

10th Annual Choose Clean Water Conference

May 20-22, 2019
Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor
at Camden Yards



Choose Clean Water
COALITION
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CHOOSECLEANWATER.ORG



CLEANWATER19



@CHOOSECLEANH2O



CHOOSE CLEAN WATER COALITION

Hello!

Welcome to the 10th Annual Choose Clean Water Conference! We are very excited to be back here in Baltimore, Maryland and celebrating 10 years of the Choose Clean Water Coalition. Can you believe it? 10 years! Since 2009, the Choose Clean Water Coalition has worked to harness the collective power of more than 230 organizations to advocate for healthy communities, habitats, and clean water across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Over the past decade, our annual conference has served as an important venue for watershed advocates to learn about innovative restoration approaches from experts, build partnerships, share best practices by engaging in discussions with attendees from other parts of the watershed, and learn about successful projects in the host city.

What better place for hosting this year's conference theme *Clean Water. Healthy Communities* than Baltimore? With a high concentration of academic and medical professionals, nonprofit organizations and community organizers, this city is the perfect place to learn about the connection between public health and the environment. Baltimore's dedication to public health and its innovation around pollution reduction is one of the reasons why the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Coalition collaborated to bring you the pre-conference forum, *Microplastics and Trash: A Local Look at a Regional Issue*. This event, part of the ForumPlus series from the Alliance, will bring together experts and nonprofit organizations to kick off the beginning of a much larger conversation around the current state of waste in our watershed and what we as a community are and should be doing to address this issue.

You will see some familiar topics in our workshops and sessions at this year's conference, including those focused on stormwater, agriculture, and communications. However, we are also pleased to be offering new topics, like innovation and technology focused sessions that explore everything from a wastewater hunting Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever to fresh water mussels that are filtering our waterways. We have also completed our community-wide study on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, and we will be reporting out on those results during our Wednesday lunch plenary and diving into our recommendations and next steps during a breakout.

Thank you again for joining us and helping to celebrate our 10-year anniversary! After our two and a half days together, we hope you return home inspired, rejuvenated, and committed to returning clean water to the rivers and streams that flow into the Chesapeake Bay for the next 10 years and beyond!



Jen Mihills
National Wildlife Federation



Lisa Alexander
Audubon Naturalist Society



Josh McNeil
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania



Conference Topic Descriptions

Rather than having designated tracks, we center our workshops and sessions around different topics. You will find that some sessions and workshops have a primary topic and then a few sub-topics that will also be touched on during the presentation. Our hope is that this encourages people to move around to different sessions instead of following a formal track.

This year's topics include:

AGRICULTURE

Join these sessions to learn about innovative tools, funding opportunities, and unique collaborations that connect agriculture to conservation.

CAPACITY BUILDING

For the first time, the conference will have sessions focused on increasing the capacity of our organizations and ourselves. This includes professional development training and technical support.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications sessions will build the capacity of organizations to be their own communications professionals through trainings and knowledge sharing opportunities.

EQUITY

These sessions build off the Coalition's continued work on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ). Do not miss a 90 minute workshop focused on applying equity to policies, programs and philanthropy.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Our movement is nothing without the dedicated members of the public who make our restoration dreams a reality. Join these sessions to learn more about unique ways to engage your current and new audiences.

STORMWATER

Interested in learning from the experts about stormwater issues facing the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Want to hear more about innovative solutions to reducing this source of pollution? Join a session with a stormwater focus this year!

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Join a Technology and Innovation session to learn about how members of the Chesapeake Bay community are utilizing new and creative techniques to accomplish our work.

Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program



Tuesday, May 21

8 a.m.	9-9:45 a.m.	10-10:45 a.m.	11-11:45 a.m.	12-12:45 p.m.	1-1:45 p.m.	2:30-5:30 p.m.	6:15-10 p.m.	
Registration and Breakfast Open (Grand Ballroom Prefunction)	Welcome (Grand Ballroom)	Workshop: Break out of your inner circle: Expand your impact with Ally Acquisition (University 3-4)		Lunch StorySlam (Grand Ballroom)	Session: Improving Environmental Justice Considerations in Governmental Decision Making (Stadium 5)	Susquehanna Flyover: Experience the Mother of the Bay from the Sky	Reception at the Baltimore Muesum of Industry	
		Workshop: Elevating Conversations for Women Leaders (Chesapeake)			Session: Employing a Conservation Canine in Clean Water Work (Chesapeake)	Lower Lower Stony Run Stream Restoration		
		Workshop: How to Talk About Climate Catastrophe (University 1-2)			Session: The Faithful Fight for Clean Water (Promenade)	Healthy Harbor EcoTour		
		Session: Restoration and Demonstration at Roundabout Meadows Farms (Stadium 5)	Session: Community Partnerships Boost RiverWise Stormwater BMPs (Promenade)		Session: Environmental Impact Bonds: Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay (University 1-2)	Historic Flooding in a River Valley		
		Session: A Drinking Water Guide for Advocacy and Outreach (Promenade)			Session: Do You Have the Right to a Healthy Environment? (Stadium 5)	Session: Stream to Tap: Powerful Coalitions through Addressing Lead in Water (University 3-4)		Chesapeake Oyster Alliance: 10 Billion Oysters by 2025
						Session: Stream to Tap: Powerful Coalitions through Addressing Lead in Water (University 3-4)		Preventive Healthcare by Healing the Environment
								Guinness Brewing Tour

- Agriculture
- Capacity Building
- Communications
- Stormwater
- Public Engagement
- Technology/Innovation
- Equity

Wednesday, May 22

7:30-8:15 a.m.	8-8:50 a.m.	9-9:45 a.m.	10-10:45 a.m.	11-11:45 a.m.	11:45-1:15 p.m.	1:15-2 p.m.	2:15-3 p.m.
Yoga (Harbor Room)	Breakfast Roundtables (Grand Ballroom)	Breakfast Panel (Grand Ballroom)	Workshop: Applying Equity to Policies, Programs and Philanthropy (Chesapeake)		Lunch DEIJ Plenary (Grand Ballroom)	Session: Develop a DEIJ Action Plan for your Organization (Chesapeake)	Session: Prioritizing Conservation for Source Water Protection and More (Chesapeake)
			Workshop: Farm Bill Funding, Wildlife Conservation and the Chesapeake Bay (University 1-2)			Session: Broad Creek Restoration: Ditch Retrofits & the Academic Collaboratory (University 1-2)	Session: Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership: Market Driven Conservation (University 1-2)
			Workshop: Tools for Talent: Managing Up, Feedback, and Negotiation (University 3-4)			Session: Cleaning Local Waterways through Clear Choices (University 3-4)	Session: Volunteer Monitoring: Striving for Clean Water in DC (University 3-4)
			Session: Sparking Engagement Through Storytelling (Promenade)	Session: Shall I compare thee to a BMP? (Promenade)		Session: Tracking & Reporting the Health of Baltimore's Waterways (Promenade)	Session: Communicating Climate Change (Promenade)
			Session: Algal Ecotechnologies Supporting Watershed Stewards (Stadium 5)	Session: Benefits and Burdens of Nonprofit Corporate Structures (Stadium 5)		Session: Beyond the Environment: Connecting Your "Why" to the Bigger Picture (Stadium 5)	Session: The Potential of Mussel Power for Clean Water in the Anacostia River (Stadium 5)

- Agriculture
- Capacity Building
- Communications
- Stormwater
- Public Engagement
- Technology/Innovation
- Equity

8:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION OPENS/BREAKFAST OPENS

Location: Grand Ballroom Prefunction

9:00-9:05 a.m.

WELCOME TO THE 10TH ANNUAL CHOOSE CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE

Chanté Coleman, Director Choose Clean Water Coalition

Location: Grand Ballroom

9:05-9:10 a.m.

WELCOME TO BALTIMORE

Rudolph Chow, Director, Department of Public Works

Location: Grand Ballroom

Director Chow previously served as the Department's Deputy Director and head of the Bureau of Water and Wastewater. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from George Washington University and a master's degree in environmental/water resources engineering from the University of Maryland. He brings more than 30 years of executive and managerial experience from both the water industry and public works.

9:10-9:40 a.m.

**SWIMMING UPSTREAM:
COMMUNITY, HARD WORK, & THE BIGGER PICTURE**

Chad Brown, Soul River

Location: Grand Ballroom

Chad Brown is a decorated US Navy veteran who received multiple honors after serving in Desert Storm Gulf War and Operation Restore Hope, Somalia. His struggle with PTSD nearly drove him to suicide before he found solace in fly-fishing. Brown's discovery of nature as medicine inspired him to launch Soul River, Inc., a nonprofit that aims to share the healing power of rivers with veterans and inner-city youth. Soul River Inc. has held many successful deployments taking youth and veterans on local rivers in Oregon, Washington, and to far off destinations in Alaska and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. These opportunities promote healing and learning through many facets of outdoors education where a veteran mentors and engages youth molding into leadership and advocacy while breaking barriers and building new communities. Ultimately, we are curating the next environmental youth leaders for conservation.

Interviewed by: Mark Conway, Baltimore Tree Trust

10:00-11:45 a.m.

MORNING WORKSHOPS AND SESSIONS

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Workshop: Elevating Conversations for Women Leaders

Topic: Capacity Building; Sub-topics: Equity

Location: Chesapeake

If you missed this presentation at the 2018 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum, here is your chance! Women often face a unique set of challenges when it comes to accomplishing their personal and professional goals - the Chesapeake world is no exception. In order to begin to overcome these barriers, current and emerging women leaders must first look within to identify their strengths and weaknesses, learn skills that will help them grow, and begin to create and build their network or 'squad'. Attendees will learn about themselves and begin to build meaningful relationships with each other through a series of skill building exercises designed to foster intersectional conversations and catalyze a more inclusive movement.

Presenters:

Kate Fritz, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Sarah Lane, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Abbi Huntzinger, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Molly Brown, Chesapeake Legal Alliance

Chanté Coleman, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Kristin Reilly, Choose Clean Water Coalition



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program



Photo courtesy of the
Chesapeake Bay Program

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Workshop: How to Talk About Climate Catastrophe

Topic: Communications; Sub-topics: Equity, Public Health, Policy

Location: University 1-2

The Paris Agreement is burning. Carbon is over 400ppm. We'll pass 1.5°C warming in just 10-30 years. This year's extraordinary storms will become ordinary, and Bay communities are already drowning. How do you sit through another meeting when THIS IS AN EMERGENCY? Is public policy ready to handle this? Is the Coalition? Are you? Join us for facilitated sharing and discussion of how we all are thinking about and working on climate change in the context of water, environmental justice, public health, and in our own mental health and lives. We will end by workshopping recommendations for the Coalition.

Presenters:

Eliza Cava, Audubon Naturalist Society

David Flores, Center for Progressive Reform

Mariah Davis, Choose Clean Water Coalition

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Workshop: Break out of your inner circle: Expand your impact with Ally Acquisition

Topic: Communications; Sub-topic: Policy

Location: University 3-4

Echo chambers, bubbles, choirs. Whatever you call your inner circle, it's comfortable territory--but speaking only to true believers limits your universe of support. How can you bring new people to the cause? Join Marketing for Change to learn the basics of Ally Acquisition. Marketing for Change, which specializes in environmental and public health causes, will teach you to uncover the social narrative around your issue and identify new ways to frame key messages to expand your circles of influence.

Presenters:

Meisha Thigpen, Marketing for Change

Karen Ong, Marketing for Change

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Session: Restoration and Demonstration at Roundabout Meadows Farm

Topic: Agriculture; Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: Stadium 5

The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) has been working to restore water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve farm productivity of our 141-acre Roundabout Meadows property at historic Gilbert's Corner in Loudoun County, VA. Located in one of the fastest growing counties in the country, Roundabout Meadows acts as a gateway to the rural piedmont and is one of PEC's top community engagement tools. Learn how PEC is using these land restoration and farm practices as an outreach and demonstration tool to educate an increasingly suburban population on local conservation issues. This session will also feature successful results from a four year water quality study on the property's stream exclusion fencing project, and an overview of our new community vegetable farm.

Presenters:

Celia Vuocolo, Piedmont Environmental Council

Julie Bolthouse, Piedmont Environmental Council

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Session: A Drinking Water Guide for Advocacy and Outreach

Topic: Public Engagement; Sub-topic: Source Water

Location: Promenade

This interactive workshop will introduce and explain how participants can use a new River Network online resource, the Drinking Water Guide: A Resource for Advocates that reflects the increasing intersection of affordability, equity, and environmental quality highlighted by drinking water crises. River Network worked with an advisory committee, consultants and partners to develop a layperson-friendly drinking water guide including components relating to source water, treatment, funding, safety, sustainability and policy frameworks with a focus on equity and community engagement. This workshop will provide an introduction and overview of the guide, and time to dive deeper into select topics.

Presenters:

Katherine Baer, River Network

Adam Griggs, River Network

11:00-11:45 a.m.

Session: Community Partnerships Boost RiverWise Stormwater BMPs

Topic: Stormwater; Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: Promenade

The RiverWise Communities program encompasses two branches, schools and congregations. This presentation aims to highlight the connections and partnerships between of stormwater, schools, art, faith-based communities, and food justice. The audience will participate in a cognitive mapping exercise focused on expressing their connection to why they care about their local resource.

Presenter:

Amy Hagerdon, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

11:00-11:45 a.m.

Session: Do You Have the Right to a Healthy Environment?

Topic: Equity; Sub-topics: Public Health, Climate Change

Location: Stadium 5

We need big ideas to building relevant protections for breathable air, clean water and a healthy environment for all Marylanders for generations to come. As the latticework of federal protection is threatened by rollbacks, reversals and other restraints, Maryland will no longer be able to count on preemptive action and must begin to build its own state level defenses.

Presenters:

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Environmental Advocate

Nina Beth Cardin, Healthy Green Maryland Constitutional Amendment Coalition

12:00-12:45 p.m.

StorySlam! 10 Years of the Choose Clean Water Coalition

Location: Grand Ballroom

Ten years ago, the Choose Clean Water Coalition came together to bring a collective voice to the clean water movement in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Since that day, the Coalition has faced many challenges, and seen both victories and defeats. However, no matter the outcome, the Coalition and our more than 230 members have always overcome these obstacles together. During this lunch, we invite members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition family to come up and share their experience working with and/or being part of the Coalition. This is a time for us to highlight important moments, share funny anecdotes, and reflect on where we have been as an organization and where we are going in the future.



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

1:00-1:45 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Session: Improving Environmental Justice Considerations in Governmental Decision Making

Topic: Equity; Sub-topics: Shale, Policy

Location: Stadium 5

Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Several states within the Bay region have environmental justice policies. There are few laws or regulations requiring that governmental agencies consider environmental justice issues in their permitting and regulatory decisions. Recent work on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Baltimore Sewer Consent Decree, and Maryland's development of Municipal Solid Waste



Incinerator Reasonably Available Control Technology standards for Nitrogen Oxides highlight the difficulty of requiring governmental agencies to consider environmental justice concerns in their permitting decisions. This session will provide a brief history of EJ in the United States, an overview of local policies and laws and discuss three case studies concerning permitting and regulatory decisions that implicate environmental justice issues.

Presenters:

Jon Mueller, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Rodette Jones, United Workers

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Employing a Conservation Canine in Clean Water Work

Topic: Technology and Innovation; Sub-topics: Public Engagement, Source Water, Public Health

Location: Chesapeake

Learn about the clean-water work of conservation canine "Little Keeper" Susquehanna (Sussey), a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever. In addition to being trained by Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper and environmental engineer Carol Parenzan to detect raw influent (sewage) in the watershed with his nose, Sussey is the "spokesdog" for the Waterkeeper Alliance-licensed nonprofit organization, is partnering with a local university on a poop-topower dog waste biogas project, has a far-reaching social media following, has trained with prisoners, and attracts crowds at community events with his four white paws and pink nose. Is there a conservation canine in your organization's future?

Presenter:

Carol Parenzan, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Session: The Faithful Fight for Clean Water

Topic: Public Engagement; Sub-topics: Policy

Location: Promenade

In this workshop, participants will learn more about how a broad spectrum of the faith community has engaged on protecting clean water at the local and national levels. Several case studies--from local engagement to national advocacy efforts--will be presented as a way to showcase the religious community's activities. In addition, workshop participants will explore why the faith community has worked to protect clean water and what additional needs exist for further engagement.

Presenter:

Cassandra Carmichael, National Religious Partnership for the Environment

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Session: Environmental Impact Bonds: Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay

Topic: Stormwater; Sub-topics: Equity, Climate Change

Location: University 1-2

Stormwater is the only major source of nitrogen pollution still increasing in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Come learn how CBF has been introducing local Bay jurisdictions to a new way of financing green infrastructure for stormwater management, called "impact investment"--and its additional benefits, such as creating local sustainable jobs and more healthy, vibrant communities.

Presenters:

Gauri Gadgil, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Kim Grove, Baltimore Department of Public Works

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Session: Stream to Tap: Powerful Coalitions through Addressing Lead in Water

Topic: Equity; Sub-topics: Source Water, Policy

Location: University 3-4



Photo courtesy of
Mary Katherine Sullivan

When it comes to water, it's what comes out of the tap that's on people's minds, which means addressing the threats posed by lead in drinking water. Tackling this public health crisis can be an entry-point for educating new constituencies about water quality, building coalitions, and organizing from the tap backwards to tell a larger story about protecting water quality from stream to tap. PennEnvironment will use their experience passing municipal legislation reducing lead in schools' drinking water as a case study for, building relationships with nontraditional partners and organizing a coalition of

diverse stakeholders to keep our children and communities safe.

Presenter:

Stephanie Wein, PennEnvironment



2:30–5:30 p.m.

FIELD TRIPS

Participants who signed up for a field trip should meet at Grand Ballroom ABC/ East West of the hotel at 2:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted below. All trips will depart no later than 2:45 p.m.

Susquehanna Flyover: Experience the Mother of the Bay from the Sky
Hosted by: SouthWings, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper

Join volunteer SouthWings pilots and staff from Susquehanna Heritage on a guided aerial tour of the Susquehanna River and its power generation facilities to learn more about river history and recreation, land conservation, and connectivity between the Susquehanna, the Bay, and the surrounding watershed. While aboard, consider how your organization may use aviation as a tool to highlight your priority issues from the air and influence environmental decision making.

Lower Lower Stony Run Stream Restoration
Hosted by: Baltimore City Department of Public Works

Lower Lower Stony Run is Stream Restoration project to improve the water quality in Jones Fall Watershed in Baltimore City. Lower Lower Stony Run was a severely impacted urban stream and the goal of restoration was to reduce TMDL into Jones Falls watershed by up to 80 percent.

Healthy Harbor EcoTour
Hosted by: Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

The Healthy Harbor EcoTour is an hour-long walking tour that showcases four urban clean water restoration projects installed along Baltimore's waterfront. Going from the Inner Harbor to Harbor East, we'll visit the National Aquarium's floating wetlands, a Great Baltimore Oyster Partnership oyster garden, the Pierce's Park rain garden, and Waterfront Partnership's Mr. Trash Wheel. The tour includes information on each of these projects and how they fit into the broader context of efforts to restore the Baltimore Harbor.

Masonville Cove: Restoration, Access, Community and Change

Hosted by: National Aquarium

Come explore the community driven wildlife revolution happening in South Baltimore's Baybrooke community. What began as the restoration of an abandoned and neglected parcel of land in the Middle Branch is now in its tenth year of wildlife habitat and community engagement. Masonville Cove itself includes 54 acres of cleaned-up wetlands, nature trails, a protected bird sanctuary and a trash wheel. Travel with us from the Cove to the local parks and schools in the community that have been an integral part of the collaboration, and see the work the community has lead in their open spaces.

Historic Flooding in a River Valley

Hosted by: Chesapeake Stormwater Network, Howard Eco Works, Clean Water Action

Tour the historic district of Ellicott City while learning about how the town has lived through floods throughout the centuries. Known for experiencing two 1,000 year floods in two years, there are many proposals for how the town will survive into the next century.

Chesapeake Oyster Alliance: 10 Billion Oysters by 2025

Hosted by: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

(Please meet at the conference registration desk at 2:10 pm to leave by 2:20 pm)

Did you know that a single, healthy adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day? Come learn about the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance and our goal to plant 10 billion new oysters in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. Over 45 different regional partners are working on this ambitious goal that will help accelerate oyster recovery and improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. We will share with participants the opportunities and challenges of coordinating a coalition of diverse partners and also describe our current efforts related to advancing oyster policy, restoration, outreach and science. Participants will enjoy a boat trip where they will experience firsthand oyster restoration efforts in Baltimore by planting baby oysters at Ft. Carroll with Baltimore Program Manager, Carmera Thomas and Oyster Campaign Manager, Audrey Swanenberg.

Preventive Healthcare by Healing the Environment

Hosted by: Blue Water Baltimore, MedStar Hospital, Plisko Solutions

Join us as we tour one of the greenest healthcare campuses in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed! MedStar Harbor Hospital has just completed installing 14 different green infrastructure practices that treat five acres of impervious surface and over 5 million gallons of stormwater runoff per year, which used to drain directly into the adjacent Patapsco River. To bridge the relationship between healing and nature, the hospital also installed an expansive healing garden on their waterfront lawn. Come learn from the hospital Green Team and the project design team how we are using the project to educate staff, patients, visitors, and the local community about the direct links between environmental and public health.

Guinness Brewing Stormwater Tour and Tasting

Hosted by: Guinness Brewing

In 2018, Guinness Open Gate Brewery and Gate House opened its doors just outside of Baltimore City. On this tour you will learn more about the site, which was refurbished from an old distillery, and includes stormwater retrofits around the property. The tour will end with a free pour and other drinks available for purchase after. (MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND)

6:30-10:00 p.m.

RECEPTION AND 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

Location: 1415 Key Hwy, Baltimore, MD 21230

First bus will leave at 6:15 p.m., second bus at 6:25 p.m., last bus at 6:35 p.m.

Join the Coalition for our 10th Anniversary Celebration as we honor our founders and those who were with us at the beginning! The event will feature delicious local fare from Rouge Catering, beer and wine donated from Guinness Brewing and WineCellers, Ltd., a special tasting by Wild Kombucha, live music from local favorite Eastport Oyster Boys, and delicious desserts provided by Turkey Hill Ice Cream.

First bus back will leave at 9:30 p.m., last bus at 10:00 p.m.



Photo courtesy Mary Katherine Sullivan



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

7:30–8:15 a.m.

RESTORATIVE MORNING YOGA will be provided by Michelle Foringer. This easy flow can be done with or without a mat.

Location: Harbor Room

8:00–8:50 a.m.

BREAKFAST WITH AD-HOC ROUNDTABLES

Location: Grand Ballroom

Join us for an ad-hoc breakfast roundtable or take some time to network with other conference attendees before the day gets started. You can find a list of roundtables outside of the Grand Ballroom.

9:00–9:45 a.m.

LOOKING TO 2020

Location: Grand Ballroom

The Executive Directors of Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania, and Virginia League of Conservation Voters will provide analysis of the 2018 elections and important upcoming elections in each state. We'll learn how these elections have impacted important environmental priorities and the opportunities and potential pitfalls for the environmental community as we look ahead to the 2020 presidential elections.

Josh McNeil, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
 Karla Raettig, Maryland League of Conservation Voters
 Mike Town, Virginia League of Conservation Voters

10:00-11:45 a.m.

SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Applying Equity to Policies, Programs and Philanthropy

Topic: Equity; Sub-topics: Policy, Capacity Building

Location: Chesapeake

Have you ever looked back on an organizational program, policy change, legal action, or a funded grant project and thought the intended outcome could have been better? Time and time again the conservation movement continues to fall short in understanding the needs and challenges of those who lack access to our most precious resources. During this workshop, participants will learn from various case studies within philanthropy, nonprofits programs, and public policy shaping that provide the most benefit to all individuals through an equitable lens.

Presenters:

Mariah Davis, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Carmera Thomas, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Yinka Bode-George, The Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers

Alayna Chuney, Namati

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Workshop: Farm Bill Funding, Wildlife Conservation and the Chesapeake Bay

Topic: Agriculture; Sub-topics: Public Engagement, Wildlife Conservation

Location: University 1-2

The 2018 Farm Bill provides many opportunities for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work with partner agencies and organizations to fund and implement conservation initiatives on private lands, including in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. This workshop will overview these federal programs, including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and provide practical information on how to apply for funds that benefit the Bay's waters and wildlife. Half of the workshop will be instruction, and half will be exercises on developing a competitive application for funding to protect and restore natural resources throughout the region.

Moderator:

Adam Tarr, Office of Senator Bob Casey

Presenters:

Mark Salvo, Defenders of Wildlife

Terron L. Hillsman, Ph.D., Maryland Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Jackie Byam, Maryland Natural Resources Conservation Service

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Workshop: Tools for Talent: Managing Up, Feedback, and Negotiation

Topic: Capacity Building; Sub-topic: Professional Development

Location: University 3-4

Our work for clean water is fueled by the efforts of people working together, and the people doing the work need support too. Invest in your skill development in this interactive workshop so that you can more effectively: “manage up” – with your boss or others in positions of authority, give and receive feedback and negotiate differences. Leave with practical tips and tools you can experiment with in a variety of situations, including within your work team.

Presenter:

Sarah Clark, Institute for Conservation Leadership

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Session: Sparking engagement through storytelling

Topic: Communications; Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: Promenade

When does dry science become a compelling story? How can journalism be a tool for on-the-ground community engagement? In this joint presentation by outreach and digital storytelling experts, you will learn how to effectively tie media stories to your daily efforts, counteract news fatigue and find the narrative within environmental topics. Through real-world case studies and an interactive component that will let you practice storytelling techniques, you will learn to build connections, tap into the bigger picture, and engage communities.

Presenters:

Caitlyn Johnstone, Chesapeake Bay Program, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Session: Algal Ecotechnologies Supporting Watershed Stewards

Topic: Technology and Innovation; Sub-topic: Chesapeake Blueprint

Location: Stadium 5

The Algal Turf Scrubber (ATS) ecotechnology will be presented as a powerful tool for addressing Chesapeake Bay TMDL reduction goals with local watershed groups. The evolutionary history of the technology and its application today will be detailed and discussed. With operational examples taken from the Port of Baltimore’s Dundalk Marine Terminal and locations from the Anacostia River in Maryland and Washington, D.C., data will be presented detailing the TMDL reductions calculated and realized as well as carbon uptake and dissolved oxygen production as additional side benefits. Pairing ATS with local watershed nonprofits is seen as mutually beneficial and will be discussed.

Presenters:

Peter May, University of Maryland Dept. of Environmental Science & Technology
Pat Kangas, University of Maryland Dept. of Environmental Science & Technology
Jim Foster, Anacostia Watershed Society



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

11:00-11:45 a.m.

Session: Shall I compare thee to a BMP?

Topic: Communications; Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: Promenade

Environmental Science, specifically modern water and land management, is a new field with a younger vocabulary that can be alienating to the layperson. In this session, we explore how other fields of modern science have chosen their jargon, how simplifying the language we use to describe our work can benefit our communications to the public and political leaders, and how we really need a new name for BMPs.

Presenters:

Maureen Farrington, Anacostia Watershed Society

Emily Conrad, Anacostia Watershed Society

11:00-11:45 a.m.

Session: Benefits and burdens of nonprofit corporate structures

Topic: Capacity Building

Location: Stadium 5

This presentation will provide attendees with an overview of the benefits and burdens of various tax-exempt organizational corporate structures, including 501(c)(3)s, 501(c)(4)s, and alternatives, available to groups working for a healthier Chesapeake Bay and its communities. Attendees will learn about incorporation methods, tax implications, funding options, and lobbying restrictions of each option, in order to determine what structure might best meet their organizations' missions and goals. Attendees will be empowered to take advantage of the benefits of their organization's current or future corporate structure, aware of any accompanying restrictions, and confident to effect change within the bounds of both.

Presenters:

Kendra Merchant, Miles & Stockbridge, 202-465-8376, kmerchant@milesstockbridge.com

M. Ari Storch, Miles & Stockbridge, 410-385-3693, astorch@milesstockbridge.com

Molly Brown, Chesapeake Legal Alliance

12:00-1:00 p.m.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE IN ACTION

Location: Grand Ballroom

In May 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network and the Choose Clean Water Coalition launched a significant, collaborative initiative to assess the state of diversity, equity and inclusion among organizations working on environmental issues in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This effort informed the development of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Action Guide with recommendations for how organizations and the funders who support them, can increase DEIJ within their organizations. During this plenary, key partners on the project will discuss the first version of the DEIJ Action Guide and how participants can use it.

Moderator:

Kacey Wetzel, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Panelists:

Vernice Miller-Travis, Skeo Solutions

Chanté Coleman, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Jamie Baxter, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network

Megan Milliken, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network

1:15-3:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:15-2:00 p.m.

Session: Develop a DEIJ Action Plan for your Organization

Topic: Equity

Location: Chesapeake

Join us for a follow-up discussion on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice in action. During this session, participants will further learn how to utilize the guide and create a DEIJ action plan for their organization. Participants should bring questions, comments, and suggestions regarding the DEIJ Action Guide and be ready for an engaging discussion!

Presenters:

Vernice Miller-Travis, Skeo Solutions

Kacey Wetzel, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Bre'Anna Brooks, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Jamie Baxter, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network

Mariah Davis, Choose Clean Water

Chanté Coleman, Choose Clean Water Coalition



1:15-2:00 p.m.

Session: Broad Creek Restoration: Ditch Retrofits & the Academic Collaboratory

Topic: Stormwater; Sub-topics: Climate Change, Public Engagement

Location: University 1-2

As one of the most polluted tributaries in the Chesapeake Bay, the Elizabeth River's Broad Creek is notorious for poor water quality and for flood events, which endanger the adjacent, low-lying neighborhoods. To improve the health of Broad Creek, in addition to the vitality of the surrounding communities, the Elizabeth River Project employs two methods of stormwater management and mitigation: the ditch retrofit and the academic collaboratory. Ditch retrofits explore a new frontier in urban stormwater management while the academic collaboratory draws upon academic institutions to represent underserved communities in the Broad Creek watershed.

Presenter:

Grace Saunders, The Elizabeth River Project

1:15-2:00 p.m.

Session: Cleaning Local Waterways through Clear Choices

Topic: Communications; Sub-topics: Public Health, Stormwater

Location: University 3-4

Clear Choices Clean Water is a campaign designed to increase awareness about choices we make and the impacts they have on our waterways. The campaign encourages residents to take "pledges" to implement water-friendly practices such as landscaping with native plants, using less fertilizer, maintaining septic systems, fostering soil health, and using less water to protect this precious resource. Each pledge results in quantifiable stormwater pollution reduction loads to the Chesapeake Bay resulting in cleaner waterways and communities. In this presentation, we'll highlight campaign tactics to build partnerships with new allies, increase member-lists, identify new community leaders and legislative champions, and increase awareness about the impact our individual choices have on our watersheds.

Presenters:

Katlyn Schmitt, Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Betsy Nicholas, Waterkeepers Chesapeake



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

1:15-2:00 p.m.

**Session: Tracking & Reporting the Health of Baltimore's Waterways
Topic: Technology and Innovation; Sub-topics: Public Engagement,
Public Health**

Location: Promenade

Blue Water Baltimore, the home of the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, has been tracking and reporting the health of Baltimore's waterways since 2008. The organization's long-term water quality monitoring program consists of 49 tidal and non-tidal sites in the Patapsco River watershed, which are routinely monitored for a suite of parameters that are indicative of overall water health. Blue Water Baltimore teamed up with Chesapeake Commons to move their annual assessments of water health online to an interactive online platform powered by Water Reporter that can serve as a model for water quality mapping and visualization for watershed organizations worldwide.

Presenters:

Angela Haren, Blue Water Baltimore

John Dawes, Jr., Chesapeake Commons

1:15-2:00 p.m.

Session: Beyond the Environment: Connecting Your “Why” to the Bigger Picture

Topic: Public Engagement; Sub-topics: Communications, Climate Change

Location: Stadium 5

Environmental work can often be insular. Join us in exploring communications, marketing, and engagement strategies that connect people to the bigger picture, and motivate them to get involved using empathy and storytelling. In this workshop we will explore our personal reasons for being involved in our work, how they relate to today’s biggest societal challenges, and how we can communicate more effectively to show the connection between the two. This workshop will include personal and group reflection, as well as some helpful action items to take back to the office.

Presenters:

Sheila McMenamin, Baltimore Tree Trust

Sara Gaul, Baltimore Tree Trust

2:15-3:00 p.m.

Session: Prioritizing Conservation for Source Water Protection and More

Topic: Technology and Innovation; Sub-topics: Source Water, Land Conservation

Location: Chesapeake

Over the past 2 years, the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership has worked to identify the best places in the Chesapeake Watershed for conservation. This has focused on a series of “goal maps”, such as farms, forestry, habitat, etc. But in recent months, the CCP has focused on coordinating resources on source water protection areas and their correlation to conservation opportunities. This session will explore that correlation and discuss the findings of this initiative, as well as its future implications.

Presenter:

Jake Leizear, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

2:15-3:00 p.m.

Session: Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership: Market Driven Conservation

Topic: Agriculture; Sub-topics: Communications

Location: University 1-2

Beginning in 2018, Turkey Hill Dairy instated a requirement for all farmers serving the dairy to obtain a conservation plan and implement all necessary practices on their farm include in their plan. This was no small feat, as over 130 farmers serve Turkey Hill. In order to support their farmers in achieving this ask, Turkey Hill joined forces with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Maryland Virginia Milk Producer’s Cooperative to build a partnership to guide and serve their farmers. This “Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership,” has now experienced tremendous success and serves as a promising model for replication through the ag industry and beyond.

Presenter:

Jenna Mitchell, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay



Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

2:15-3:00 p.m.

Session: Volunteer Monitoring: Striving for Clean Water in DC

Topic: Public Engagement; Sub-topics: Public Health, Stormwater

Location: University 3-4

Water quality monitoring is crucial to the health of both people and animals using DC waters. Anacostia Riverkeeper's bacterial monitoring program has expanded from four sites, to eight, to a total of 22 across the District. Our citizen science-monitoring program is a volunteer monitoring program that will increase both community engagement and investment in waters around the District. This program will address the history of the program, successes and pitfalls of citizen science programs, QA/QC, and an interactive component exploring innovative data visualization tools for displaying data, freely accessible to non-profits and citizens alike.

Presenters:

Robbie O'Donnell, Anacostia Riverkeeper

Olivia Anderson, Anacostia Riverkeeper

2:15-3:00 p.m.

Session: Communicating Climate Change

Topic: Communications; Sub-topic: Climate Change

Location: Promenade

This workshop will give a very brief overview of the climate change communication tools and tips as developed by Frameworks Institute through the National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI). Handouts and resources will be provided. There will be time at the end for a discussion on community level solutions.

Presenters:

Megan Anderson, National Aquarium

Gillian Reily, National Aquarium

2:15-3:00 p.m.

Session: The Potential of Mussel Power for Clean Water in the Anacostia River

Topic: Technology and Innovation

Location: Stadium 5

The restoration of freshwater mussel communities in the Anacostia River is starting to show viability and could be a valuable tool to help increase water quality through bio filtration. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Anacostia Watershed Society are laying the groundwork for future mussel restoration efforts by determining the most suitable habitats and the feasibility of scaling up further mussel propagation efforts in the river. Because mussels alter sediments and nutrients from the water column, the resulting improved water clarity will enhance submerged aquatic vegetation beds, providing habitat for other bottom dwelling invertebrates, which can support fish populations, including migratory and game fish species. These preliminary efforts are deploying thousands of mussels in the river, and are educating students and the general public about the importance of freshwater mussels.

Presenters:

Jorge Bogantes Montero, Anacostia Watershed Society

Ariel Trahan, Anacostia Watershed Society



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Thank you to this year's Conference Planning Committee:

Kristin Reilly, chair, Choose Clean Water Coalition
Andrea Van Wyk, National Aquarium
Anna Mudd, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Ben Alexandro, Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Caitlin Wall, Potomac Conservancy
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Sheila McMenamain, Baltimore Tree Trust
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Thank you to this year's Steering Committee Members:

Jen Mihills, co-chair, National Wildlife Federation
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