

# SHORE RIVERS ADVOCATE

CHESTER RIVER | CHOPTANK RIVER

MILES & WYE RIVERS | SASSAFRAS RIVER



SPRING 2020

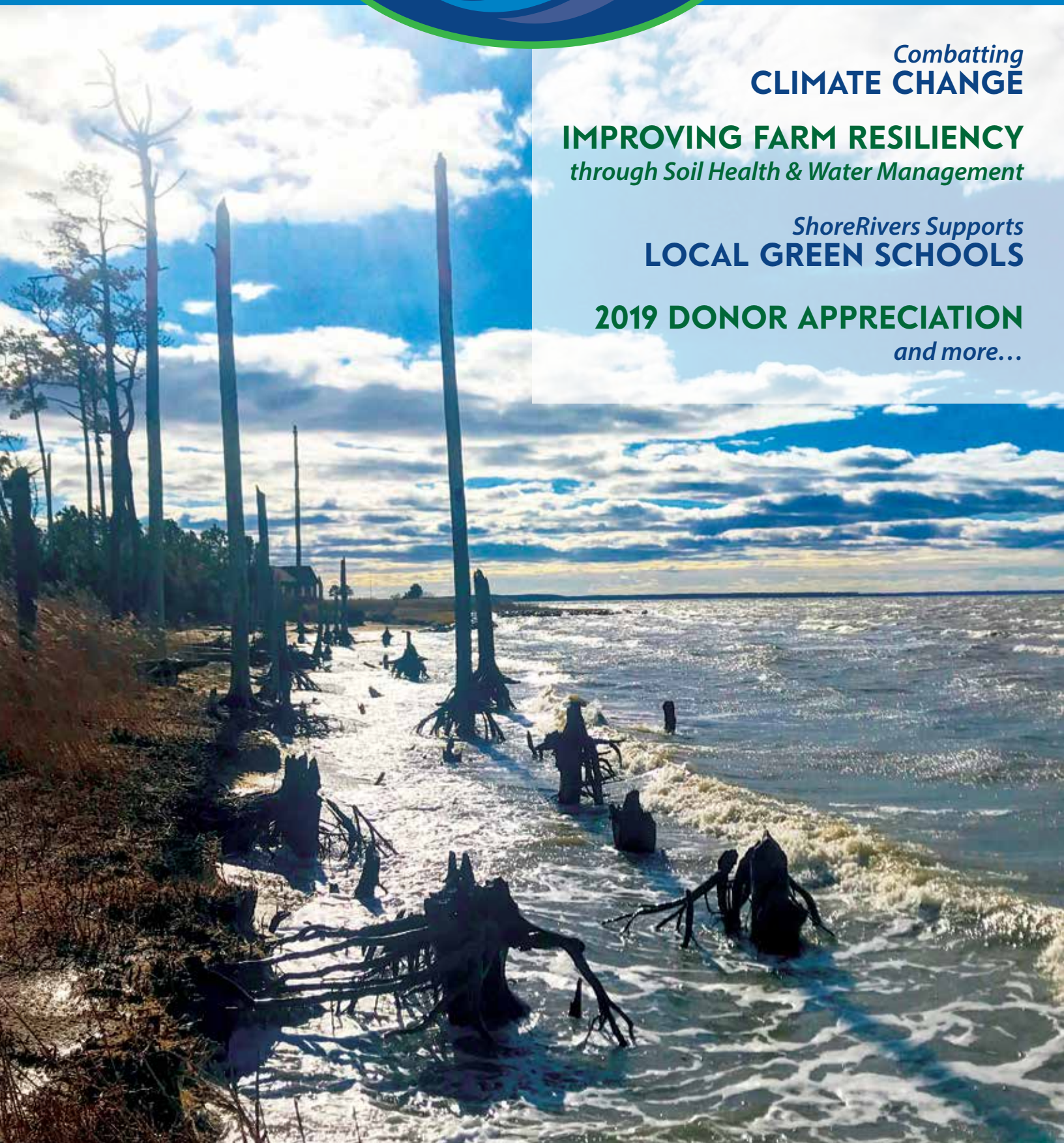


*Combating*  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**IMPROVING FARM RESILIENCY**  
*through Soil Health & Water Management*

*ShoreRivers Supports*  
**LOCAL GREEN SCHOOLS**

**2019 DONOR APPRECIATION**  
*and more...*



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The cover of this edition of the Advocate newsletter presents an iconic image of the impacts of climate change on the Eastern Shore. Unfortunately, as you'll discover in the following articles, it is neither a rare occurrence, nor is it the only type of impact we are experiencing. The ecological effects on our region of a changing climate include drowned forests, higher tides, salty farm fields, and fresher water flowing in our brackish rivers. This translates into our climate crisis: costly infrastructure fixes, canceled events and loss of tourism, lower home values, flooded main streets, more polluted rivers, dangerous swimming conditions, loss of productive farmland, and I could go on. ***The fact is, a changing climate with higher temperatures, stronger and more intense storms, and rising seas increases pollution in our rivers.***



According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the Chesapeake Bay is the third most vulnerable region in the country to sea level rise, after Louisiana and South Florida. We can believe this because we are experiencing it every day.

ShoreRivers is responding to this climate crisis by building climate resiliency. "Crisis" describes what is happening. "Building resiliency" describes what we are doing about it. We are working through advocacy, restoration, and education to reduce our carbon

footprint, build resiliency into our natural systems, and plan for the future.

**Advocacy:** We are promoting legislation to require all development in flood-prone areas to take climate change impacts into account. We are recommending regulatory changes to address increased pollution from construction site runoff associated with increasingly stronger storms.

**Restoration:** Restoring the landscape to its natural form protects our communities, stores carbon from the atmosphere, and builds resiliency in the face of a changing future. ShoreRivers excels in projects including wetland and stream restoration, innovative water management on farmland, streamside buffer installation, and planting

underwater grasses and native landscapes.

**Education:** We inspire the next generation to be stewards of their environment and provide training on how to do so: lessons on analyzing water quality data, field trips to understand local ecosystems, training in drone remote sensing, and guidance on developing projects in their communities.

Together, we *will* clean these rivers.

Jeffrey Horstman

**SHORERIVERS UPDATE, MARCH 27:** ShoreRivers is working to ensure the safety of our staff and volunteers and is closely following Maryland's and the CDC's guidelines. With adjustments and safety measures in place, our team perseveres in our mission to achieve healthy rivers through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education. Our Riverkeepers began the water quality monitoring season on time. The agricultural team continues to conduct fieldwork and research. Restoration projects are ongoing. Our education team is working with teachers and schools to best prepare for the next school year. We look forward to continuing volunteer activities and events once it is safe to do so. **When life returns to normal and we are moving freely, we will be thankful for the restorative power of clean rivers.**

Cover photo: Ghost forests are an increasingly common sight along our shorelines as rising seas and land subsidence result in saltwater intrusion, killing trees.

This photo by Jennifer Ivison

All photos, unless otherwise noted, are courtesy of ShoreRivers staff

# Leave a Legacy FOR YOUR RIVERS



When asked how to caption this heartwarming family photo, Marcy Ramsey (center, blue scarf) suggested, **“FOUR GENERATIONS OF RIVER RATS”** with pride. From nonagenarian Cita down to 5-year-old Camilo, the Ramseys have appreciated the river from every angle for decades—and intend to keep doing just that for many decades to come. Restoring and protecting these natural habitats is a way of life for artist Marcy and her family. Could the same be said for you and your family?

Homegrown advocates and supporters like the Ramseys embody the essence of the ShoreRivers Heritage Fund. Created to support healthy waterways for generations, its curated endowments are designed to grow with prudent investment to perpetually support each facet of our clean water programs. ***Gifts to the ShoreRivers Heritage Fund assure clean rivers for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. For more information, please visit [shorerivers.org/heritagefund](http://shorerivers.org/heritagefund).***



SHORE RIVERS

## STATE of the RIVERS

— Community Meetings About Your River —

April 24 at 5:30 pm **CHESTER RIVER** Washington College Hodson Boathouse, Chester

May 1 at 5:30 pm **CHOPTANK, MILES, AND WYE RIVERS** ...

May 7 at 5:30 pm **CHOPTANK** ...

**STAY TUNED FOR EVENT UPDATES BY EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

All of us at ShoreRivers are gravely concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic. We have taken steps to keep our staff, board, and volunteers safe. We urge all of you to follow the science and remain safe and healthy through this crisis.

... Library—Kent Island Branch, Stevensville

... Hall, Betterton



# BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCY IN WYE MILLS



**ELLE BASSETT**  
MILES-WYE RIVERKEEPER

The Wye Mills community, situated at the headwaters of the Wye East River, has a rich history. It is home to the historic Wye Oak, Old Wye Church, and

the Old Wye Grist Mill. Built in 1682, the grist mill is the oldest continuously operated water-powered grist mill in the United States and the oldest commercial structure in continuous use in Maryland. *But this grist mill, the surrounding community, and the health of the river are increasingly at risk from more frequent flooding events caused by higher tides and heavy rainfalls.*

The town lacks modern stormwater infrastructure to protect against heavy flows. During storms, water rushes downhill into the center of town, where the grist mill sits on a small tributary to the Wye East. Funneled by roads and curbs, stormwater pours past the mill and into the creek. Floods have reached eight feet up the mill's walls, damaging and carrying away historic artifacts. Occasionally the flooding is so severe that water breaches the main road, flowing over the bridge.

Partnering with the Friends of Wye Mills community group, ShoreRivers successfully applied for funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support the development of an action plan for the upper Wye East watershed.

This plan will identify stormwater projects and green infrastructure opportunities to control stormwater, reduce flooding impacts to the community, and prevent nutrient and sediment pollution from entering the river.

The Wye River complex (comprised of the Wye River mainstem, Wye Narrows, and the Wye East River) was first identified as impaired by the Maryland Department of Environment in 1996. Since 2004, the Wye River complex has been designated as impaired by sediments, nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal coliform. Impacts include decreased recreational opportunities, human health risks, risks to the tourism industry, shellfish closures impacting commercial and recreational harvests, and impacts to aquatic habitat.

In 2018 the Wye East displayed the poorest water quality of all ShoreRivers' watersheds. In 2019 ShoreRivers conducted an analysis of the entire Wye complex and identified Wye Mills as a priority restoration site in order to improve the river's health. This year, we will focus on solutions.

*The Wye Mills Action Plan will outline concrete steps to take to develop a more climate resilient landscape, protect the rich history in this community, and contribute to a healthier Wye East River.*



Floods have reached eight feet up the mill's walls, damaging artifacts and threatening this historic structure. The Old Wye Grist Mill, built in 1682, is the oldest continuously operated water powered grist mill in the United States. It, and the Wye Mills community, are increasingly at risk from high tide and stormwater water flooding.

# FIGHTING INVASIVE SPECIES



ZACK KELLEHER  
SASSAFRAS RIVERKEEPER

We have been waging war on the invasive water chestnut for over 50 years. Native plants in the Sassafras, such as the American lotus and wild

celery, filter water, stabilize the river bottom, and provide habitat. The destructive Eurasian water chestnut, on the other hand, outcompetes native plants, spreading rapidly and forming a dense mat that blocks sunlight from reaching the stream bottom and chokes out whole creeks. One acre of water chestnut can explode to 100 acres in a year's time.

*Unfortunately, as climate change brings more frequent and intense rain events to this region—last year alone we received more than twice the historic average rainfall amount—the resulting increased sediment and nutrient pollution creates ideal conditions for the water chestnut to spread even more rapidly.*

Water chestnut's preferred habitat is shallow, slow moving, nutrient-rich water such as the upper wetlands found along the Sassafras' creeks. We are observing significant increases in sedimentation in our rivers as a result of increasingly common major rain events. As this sediment accumulates on the river bottom, creeks become silted in to the optimum depth for water chestnut to flourish.

The iconic American lotus enjoys these same shallow waters. Unfortunately, water chestnut is able to seize on the smallest openings between the large lotus pads and take hold. Once rooted, water chestnut spreads faster than the lotus, threatening the well-being of America's largest wildflower. Further sedimentation of our creeks from increased rainfall will only extend the territory in the Sassafras that water chestnut will be able to inhabit.

Increased runoff from storm events also transports more nutrient pollution into our waterways, which rapidly increases the growth rate of this invasive menace. Excess fertilizers from agriculture and lawns, leaking septic tanks, and stormwater runoff all contribute to this surplus of nutrients.

As water chestnut advances down Sassafras creeks, their impenetrable mats limit fishing and kayaking opportunities and block the beautiful American lotus blooms, and their dangerous seed pods—each has four prongs sharp enough to puncture boots—make swimming or relaxing on the beach hazardous.



Top left: The iconic, native, American lotus carpets the headwaters of many creeks in the Sassafras, bringing joy to residents and visitors alike. The species is threatened by the invasive water chestnut.

Volunteers gather invasive water chestnut in boats (above) and pile it on the shore to compost (top right). These efforts are critical to keeping the species at bay and protecting native wildlife. ShoreRivers' long-term goal is to completely eradicate water chestnut from the Sassafras River.

For all these reasons, ShoreRivers partners with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to coordinate an intensive water chestnut removal effort every year with dozens of community volunteers. Last year we removed over 4,000 pounds. Our goal is to eventually eradicate the water chestnut completely from the Sassafras River.

Eradication efforts involve paddling up remote sections of streams to pull the invasive from the water. This is an ideal way to view the famous American lotus blooms up close while also making a significant, tangible difference in the health of the river.

*As the climate continues to change, efforts are becoming increasingly critical to protect native species and the benefits they provide. With your help, we can halt this invasion and protect our Sassafras. Please contact me to be a part of the fight.*



**TIM TRUMBAUER**  
CHESTER RIVERKEEPER

# THE BRILLIANCE OF RESILIENCE: STRATEGIES TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We used to have a nickname for the restaurant at the Chestertown Marina: the “Walk In-Wade Out.” Too many times I have entered to enjoy a few

pints while enjoying the serene Chester River vistas, only to find upon exiting that the tide is up and the parking lot is flooded. One year, the high tide even carried the restaurant dumpster upstream (fortunately, it was empty at the time).

Wading out of a restaurant is an increasingly common experience on the Eastern Shore. Unfortunately, tidal flooding associated with sea level rise seriously threatens our local economy and culture: major waterfront events such as the Chestertown Tea Party Festival and Sultana Downrigging Festival are threatened; waterfront businesses including the Chester River Packet and 98 Cannon are not accessible to those unwilling to wade; and boaters who wish to visit town cannot tie up because the public bulkheads are flooded. These are just some of the impacts from sea level rise we are feeling locally.

Correcting these issues is expensive—and not necessarily straightforward. After the Town of Chestertown purchased the marina property, millions of dollars of public and private funds were spent to raise the parking lot by two feet and to replace the oft-flooded docks with raised, floating docks. Though less frequent, the parking lot still floods with extreme tides, and sea level rise will exacerbate this flooding over time. We are all paying for climate change.

Impacts from climate change extend well beyond the Chestertown waterfront—increasing rates of erosion, tidal flooding, polluted runoff, and habitat loss are evident throughout the Chester watershed. The science shows these issues will likely accelerate over the next 30 years, so we must work as a community to protect our natural and man-made infrastructure through climate resilient practices.

To address these issues, *ShoreRivers is promoting legislation that requires state and private construction projects located in flood-prone areas to be sited and designed to account for sea level rise and storm surges.* We are also setting up a workgroup with other advocacy partners, scientists, and industry experts and with bi-partisan support from the Maryland legislature to recommend regulatory changes to address increased pollution from construction site runoff associated with the increasing frequency and intensity of rainfall.

Riverside native plant buffers are a key tool in working towards climate resiliency. The deep root systems of native plants hold riverbanks in place and provide bonus environmental benefits of absorbing nutrient pollution and providing critical habitat. In another strategy, *ShoreRivers is working with our county planning offices and Maryland’s Critical Area Commission to protect and enhance shoreline buffers through stronger enforcement of Chesapeake Bay Critical Area regulations.*

As a homeowner or resident, you can also work towards climate resiliency. *Our River-Friendly Yards program ([shorerivers.org/river-friendly-yards](http://shorerivers.org/river-friendly-yards)) lists ways you can make your yard more river-friendly and climate resilient.* Recommended strategies include reducing turfgrass areas, installing rain gardens and bioswales to absorb nutrient and sediment pollution, and planting native trees and shrubs to protect against bank and soil erosion. Native plants have the added benefit of absorbing more carbon than turfgrass, so river-friendly yards are good for the river AND promote climate resiliency.

*Please, let’s all be brilliant and support projects that make our infrastructure more resilient to climate change.*



More frequent extreme high tides caused by sea level rise and subsidence inhibit access to the foot of High Street (left), prohibit boating visitors from tying up to the Wilmer Park bulkhead, and make for a soggy walk along the path (center). The “Walk In-Wade Out” still occasionally floods even after the Town raised the parking lot by two feet (right).

# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO OYSTERS IN THE CHOPTANK



**MATT PLUTA**  
CHOPTANK RIVERKEEPER &  
DIRECTOR OF RIVERKEEPER  
PROGRAMS

The Choptank River is a hub of oyster activity in Maryland: it contains the home port for the majority of Maryland's oystermen,

three of the state's five oyster restoration sanctuaries, a large oyster aquaculture company, and the Horn Point Oyster Hatchery at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Oysters need salty water to thrive, and while it's unclear how the long-term effects of climate change will impact this iconic Bay species, we are already seeing changing salinity levels that could influence the bivalve.

Oysters require salinity of at least five parts per thousand (ppt) to survive but thrive between 10-28 ppt. Salinity levels in the Choptank near the oyster hatchery are usually 10-12 ppt, which is suitable for the hatchery to spawn oysters for restoration efforts, aquaculture businesses, and the Marylanders Grow Oysters program.

However, in 2018 the Choptank received nearly double the amount of rain it usually receives, resulting in lower salinity levels. It takes time for water to move through the system—up until August of 2019, a year after the significant rainfall of 2018, the river's salinity levels near the oyster hatchery remained at only 7.5 ppt, not salty enough to reliably spawn oysters. As a result, the Horn Point Oyster Hatchery was unable to produce baby oysters, temporarily halting restoration efforts including the Marylanders Grow Oysters program.

Increased freshwater flows in the Choptank from increased precipitation pose an observable threat to oyster reproduction. Oysters filter water and provide shelter for native species. Their reefs protect our marshes and shorelines, providing resiliency to the impacts of rising seas. *Facing threats from fluctuating salinity levels, it is important that the management of our oysters be dynamic, driven by science, and designed for resiliency.*

This is why ShoreRivers supported the Maryland legislature in overriding the Governor's veto of the Oyster Fishery Management Plan bill. This bill reinvigorates the Oyster Advisory Commission with a more balanced group of watermen, environmentalists, and scientists—including a seat at the table for ShoreRivers—who will be making science-based decisions on how to best manage the oyster fishery to restore and protect the population.



A scientific model will produce scenarios of long-term oyster population trends based on different combinations of water quality conditions and management decisions. The

Commission will be able to explore how factors like high rainfall, rotational harvest, bushel limits, and drought years interact to affect the oyster population. The Commission's goal is to develop a science-based plan to manage the oyster fishery in order to balance commercial interests with ecological ones.

*A large, healthy, widespread oyster population will better weather the effects of climate change and provide more resiliency to the industries that depend on them: commercial harvest, aquaculture, and cultural tourism.*

ENJOY PEACE OF MIND ALL  
YEAR LONG BY SETTING  
UP YOUR MONTHLY GIFT  
TO SHORERIVERS TODAY.  
YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN  
FOR THE YEAR AND WE  
KNOW WE CAN COUNT ON  
YOUR SUPPORT. GO TO  
SHORERIVERS.ORG/JOIN

THANK YOU.



**LAURA WOOD**  
AGRICULTURE & OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR

# IMPROVING FARM RESILIENCY THROUGH SOIL HEALTH AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Healthy soils and water management are crucial for successful crop yields and farm profitability. They can also improve a farm's resiliency in the

face of a changing climate, protecting the business and reducing its environmental impact. ShoreRivers works to maximize both agronomic and conservation success on farms through research into cover crops and installation of water management practices.

## IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH THROUGH COVER CROPS

Cover crops improve soil health by retaining nutrients and carbon in the soil and preventing erosion. Greater soil health offers flood and drought resilience, improved nutrient cycling, and more stable soil structure, all of which mitigate production risk and reduce negative long-term environmental impacts.

Many farmers in Maryland participate in some form of cover cropping, and ShoreRivers has been researching how to maximize benefits for even more participation. Planting a mix of cover crops instead of one species, planting earlier in the fall, and planting green (planting into a growing crop) are practices that maximize cover crop growth and improve soil health and nutrient

retention. This, in turn, leads to more resiliency against climate change, improved chances for successful crop yields, and lower impact on our creeks and streams.

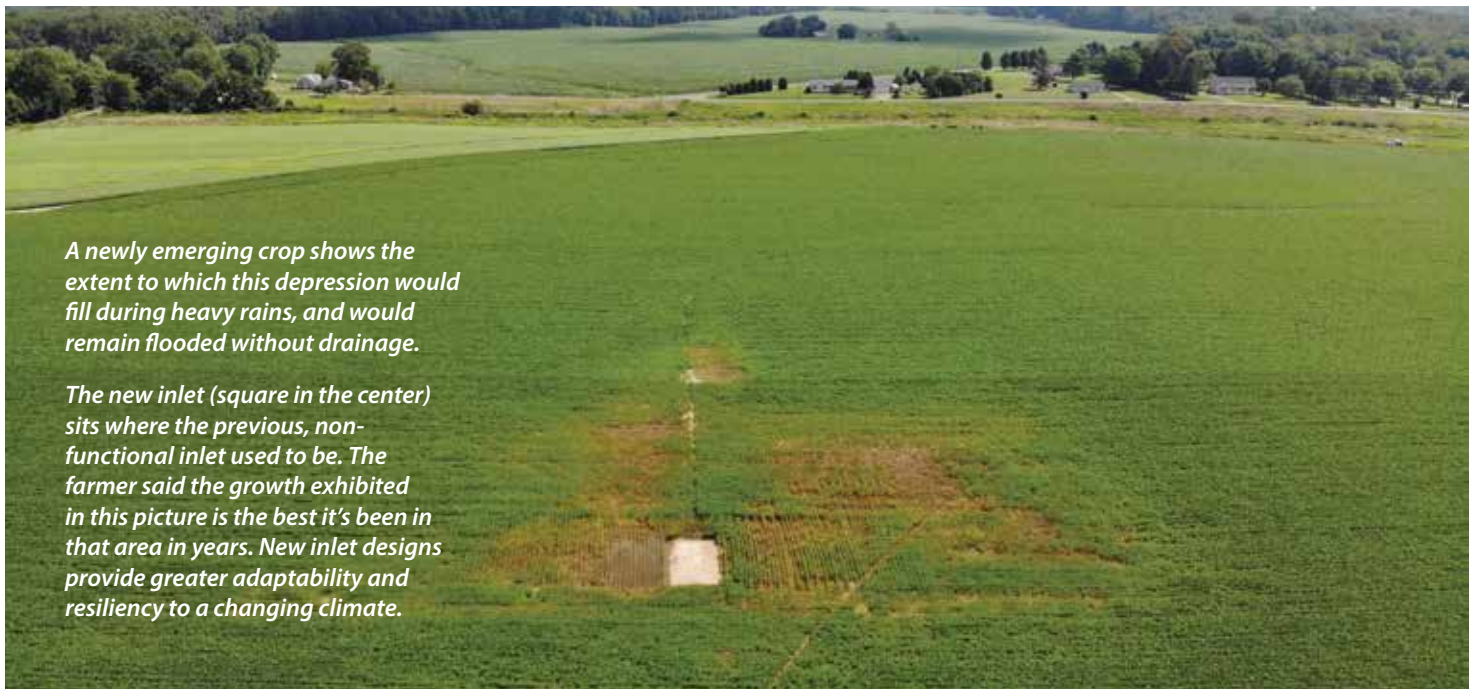
## IMPROVING WATER MANAGEMENT THROUGH CONSERVATION DRAINAGE

Proper field drainage is critically important for a farm's profitability and resiliency. The loss of valuable top soil and nutrients to surface water runoff is a production risk, and water-related plant stress is a primary cause of yield loss.

Many farms on the Eastern Shore use surface inlets connected to a buried pipe system to quickly drain water from a field. Traditional inlets do not slow or filter this water, which usually carries valuable soil and nutrients with it into the pipe system and ultimately discharges it into a ditch or creek. Many field inlets are at various levels of disrepair, exacerbating sediment and nutrient loss.

ShoreRivers is partnering with producers to implement an alternative to the traditional inlet design in an effort to retain sediment and nutrients on the field while still providing drainage to maximize yields.

The conservation drainage design also allows a farmer to manage the drainage system in order to keep water in the field in the case of a drought, giving farmers more adaptability in all weather conditions.



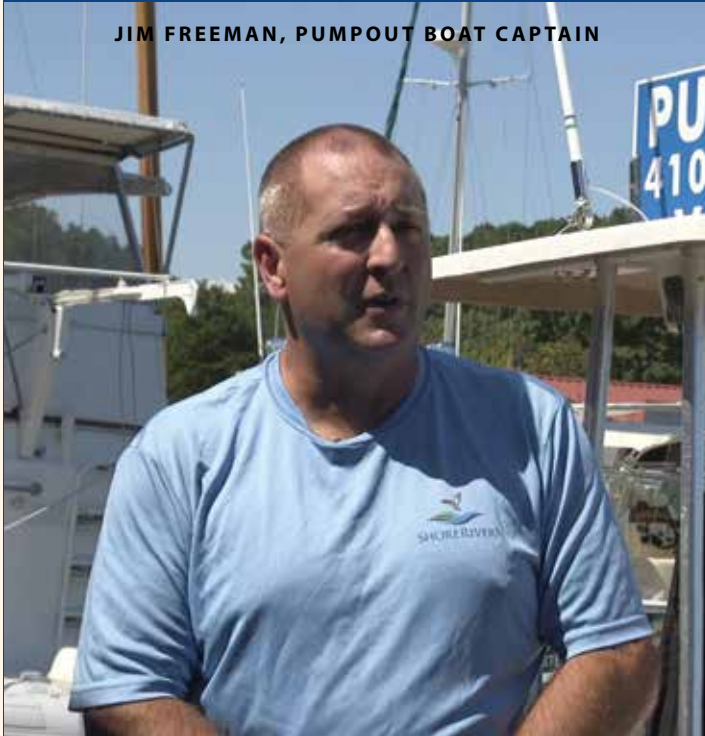
*A newly emerging crop shows the extent to which this depression would fill during heavy rains, and would remain flooded without drainage.*

*The new inlet (square in the center) sits where the previous, non-functional inlet used to be. The farmer said the growth exhibited in this picture is the best it's been in that area in years. New inlet designs provide greater adaptability and resiliency to a changing climate.*



# PUMP, DON'T DUMP!

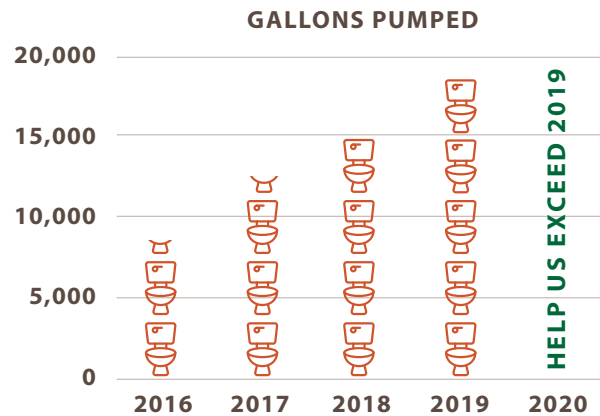
JIM FREEMAN, PUMPOUT BOAT CAPTAIN



## MAY 4 UNTIL MID-OCTOBER

Weekends and holidays 9 am–4 pm  
on the Miles and Wye Rivers

**FOR FREE SERVICE**, call or text  
410-829-4352; or VHF Channel 9



Oysters program, which we currently offer in the Choptank, Miles, Wye, and lower Chester rivers and Eastern Bay.

More frequent and severe rain events and wetter years in general are causing declines in average salinity and wider salinity ranges in our rivers. These changes threaten oyster populations, which require at least five parts per thousand (ppt) salinity to survive. In the Bay's northern tributaries salinity does not reach above five ppt consistently or reliably.

Mussels, on the other hand, thrive in areas with salinity levels below two ppt and filter ten gallons of water a day, making them an ideal alternative to oysters for people who are eager to get involved with cleaning up the Bay but live in more freshwater regions.

This summer, ShoreRivers will work with 20 homeowners on the Sassafas River to study the growth of wild, native mussels on docks using the "rope farming" method. Four to eight ropes will be hung on each dock, ready to be colonized by juvenile mussels. The docks will be located along a salinity gradient from the headwaters to the mouth of the river. We will measure salinity, clarity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature to assess how these environmental factors affect mussel colonization, density, and growth.

*If rope farming is successful in this research stage, ShoreRivers will look into establishing an annual Marylanders Grow Mussels program to engage homeowners, create habitat, and filter water.*



ETHAN LALUMIA  
CHESAPEAKE  
CONSERVATION CORPS

This spring, ShoreRivers will launch the Marylanders Grow Mussels pilot program on the Sassafas River to investigate the feasibility of growing freshwater mussels on volunteers' docks to filter water and create habitat. This program will serve as the freshwater counterpart to the Marylanders Grow

# SHORERIVERS SUPPORTS LOCAL GREEN SCHOOLS



**MAIRIN CORASANITI**  
CHESAPEAKE  
CONSERVATION CORPS

Our world is changing. Every day we face new and intensifying environmental crises, and we must figure out how to address them. But it is

our youngest generation that will bear the brunt of the world's environmental challenges. *Young people must become climate resilient, environmentally aware, and innovative. For many, their first experiences in becoming "green" start at school. This is why ShoreRivers is committed to providing premier environmental education opportunities for students.*

ShoreRivers is currently applying to be a Green Center under the Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE) in order to provide support to public and private schools working to achieve Green School certification. Green Schools have practices in place to reduce their environmental impact and educate their students to be the next generation of environmental stewards. Through a nationwide network, these schools are connected with other schools that exemplify sustainability and with businesses that model future green careers for students.

As a Green Center, ShoreRivers will assist schools across our region with their Green School certification by supporting the implementation of sustainable practices, facilitating environmental events and programming, and guiding the application process.

## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

ShoreRivers currently partners with Queen Anne's County Public Schools to provide environmental education programming and facilitate Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience credits for high school students. The county school system, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Andrea Kane, has committed to becoming a Green School district. Their ambitious goal is to certify all county schools by June, 2020. Kane emphasizes: "this decision is one of the greatest investments we could make in our students, our local community, and our global community. It is imperative that our students learn how to preserve and protect our natural environment."



Two students from Chapel District Elementary School participate in a planting action project. The native plants help reduce schoolyard runoff, create habitat for birds and insects, and beautify the school, which is Green School certified.



**APPLYING TO BE A  
GREEN SCHOOL?  
Visit our website  
for assistance!**

**Shorerivers.org/  
education**

The environmental education experiences that the Green Schools and ShoreRivers education programs provide improve student understanding of the world around them and their place in it. Kane observed that, after engaging in the Green School program, "students are more aware and ask to become involved in action-oriented projects to reduce the use of paper and plastics, to increase recycling, and to plant milkweed along the Kent Island walking trail to attract monarch butterflies."

Stevensville Middle School teacher and Green Team leader Becky Berberich concludes, "it really helps us build community as we are all sharing a common goal and reminds us to be appreciative to live in such a wonderful natural environment here on the Eastern Shore."

The Eastern Shore is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but our students are stepping up to address the environmental issues. According to Kane, "whether participating in a beach cleanup, making reef balls, or testing for nitrates in the soil, students begin to experience a sense of empowerment when they work together to come up with creative solutions to environmental issues that impact our community... That new confidence increases the likelihood that students will teach siblings, parents, and friends what they know about environmental stewardship."

*This groundswell of student-led awareness and action is key to addressing our environmental challenges.*



**CONNOR LIU**  
Development & Events Coordinator

Connor manages all ShoreRivers events and assists with communications and development activities. Connor

grew up in Maryland and has developed a deep sense of stewardship through working in environmental education on the Eastern Shore, forest climate resiliency in central Appalachia, and conservation science in Hawaii and Mozambique. Connor graduated from Dickinson with degrees in conservation biology and wildlife management, and is a graduate of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps program.



**WHITLEY GRAY**  
Landowner Assistance Coordinator

Whitley acts as a liaison with landowners to implement wetlands, buffers, and drainage ditch management projects under the

Envision the Choptank partnership. Whitley has a Master of Science in marine policy from University of Maine and completed a B.S. in environmental science from Iowa State University. Whitley's graduate research included coordinating with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to assess nitrogen loading in Casco Bay. She previously worked for five years at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Operations Environmental Compliance Office.



**WILLIAM RYALL**  
Environmental Engineer

William provides design, permitting, and construction management services for ShoreRivers' restoration projects. He

specializes in designing urban stormwater retrofits, wetland and stream restoration, and shoreline erosion control. He also undertakes agricultural practice design and habitat design. William is a licensed professional engineer in Maryland and Delaware and studied Civil and Structural Engineering at the University of Manchester, UK.



**MEG BUONPANE**  
Educator

Meg educates the next generation of environmental stewards in ShoreRivers' education program, providing curriculum support, assisting with

field trips, and supervising student projects. Meg graduated from Salisbury University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a minor in outdoor education and leadership. Her previous experiences include working as an Interpretive Park Ranger and Assistant Director of the Nature Camp at Pemberton Historical Park.



16<sup>th</sup> Annual

**RIDE for CLEAN RIVERS**

20, 35, or 62 miles

Outdoor BBQ and live music celebration at the finish

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**  
**Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD**

**REGISTER NOW!** [shorerivers.org/events](http://shorerivers.org/events)

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Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment Inc.  
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District of Columbia Aquatics Club  
Dock Street Foundation  
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David Bramble Inc.  
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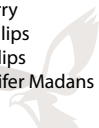
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Our Riverkeepers email monthly newsletters with information on water quality, restoration projects, events, and volunteer opportunities.

If you would like to opt in or opt out of Riverkeeper emails, **contact Courtney Leigh at [cleigh@shorerivers.org](mailto:cleigh@shorerivers.org)** and tell us your watershed preferences: *Bayside Creeks, Chester River, Sassafras River, Choptank River, Miles River, Wye River, and/or Eastern Bay.*

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# SHORE RIVERS

Eastern Shore Conservation Center  
114 S. Washington St., Suite 301  
Easton, MD 21601

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOLSTICE CELEBRATION



**STAY TUNED FOR EVENT UPDATES BY EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

All of us at ShoreRivers are gravely concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic. We have taken steps to keep our staff, board, and volunteers safe. We urge all of you to follow the science and remain safe and healthy through this crisis.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020, 6-10 P.M.**  
**WILMER PARK, CHESTERTOWN**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ShoreRivers Award  
for Environmental Stewardship  
to Nick Carter*

Live music  
Signature Summer Solstice cocktail  
Live auction

*All proceeds directly support  
ShoreRivers' mission for clean water.*  
Tickets and info: [shorerivers.org](http://shorerivers.org)