



# DoD CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM JOURNAL

PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOR MILITARY READINESS, FOR OUR COMMUNITY, FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## Meet Chesapeake Bay State Liaison Sarah Diebel

This is my first opening article as a permanent DoD Chesapeake Bay Program staff member, and in previous editions of the journal, you had the opportunity to read both Eddie and Melanie’s background and experiences that will continue to expand and enhance the program as it has already since we all joined together in April 2011.

The legacy of the Chesapeake Bay began for me as a child and was handed down to me by my grandparents and parents. Through their various roles, they provided me the understanding that we should enjoy and have awareness of the environment. I remember the moment that my grandmother gave me *Life in the Chesapeake Bay*, written by Alice Jane and Robert L. Lippson, which I use to cherish memories of spending time in their home in Poquoson, VA. Amazon.com says “it is the most important book ever published and describes hundreds of plants and animals and their habitats, from diamondback terrapins to blue crabs to hornshell snails”. I have many memories of fishing with my family along the James and York Rivers and heading out with friends to Buckaroo Beach to play volleyball and soak up the sun. George Eliot explained, “We could never have loved the earth so well if we had had no childhood in it” (*The Mill on the Floss*, 1860). I could never have loved the Chesapeake Bay and everything it has to offer if I had had no childhood in it, which is why I am proud to have the honor of handing the Bay’s legacy to my daughter, Stella Bay. What is the Chesapeake for you? Is it primarily for your job, way of life, or deeply rooted throughout your family heritage?

Because of my love of water and science, I headed to Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science with an emphasis in Marine Geology. I returned to Norfolk, Virginia for graduate school and received a Master of Science degree in Geology from Old Dominion University, emphasizing in Geochemistry. This is where I also met my husband, Nathan, and decided to live aboard an old 36’ woodie-the simple life!! After graduate school, I was hired as a Project Geologist with an environmental consulting firm. I joined the Navy’s environmental department in 2006 and worked as a water program compliance media manager.

Now as one of the members of the DoD Chesapeake Bay program, seeing and hearing the good news stories of how installations are restoring and protecting the Bay has been an enlightening experience. The annual Federal Funding

Inventory clearly demonstrated this! These projects and initiatives contribute to all of the economic, cultural and social benefits the Bay has to offer. We of course have more work to do, but my hope is through the experiences we have in the Chesapeake Bay whether from childhood or on the job training-there is a sense of ownership and pride that gives us all the motivation to continue to press forward even though with one step forward sometimes there are two steps back.



### In this Issue:

Meet DoD Chesapeake Bay Program State Liaison.....	1
HRSD Honors DoD Installations .....	2
Earth Day at JBLE Langley.....	2
What is Urban Tree Canopy? .....	3
The Atlantic Sturgeon Officially Listed as Endangered .....	4
Center for Watershed Protection Webcast Series.....	5
Spring at Navy Information Operations Command .....	6
Summary of the Chesapeake Bay Action Team (CBAT) .....	
Conference Call .....	6



# HRSD Honors DoD Installations for Excellent Environmental Compliance

By: Sarah Diebel, DoD Chesapeake Bay Program

On April 26, 2012 several DoD installations in the Hampton Roads region were honored for their exemplary compliance with their environmental wastewater permits by the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) for 2011. HRSD stated, “The businesses we honor today are among the true heroes of Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts in Hampton Roads. In addition to achieving extraordinary levels of compliance with their environmental permits, many have voluntarily implemented innovative pollution prevention measures.”

As more wastewater treatment plants are upgrading to enhanced nutrient removal due to the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load (TMDL), it is critical for installations to comply with their permits and become familiar with the day to day activities that generate wastewater. The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program would like to credit these installations and recognize them for their commitment to improving the environment and protection of the Chesapeake Bay.



Winners accept their awards. Pictured from left to right, Bryan Revell and Matt Cox



Winners accept their awards. Pictured from left to right, Ryan Winz, Steve Hanson, Juan Hall, and Brian Powell

## Earth Day at JBLE Langley

By: Ashley A. Saddora (Timmreck)

Earth Week held April 22nd to April 28th had the 633rd Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) Environmental Team out and about to educate the populace, in this case children. In honor of Arbor Day, staff planted a tree at the General Russ Child Development Center, which was one of many events held throughout the week.



Students from Bethel Manor Elementary learn about recycling during Earth Week at JBLE Langley

Children from the CDC helped Col. Korvin Auch, the 633rd Air Base Wing Commander, plant a tree. Auch gave a brief speech on the importance of keeping trees healthy prior to planting a Bald Cypress sapling.

“Today is a day to stop and smell the roses,” said Auch. “It is our job to make sure there will be roses to smell for future generations.”

The team also went to Bethel Manor Elementary School April 24th and gave a brief seminar. The seminar covered Hampton area policy on what can and cannot be recycled. The team passed out different items and explained why some items, even though they may be recycled elsewhere, could not be selected for recycling in Hampton. In order to drive the lesson home, children

(Continued on Page 3)





participated in a relay race consisting of children taking items to either a recycle bin if recyclable or a trashcan if not.

“It is very important to get the kids involved.” said Michael Mallozzi, a 633rd CES Pollution Prevention Manager. “It sticks with them.”

Teaching students about the impact of pollution and wastefulness in the early stages of childhood sets up a foundation for good habits later on”, said Ashley Sadorra, a 633rd CES Water Quality Manager. “You can make impressions on children,” “They can teach their parents about thinking green while they’re young. Families can help improve the environment in ways other than simply recycling. Growing a garden, conserving paper or reusing old water bottles are all ways to be eco-friendly”, said Sadorra.

“Minor changes and major motivation are the true game changers for reducing wastefulness”, said Tech. Sgt. Scott Moler, a 633rd Mission Support Group Environmental

Manager. “It doesn’t take an event to make a difference,” said Moler. “You have to want to make a difference.”

“Every unit here has the ability to aid the cause. Turning of lights, starting a recycling rotation and preventing dumping are all ways Service Members at Langley Air Force Base can help out,” said Sadorra.

Along with educating the children at the Child Development Center and Elementary school, the Environmental Team also took their efforts outside the Langley AFB gates in their quest to educate the masses. They assisted the local community clean-up five bags worth of trash, and approximately 1,000 pounds of artificial and natural debris at Armistead Park. The team also gave out 424 reusable bags to carpoolers and hosted the EnTrust shredding truck, which shredded and recycled 1,488 pounds of paper.

## What is Urban Tree Canopy?

*By: Kelly Duckworth, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.*

As an action item in the DoD Strategic Action Plan (SAP), one of DoD’s goals is to conduct an urban tree canopy (UTC) pilot program at a Bay installation. There was a question in the latest SAP data call that raised questions as to what actually is UTC. UTC is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed aerially, in urban areas. Additionally, UTC expansion is a combination of conservation and restoration of trees within a community.

UTC plays a contributing role in restoring clean water. Like any tree, they provide stormwater management by intercepting rainfall. However, typical stormwater design in heavily urbanized areas creates flow from an impervious area to a gutter or inlet and eventually into surface waters. Therefore, streamside forests in urban areas, where feasible, have little opportunity to treat stormwater and reduce flooding. The UTC goal is to improve water quality by reducing water quantity in urban areas.

In 2003, within the Expanded Riparian Forest Buffer Directive, the Chesapeake Executive Council signed specific UTC goals. The directive states communities will complete an assessment of urban forests; adopt a local goal to increase UTC cover; and, encourage measures to attain the established goals in order to enhance and extend forest buffer functions in urban areas. These are the types of measures that would be expected for an installation to complete for a UTC pilot program.

In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay TMDL due to the slow rate of water quality improvement. The Phase II WIPs finalized in

March are designed to more closely engage local governments, watershed organizations, conservation districts, and other stakeholders in reducing water pollution. Jurisdictions are interested in the restoration efforts, like the practice of planting trees, which reflect on-the-ground progress towards improving water quality. A net gain of trees in a local community counts towards pollution reductions called for in the Bay TMDL; therefore, all efforts to plant trees should be reported to the DoD Bay Program.

As far as the DoD Strategic Action Plan, our goal to create a UTC pilot program is not complete. Through annual data calls, DoD installations reported good news stories about reforestation and outreach efforts, such as tree inventories and Arbor Day. For example, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall completed a tree survey of 5,444 trees in 2010. Data collected included tree species, condition, size and recommendations for tree care. In addition, missing trees were replanted to restore the tree canopy.

If your installation is interested in leading the way to complete the first DoD Chesapeake Bay Urban Tree Canopy Pilot Program, please contact the DoD Bay Program office. Please continue to report any new plantings or progress made, including Arbor Day celebrations, development of Urban Forestry Management Plans, or riparian buffer zone plantings.

(Continued on Page 4)



# The Atlantic Sturgeon Officially Listed as Endangered

By: *Eddie DuRant, DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator*

Atlantic Sturgeon, an ancient species that co-existed with dinosaurs and the largest fish native to the Chesapeake Bay (they can reach lengths of 14 feet and can weigh up to 800 lbs.), has not fared well sharing coastal and river habitats with humans. The Atlantic sturgeon is an anadromous fish, meaning it spends most of its life in brackish or saltwater and migrates into freshwater to spawn. Atlantic sturgeon may live to 60 years of age, but mature very slowly.

Males migrate into freshwater during March and April, one month before females. Atlantic sturgeon spawn in moderately flowing water in deep parts of large rivers. Historically, Atlantic sturgeon fishermen worked rivers such as the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, the Potomac and St. Mary's Rivers in Maryland, and the York and James Rivers in Virginia. In the Chesapeake Bay, the sturgeon (Atlantic and short-nosed sturgeon) catch peaked in the 1890s at a record level of more than 700,000 pounds. Since that time, sturgeon were caught at levels probably less than 2,200 pounds in the Chesapeake Bay.

In June 1998, the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission closed the entire coast to Atlantic sturgeon fishing for the next four decades. Stock assessments indicated that only remnant populations of Atlantic sturgeon remain along much of the East Coast.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a final decision on February 6, 2012 to list the New York Bight and the Chesapeake Bay distinct population segments of Atlantic sturgeon as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Final Rule by the NMFS became effective on April 6, 2012.

This Final Rule is based on a NMFS assessment of the distinct population segments of Atlantic sturgeon using criteria set forth in the ESA. The NMFS assessed each of the distinct population segments of Atlantic sturgeon and concluded that the Chesapeake Bay distinct population segment of Atlantic sturgeon is currently in danger of extinction throughout its range on the basis of low population size and level of impacts and a number of threats including but not limited to continued degraded water quality, habitat degradation and loss from human activities such as dredging, dams water withdrawals and other development, by-catch in other fisheries, and vessel strikes. Biological characteristics of the Atlantic

sturgeon, such as slow growth, advanced age at maturity, and long periods between spawning, make this fish particularly vulnerable to human-induced impacts and changes to its habitat.

The NMFS also announced on February 6, 2012 that they are "currently considering the available information in order to designate critical habitat." For clarification, the ESA stipulates that critical habitat be designated for a species based on the best scientific data available, after considering economic, national security, and other relevant impact a listing might have. A specific area may be excluded from the critical habitat designation if the benefits of exclusion outweigh the benefits of including the specific area in the designation, as long as the

exclusion will not result in the extinction of the species. The Secretary of Interior may not designate critical habitat on any lands or other geographical areas owned or controlled by the Department of Defense, or designated for its use, that are subject to an integrated natural resources management plan (INRMP) under section 101 of the Sikes Act, if the Secretary determines in writing that such a plan provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is proposed for designation.



The Atlantic Sturgeon has a long, hard snout with an upturned tip.  
Courtesy of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

The NMFS stated in the February 6, 2012 Federal Register that they will work with the Department of Defense to discuss the scope of the critical habitat designation as they conduct their critical habitat analyses, in order to determine where the designation overlaps with military lands and where military exclusions may be necessary due to the factors described above.

The designation of the Chesapeake Bay distinct population segment provides many challenges to the Department of Defense. We encourage the installations to coordinate early with natural resources specialists to evaluate projects that have the potential to impact Atlantic sturgeon. Installations are also encouraged to review their INRMPS to determine how to most appropriately address projects with the potential to impact Atlantic sturgeon. We will continue to update you as critical habitat designations are made for the Chesapeake Bay distinct population segment of Atlantic sturgeon.

For more information on the Atlantic sturgeon Chesapeake Bay distinct population segment please go to:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/fish/atlanticsturgeon.htm#threats>.



## Center for Watershed Protection Webcast Series

Are you participating in the Center for Watershed Protection Webcast series and earning your CEU credits? The remaining topics and dates are listed below. The webcasts are two hours long and begin at 12 Noon EST, so mark your calendars! For more information on how to register, go to: <http://www.cwp.org/our-work/training/webcasts.html>

### W-4 GET THE DIRT ON STORMWATER – AUGUST 15, 2012

Recently, stormwater management has become dirty business, meaning that the dirt has a lot to do with the effectiveness of stormwater practices. There have been many innovations in the field of structural soils, soil amendments, and sophisticated soil mixes for bioretention – all for the purpose of enhancing stormwater treatment systems and/or targeting particular pollutants. This webcast will give you the dirt on the soil revolution and provide many practical design tips and resources.

### W-5 LEAVING YOU OUT IN THE RAIN – DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION OF MONITORING PROJECTS – OCTOBER 24, 2012

How would you answer questions such as: Are your stormwater practices working? Has your community met its pollutant reduction goals? How do we know if the water is clean? Monitoring may be the red pill to help you answer these sometimes very fundamental questions. However, monitoring costs a lot of money, and the data generated sometimes fall short of expectations. So how can we turn this lemon into lemonade? This webcast will focus on the different types of monitoring and the “must haves” for a successful monitoring project that will yield valid results and, most importantly,

answer your critical research or regulatory questions. What type of equipment is needed? How many samples should be collected? How should the data be analyzed? These and many other questions will be explored in this monitoring-numental webcast. And, if you’re not left out in the rain, then you’re probably not getting the right data!

### W-6 CUSTOMIZING YOUR STORMWATER BMP DESIGN FOR SPECIFIC POLLUTANTS – DECEMBER 12, 2012

Stormwater design requires specializing and customizing. This is due in part to TMDLs that specify a particular pollutant of concern (e.g., bacteria, nutrients, sediment) or parts of the country or world that have unique considerations (e.g., coastal waters, cold-water fisheries). This webcast will describe how stormwater BMP designs are being adapted to remove particular pollutants. We will review the research on pollutant-specific removal pathways and provide case studies and resources for designing pollutant-targeting BMPs.





## Summary of the Chesapeake Bay Action Team (CBAT) Conference Call on April 23, 2012

In case you missed the last conference call, below is summary of what was discussed. Please feel free to contact the DoD Bay Program office if you have any questions. The next CBAT meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 28, 2012. More information will be forthcoming.

**New York** – DoD's is involved with their state partnership, however, nothing to report at this time.

**Maryland** – DoD submitted comments on the Phase II WIPs and provided additional information upon request. Installations now face how the State is going to implement their TMDLs through their NPDES permits, both MS4 and industrial stormwater. In the last Maryland partnership meeting, the state is looking to sign a letter that will indicate the requirements for NPDES permits is eminent as far as getting funding for projects. More info to come.

**D.C.** – DoD submitted all comments for the Phase II WIP.

**Virginia** - The Virginia Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) met on March 15th and provided updates on ongoing studies and initiatives in support of the Bay TMDL. Updates included the nutrient credit exchange program, chlorophyll study, nitrogen study, and participation level to support the Phase II WIP development. 39% of Federal agencies in the Bay watershed provided input with DoD fully supporting their request. Recall, Virginia stated in the draft Phase II WIP that Federal agencies would do twice the amount of stormwater retrofits than anyone else. In a February coordination meeting, we were able to resolve the issue and have the provision removed. DoD and Virginia will be developing an MOU between the agencies. Currently, DoD is in preliminary stages of discussing the MOU. Virginia released the Phase II WIP on March 30, 2012.

**West Virginia** – DoD submitted comments regarding Allegany Ballistics Laboratory and the state's approach in assigning wasteload allocations. This was not resolved before the Final Phase II WIP was released. Since the call, DoD worked with WVDEP and decided to resolve the issue during the Phase III WIP.

**Pennsylvania** – Pennsylvania – The State may be changing their approach regarding assigning county planning targets - more to come on this issue. Additionally, a request was sent to PADEP related to the routine partnership meeting to inquire about MS4 (PAG-13) training. Since the call, DoD REC Bay Staff are coordinating with PADEP on potential dates in July.

### Program Updates

#### Database

Michael Baker Jr. Inc is supporting the development of an Access Database. The database will allow the annual data call to be more of a streamlined process for input of information. It will allow the DoD Bay Program Staff to create reports via queries for their annual progress report or for information needed for MOUs. Overall, the database will:

1. Have the ability to supply previous year(s) data to each installation for comparative purposes;
2. Have the ability to limit responses to a predetermined list of responses; and,
3. Have the ability to ask questions that are only applicable to the specific installation.

Currently, Baker is creating a mock up, which will include examples of the forms that would be used to capture and present data. The forms include the directions/instructions with possible pull-down windows as appropriate.

#### Chesapeake Bay Website

The DoD Bay Program office is currently working with DENIX to host the website. We are working through issues of DoD vs. public access. Overall, the function of the website will be a location to find/post WIP comment letters, success stories, photos, etc. One person will be assigned to the website to manage what is posted.

#### 2012 Commander's Conference

Because of new Government Conference guidelines which took effect in November 2011, a revised justification package is being finalized for CNRMA signature.

#### 2012 DoD/EPA Reg. 1, 2 & 3 Environmental Colloquium

A revised justification package is being completed for resubmittal to CNRMA.

#### Strategic Action Plan Update FY11

A draft is complete. However, Baker will accept and would like to incorporate any questionnaires that have not been submitted. Kelly Duckworth will contact those installations individually. This year's update incorporates both the C2K goals and EO 13508 strategy actions into the work plan. Each performance measure was identified as either an independent or interdependent objective. The independent objectives remain as C2K data that should continue to be tracked and measured. The interdependent objectives are complementing action items from the SAP's workplan performance measures and the EO 13508 strategy. Once the DoD Bay Program Staff reviews and receives an updated draft final, Services will be given the opportunity to review and provide comment. Please send any pictures to the Bay Program Staff.

#### Army (NDCEE Update)

The NDCEE pilot program finished in September 2011 with a guidebook and training materials as final deliverables. The next iteration to the NDCEE pilot is planned for award and is going PURPLE! This award will include a similar process that was used for the Army TMDL Pilot Project, i.e. determining land use/ land cover data, base load allocations, and reductions that come from existing BMPs. The award will include the following installations: MCB Quantico, NSF Mechanicsburg, JB Langley Eustis, and JB Andrews. In addition, the Army will build on their first project to include BMP concept designs. It will also include a TMDL assessment and BMP inventory for the Pentagon and the Arlington National Cemetery.



# Spring at Navy Information Operations Command Sugar Grove, WV

By: Steve Niethamer, Installations EV & NR Programs Director

Spring arrived early at Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Sugar Grove this year. Even though West Virginia Arbor day is April 13th and National Arbor Day is April 25th, this year, NIOC Sugar Grove celebrated these public holidays on March 1st. Over 100 American chestnut and 100 Chinquapin trees were received from the WV Clements State Tree Nursery and a volunteer group of 15 sailors and civilians went to work planting them in the command's riparian buffer management area. This area which borders the South Fork, South Branch of the Potomac River is set aside to be a natural filter slowing the flow of storm water run-off so sediments and pollutants are kept from entering the water way and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. The Commanding Officer planted an American chestnut tree to commemorate the event after the Command's Arbor Day proclamation was read to everyone present.

NIOC Sugar Grove sponsored several events in celebration of both Earth Day and spring coming out in full bloom. On April 13th a small group of team spirited volunteers conducted a river cleanup in coordination with The WV Make It Shine Program managed by the WV Department of Environmental Protection and "Project Clean Stream". As a result of minimal precipitation since the last river cleanup, not much debris had washed down river, so the team only managed to collect 25 bags of trash.

The 19th of April was the 17th annual safety, health and environmental fair which is attended each year by all of 4th graders in the county school districts, and local home school students in the morning. The afternoon is dedicated to base personnel and their families and open to the general public. Present were representatives from the West Virginia Department of Forestry, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the US Forest Service, just to name a few. The hit of the fair was the presentations provided by the Luray (VA) Rescue Zoo.

In cooperation with the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, April 20th, volunteers were once again called upon to participate in the annual Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge. The West Virginia goal this year was 35,000 pounds of this invasive species be pulled throughout the State. This challenge is a friendly competition between Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia as to which state can pull the most Garlic Mustard. The Command's efforts

netted 19 bags which equates to over 650 pounds. Extracting this species will continue throughout the summer with volunteers and interested employees providing the manpower. An additional six bags of Garlic Mustard was pulled on April 27th following the Command's WV Make It Shine roadside cleanup. Sailors and civilians cleaned over eight miles of roadway from the village of Brandywine, WV to the entrance of the Navy's Operations Site access road. The net result was over 32 volunteers donating more than one hundred

hours of their time collecting 61 bags of trash estimated at 600 pounds. Some gleaming was conducted to retrieve as many recyclable used beverage containers as deemed safe and healthy.

All in all, spring at NIOC Sugar Grove has been a truly rewarding season for all of our volunteers.



Servicemen participate at the "WV Make it Shine" event at Navy Information Operations Command Sugar Grove collecting a total of 25 bags of trash along their shorelines.



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## Check it Out:

Wetland Plant Identification (Classroom), July 9-13, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV

This course is presented by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and is designed to improve the ability of field staff to identify wetland plants using botanical manuals and floras. The class consists of several one-day sessions on the following groups: woody plants, including winter condition; herbaceous dicots; and grasses, sedges and rushes, and other monocots. Lectures discuss morphology, terminology and identification. Plants representative of that day's topic(s) are collected daily in the field and keyed-out in the classroom, in both directed and individual keying exercises. For more information, go to: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/Events/index.cfm?id=20489>.

GreenGov Symposium 2012, September 24-26, 2012, Washington, DC

The Symposium aims to bring together leaders from government, the private sector, non-profits and academia to identify opportunities to create jobs, grow clean energy industries, and curb pollution by incorporating sustainable practices into the Federal Government's operations. For more information, go to: <http://www.greengov2012.org/>.

Introduction to Plant Identification: Wetland Species of the Mid-Atlantic Coast – August 8, 2012, VIMS McHugh Auditorium  
Dr. Doug DeBerry will lecture in the morning, and the afternoon will include a "virtual laboratory," [much like the format used with the "Grasses, Sedges and Rushes" workshop last winter!]. For more information, visit [http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal\\_training/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal_training/index.php) in June for additional course/workshop information. Registration will open June 18, 2012.

Green and Blue Infrastructure in Coastal Virginia: Tools and Implementation - September 19, 2012 This workshop, presented in partnership with Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program-DEQ, is the follow-up workshop to an introductory session offered in February. For more information, visit [http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal\\_training/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/coastal_training/index.php) in June for additional course/workshop information. Registration will open July 16, 2012.

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