organize a Lower Monocacy Steering Committee and coordinate the development of the Lower Monocacy WRAS plan. The plan was completed and submitted to DNR in May 2004. The County applied for a second WRAS grant to focus on the Upper Monocacy

River Watershed and received grant money in July 2004. The plan was completed in June 2005.

The County's goal for the initiative was to develop multifaceted strategic plans to guide citizens, government agencies, and other interested groups in the protection and restoration of the Lower and Upper Monocacy River watersheds. The two plans and supporting technical reports can be viewed in their entirety at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/watersheds/surf/proj/wras.html>

After the WRAS process was complete, implementation efforts for the Lower Monocacy WRAS plan began and members of the two Steering Committees desired to keep the efforts of the Lower Monocacy and Upper Monocacy WRAS Steering Committees alive. The Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance (MCWA) is what evolved out of the group planning initiative. The Alliance developed a logo and hosted its first booth in the City Streets, Country Roads exhibit of the Great Frederick Fair in September 2004.

During bimonthly planning meetings starting in July 2005, the group approved the final website design and agreed upon a structure under which the Alliance would operate. The Alliance helps Frederick County Division of Public Works (DPW) to leverage the resources of outside groups to meet the goals outlined in the WRAS plans. The WRAS Coordinator role at the County shifted to a Community Restoration Coordinator role when grant money was awarded for Lower Monocacy WRAS plan implementation. The Community Restoration Coordinator works to coordinate the efforts of the Alliance partners in the implementation of the Lower and Upper Monocacy WRAS plans.

### **Alliance Projects**

The Alliance has helped encourage and facilitate projects where several partners contribute expertise and resources resulting in a community restoration, demonstration project, or an education and outreach event. Recently completed projects include:

**Cloverhill Community Restoration Project** which grew out of a Homeowner Association's interest in improving its stream corridor and involved at least four Alliance partners - one who wrote a grant application, another developed a phased forest stewardship plan, another arranged for a school group to plant trees and shrubs that the students had raised, while another mobilized volunteers for community work days, and;

**Tree Growth Field Trial at Monocacy NRMA** during which four alternative methods of protecting newly planted trees from deer browse was sponsored by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Foresters and assisted by three Alliance partners during the fence installation, planting, measurement and public relation phases of the project.

**Libertytown Stewards Project** involved more than 50 volunteers who worked together to plant four rain gardens and two tree planting projects at four community restoration sites in Libertytown at the Liberty Elementary School, Liberty Village Cohousing

Community, Libertytown Community Park, and St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. More than 260 hours of time were invested in 2006 to improve the health of Town Branch and its tributaries which flow into Linganore Creek, Lake Linganore and beyond. The project was funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Frederick County Division of Public Works Watershed Management Section.

Other Alliance projects that are planned or underway include:

**Bennett Creek Restoration Initiative** offers technical and financial assistance to landowners along Fahrney and Pleasant Branches of Bennett Creek. The initiative is led by the Potomac Conservancy who is working with several Alliance partners including the Soil Conservation District/NRCS, Frederick County Watershed Management Section, Ducks Unlimited, and the Center for Watershed Protection as well as owners of agricultural and developed properties who receive assistance. The project is funded through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

**Urban Wetlands Program, Bennett Creek Watershed Pilot** will develop a mechanism for Frederick County Government's Watershed Management Section to establish wetland assessment standards and protocols, update and map the nontidal wetlands GIS overlay for Bennett Creek, define characteristics for benchmark nontidal wetlands in the Piedmont hydrophysiographic province in order to improve water quality and wetland habitat, provide regulatory guidance for land use change relating to wetlands, conduct education and outreach to Frederick County public School teachers and students about wetland functions, and establish two stormwater wetland restoration/enhancement projects. Funding for this project will come from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319(h) Program through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

**"Holding Our Ground" Project** provides outreach, education and technical assistance through an electronic quarterly newsletter and a Geographic Information System (GIS) tool that includes multiple layers of data within Frederick County. The purpose of the GIS application is to help landowners identify environmental problems on their properties and discuss voluntary restoration opportunities. The project is targeted in the Linganore Creek watershed and is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

**Urban TMDL Demonstration Project** provides funding for Frederick County's Community Restoration Coordinator to assist in organizing and implementing restoration projects in the Linganore Creek watershed in an effort to address the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Funding for this project will come from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319(h) Program through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

### **How Does the Alliance Work?**

Presently, community groups with local problems and potential ideas for community restoration projects approach a member of the Alliance and request help. Requests are

often referred to the Community Restoration Coordinator who alerts appropriate partners to the potential project and facilitates initial conversations or meetings to discern the best strategy for planning and securing the needed resources. Often if several interested community groups are concentrated in a particular watershed, the funding potential and collaborative potential for the project increases.

### Alliance Partners

Below is an alphabetical listing of Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance Partners, how to contact them for information, and what types of services they can provide.

<b>Quick Index to MCWA Partners</b>			
<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Primary Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Types of Assistance</b>
Audubon Society of Central Maryland <a href="http://www.centralmdaudubon.org/">http://www.centralmdaudubon.org/</a>	Ron Polniaszek (Chapter President)	301.831.5060 (Frederick County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracting, feeding, observing and identifying birds and butterflies in your backyard</li> <li>• Developing bird and butterfly-friendly habitat using native plants</li> <li>• Restoring and managing wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>
	Bill Becraft (Sanctuary Manager)	410.795.6546 (Carroll County)	
		410.531.6658 (Howard County)	
Canaan Valley Institute <a href="http://www.canaanvi.org/">http://www.canaanvi.org/</a>	Kristin Mielcarek	304 678-3446	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nitrogen reducing replacement septic systems with flush tax \$</li> <li>• Technical assistance &amp; training</li> <li>• Stream restoration</li> <li>• Geospatial services</li> <li>• Applied science</li> <li>• Organizational development</li> </ul>
Catoctin Land Trust	Geordie Newman	301.271.2823	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation easements</li> <li>• Education of landowners</li> </ul>
Catoctin Mountain Park <a href="http://www.nps.gov/cato/">http://www.nps.gov/cato/</a>	Becky Lancosky	301.416.0536	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality testing &amp; monitoring</li> <li>• GIS support</li> <li>• Design of outreach materials</li> </ul>
Chesapeake Bay Foundation <a href="http://www.cbf.org/">http://www.cbf.org/</a>	Rob Schnabel	443.482.2175	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assistance on restoration projects</li> <li>• Volunteer training</li> <li>• Assistance seeking grant funding</li> <li>• Environmental education</li> </ul>
	Marcy Damon	443 482-2156	

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<p>Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage <a href="http://www.cheswildlife.org/">http://www.cheswildlife.org/</a></p>	<p>Geordie Newman</p>	<p>410.310.6270</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design &amp; installation of habitat management plans for farms &amp; backyards</li> <li>• Habitat restoration</li> <li>• Invasive species control</li> <li>• Tree plantings, warm season grass planting &amp; wetland restoration</li> </ul>
<p>Community Commons <a href="http://www.communitycommons.org/">http://www.communitycommons.org/</a></p>	<p>Jamie Thurman</p>	<p>310.662.3000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monocacy River trail</li> <li>• Greener Lifestyle Series</li> </ul>
<p>Frederick County Conservation Club</p>	<p>John Smucker</p>	<p>301.845.7368</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a stream restoration experience for young community members that provides long lasting knowledge, appreciation and action</li> <li>• Assist in education efforts from the planning of lessons to delivery methods</li> </ul>
<p>Frederick County Forest Conservancy District Board <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programapps/fboards.asp">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programapps/fboards.asp</a></p>	<p>Mike Kay</p>	<p>301.473.8417</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree selection</li> <li>• Developing planting plans</li> <li>• Training in invasive plant management</li> </ul>
<p>Frederick County Master Gardeners <a href="http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Extension/local/Frederick/MG/index.cfm">http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Extension/local/Frederick/MG/index.cfm</a></p>	<p>Elyse Phillips</p>	<p>301 371-7728</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Speakers for existing organizations</li> <li>• Presentations on Bay Wise landscaping strategy using native plants</li> </ul>
<p>Susan Trice</p>	<p>301.600.1596</p>		
<p>Frederick County Division of Planning <a href="http://www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?nid=100">http://www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?nid=100</a></p>	<p>Tim Goodfellow</p>	<p>301.600.1138</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping &amp; GIS analysis</li> <li>• Property ownership information</li> <li>• Zoning &amp; comprehensive plan designations</li> </ul>
<p>Carole Larsen</p>	<p>301.600.1135</p>		
<p>Frederick County Watershed Management Section <a href="http://www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?nid=518">http://www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?nid=518</a></p>	<p>Shannon Moore</p>	<p>301.600.1413</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIS services, mapping &amp; analysis</li> <li>• Coordination of MCWA, partners, and community restoration</li> <li>• Wetland research</li> <li>• Public outreach &amp; education about watershed health</li> </ul>
<p>Kay Schultz</p>	<p>301.600.1741</p>		
<p>Jessica Hunicke</p>	<p>301.600.1350</p>		

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Friends of Rural Roads of Frederick County	Susan Hanson	301.371.4274	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation of remaining gravel roads in Frederick County and support County Rural Roads Program</li> <li>Provide information about rural roads and alternatives to paving roads in rural areas</li> </ul>
Friends of Waterford Park	Ginny Brace	301.682.6135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide assistance on how to develop a "Friends" group</li> <li>Education about invasive species that are widespread in the area</li> </ul>
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) <a href="http://www.potomacriver.org/index.htm">http://www.potomacriver.org/index.htm</a>	Jennifer Willoughby	301.694.1908 ext 109	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant writing</li> <li>Development of watershed organizations</li> <li>Event posting through media outlets &amp; website</li> </ul>
Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation  <a href="http://www.mdtaf.com/">http://www.mdtaf.com/</a>	Kathy Marmet	301.639.8491	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and research about the backcross breeding program to restore the American Chestnut tree to its native range</li> </ul>
	Robert Strasser	240.285.8199	
Maryland Forest Service  <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/</a>	Mike Kay	301.473.8417	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional forestry services</li> <li>Development of forest stewardship plans</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
Hood College  <a href="http://www.hood.edu/">http://www.hood.edu/</a>	Drew Ferrier	301.696.3660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides meeting space</li> <li>Hosts workshops on scientific topics, e.g. endocrine disruptors</li> <li>Can provide technical assistance with water quality topics</li> </ul>
Monocacy National Battlefield  <a href="http://www.nps.gov/mono/">http://www.nps.gov/mono/</a>	Andrew Banasik	301.696.0130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field assessment &amp; tech. assist.</li> <li>GIS, education &amp; training in water quality monitoring</li> <li>Exotic plant management &amp; control</li> </ul>
Mount St. Mary's University  <a href="http://www.msmary.edu/">http://www.msmary.edu/</a>	Jeffrey Simmons	301 447-5820 ext 4863	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental restoration</li> <li>Tom's Creek water monitoring</li> <li>Outreach &amp; education</li> </ul>
New Forest Society  <a href="http://www.emmitsburg.net/nfs/index.htm">http://www.emmitsburg.net/nfs/index.htm</a>	Elizabeth Prongas	301.271.4459	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free trees to CREP landowners &amp; others</li> <li>Educational workshops</li> <li>Outreach &amp; involvement with</li> </ul>

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Organization Name	Primary Contact	Telephone	Types of Assistance
			young children in tree planting
Potomac Conservancy  <a href="http://www.potomac.org/">http://www.potomac.org/</a>	Bryan Seipp	301.608.1188 ext 207	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation easement language, monitoring, &amp; negotiation</li> <li>• Science-based forestry advice- tree planting, harvesting, BMPs, road closures &amp; maintenance, stand delineation &amp; management</li> <li>• Rain garden design &amp; installation for community restoration projects</li> </ul>
	Heather Montgomery (trees for school campuses)	301 608.1188 ext 209	
	Colleen Langan (native nut collection)	301 608.1188 ext 211	
Potomac Valley Fly Fishers, Inc  <a href="http://www.pvflyfish.org/">http://www.pvflyfish.org/</a>	Lou Stohlman	240.215.4211	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues regarding the protection and restoration of fisheries</li> <li>• Issues regarding stream protection and restoration</li> <li>• Promote fly fishing as a sportsman like and enjoyable way of fishing; and the most consistent with the preservation and wise use of our resources</li> </ul>
	John Brognard	301.371.4205	
Soil Conservation District (Frederick and Catoctin)  <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/</a>	Mark Seibert	301 695-2803 ext 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assistance to agricultural land owners on soil and water conservation</li> <li>• Packaging of applications for federal and state financial assistance</li> <li>• Awards, tours and recognition of leadership and good practices in soil and water conservation</li> </ul>
	Moana Himes		
	Terry Welsh (assists with school wetland projects)		
ThorpeWood  <a href="http://www.thorpewood.org/">http://www.thorpewood.org/</a>	Sam Castleman	301.271.2823	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting facilities for conference &amp; community gatherings</li> <li>• Volunteers for restoration projects</li> <li>• Access to technical expertise in natural resource, legal, &amp; appraisal areas</li> </ul>
	Jason McCauley		
Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council	Phil Pannill	301.791.4010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest restoration</li> <li>• Forest management</li> </ul>

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<a href="http://users.erols.com/wmarylandrcd/index.htm">http://users.erols.com/wmarylandrcd/index.htm</a>	Aaron Cook		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exotic &amp; invasive plant management, volunteer training</li> </ul>

### **Becoming an Alliance Partner**

Do you work for an organization that is doing environmental work in Frederick County and would like to become an Alliance partner? Do you volunteer with a group that would benefit from the partnerships of the Alliance? Please fill out the questionnaire and email it to [watershedalliance@fredco-md.net](mailto:watershedalliance@fredco-md.net) or mail it to:

Kay Schultz  
 Frederick County DPW  
 118 N. Market St  
 Frederick, MD 21701