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*Information  
Exchange*

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On behalf of Potomac Conservancy and the Potomac Watershed Partnership, we thank you for attending the 2009 Information Exchange.

If you have any questions or would like to receive more information about this year's program, speakers or partner projects and organizations, please contact Deanna Tricarico, Outreach Coordinator for Potomac Conservancy, at 301-608-1188 x 204, or [tricarico@potomac.org](mailto:tricarico@potomac.org).



September 30, 2009  
Cacapon Resort State Park  
Berkeley Springs,  
West Virginia

## *Welcome to our Fall 2009 Potomac Watershed Partnership Information Exchange*

It seems that almost every week we receive news of initiatives to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Since the Potomac is the second largest Bay tributary, it is clear that we have an opportunity to increase the level of successes and build on the past nine years of PWP activity.

The Information Exchange offers PWP partners a time to gather and learn about successful techniques that will enhance our planning and work in the field. In addition, it is a forum to compare notes about important forestry projects. The information Exchange is also a time to network with our peers and find partnership opportunities that leverage resources to protect and expand forest cover and improve water quality in the Potomac River and its tributaries.

The projects we will discuss today show the importance of restoration work from the headwaters of the Potomac, downstream to the Chesapeake. This is our contribution to the vibrancy of our forests and health of the Potomac River.

*Hedrick Belin*

President, Potomac Conservancy

### **North River Restoration Project 2009**

**Partners:** *Funded by US Forest Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and a grant by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture*

The 2009 project will advance restoration on a .75 mile reach of North River in Augusta County, Virginia, within the George Washington National Forest. The purpose of the immediate project is to install a series of cross-vein and J-structure in-stream devices to stabilize flows and to create and maintain low-water pools that will serve as essential brook trout habitat during droughts and seasonal low-flow periods.

**Contact:** *Dawn Kirk, Forest Fisheries Biologist, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, 540-291-5211, dkirk@fs.fed.us*

### **Various Riparian Plantings in the Shenandoah Valley**

**Partners:** *Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District, US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage*

"Our partners have been planting riparian forest buffers since 1995 and have completed almost 3,000 acres. At first we simply planted riparian trees and shrubs into existing sod but have learned over the years that we can do a much better job of diversifying the sites by first attempting to eradicate one of the most invasive non-native plants in North America – Tall Fescue. After the eradication process we insert native prairie species including native warm season grasses and wildflowers. We also plant a cover crop of annual grains which provides quick cover and food for wildlife. Next we insert the riparian trees and shrubs. This method improves the biota of the sites tremendously."

**Contact:** *Robert N. Whitescarver, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 540-248-6218 x3, Bobby.whitescarver@va.usda.gov*

## PARTNER PROJECTS

### Wildlife Habitat Improvement

**Partners:** Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation District – Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, Cooperative Forest Management Program

The O'Briens purchased property, including an old farmhouse, 21 years ago. Since then they have renovated the farmhouse and started an ecotourism cabin-rental business with the 2 cabins they have on-site. Recently, one of these cabins was sold with environmentally protective restrictions. Their work has received several grants from Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation District for wildlife habitats, invasive species removal and native grass plantings. Dave and Kris say that they have learned a lot and benefitted from the support of other organizations. They are not actively seeking partners at this time, but are also not sure "what's out there".

**Contact:** Dave and Kris O'Brien, 304-754-9128, [dobrien@nfis.com](mailto:dobrien@nfis.com), [www.cabinbyobriens.com](http://www.cabinbyobriens.com)

### Buffer in a Box

**Partners:** Antietam Watershed Association, Renfrew Institute

The Buffer in a Box program has completed one round of training and planting in Spring 2009 and will have completed the Fall training on September 19, 2009. The second round of planting will occur this fall and may continue Spring 2010. The Antietam Watershed Association had a vision of an outreach program to residential property owners living along the creek to be educated on the importance of riparian forest buffers to improve water quality in the Antietam. Antietam Watershed Association has and continues to do a successful outreach and plantings on agricultural lands in the watershed. Antietam Watershed Association received a Buffer in a Bag grant from the Potomac Conservancy to buy the trees and shrubs to plant along the Antietam. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay submitted a grant proposal on behalf of Antietam Watershed Association to the Franklin County Foundation, a regional component of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities to combine training to property owners and provide plant material to begin reforesting their property along the Antietam, "Buffer in a Box".

**Contact:** Rebecca Wertime, Program Coordinator, Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay, 717-737-8622 x16, [rwertime@acb-online.org](mailto:rwertime@acb-online.org), [www.acb-online.org](http://www.acb-online.org)

## SCHEDULE

9:00 — 9:45 AM	Check-In
9:45 — 10:00 AM	Welcome– Hedrick Belin
10:00 — 11:00 AM	Panel: Planning a Restoration Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jessica Hunicke- <i>Urban Wetlands</i></li><li>• Chuck Harris- <i>Backyard Buffers</i></li><li>• Hunter Musser- <i>Alternative Methods for Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings</i></li></ul>
11:00 — 11:15 AM	Morning Snack Break
11:15 AM— 12:15 PM	Panel: Maintaining a Completed Restoration Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bryan Seipp- <i>Controlling Invasive Weeds</i></li><li>• Neil Gillies- <i>Deer Browse</i></li></ul>
12:15 — 1:15 PM	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herb Peddicord– <i>Growing Native</i></li></ul>
1:15 — 2:15 PM	Presentation of Partner Projects
2:15 — 2:30 PM	Afternoon Snack Break
2:30 — 3:30 PM	Presentation of Partner Projects
3:30 — 4:30 PM	Networking and Refreshments

## PANEL SPEAKERS

### Planning a Restoration Project

**Jessica Hunicke**, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Project Manager, Frederick County Division of Public Works, Watershed Management Section, *Urban Wetlands*

**Chuck Harris**, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, *Backyard Buffers*

**Hunter Musser**, Soil Conservationist, USDA Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Alternative Methods for Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings*

### Maintaining a Completed Restoration Project

**Bryan Seipp**, Watershed Manager, Center for Watershed Protection, *Controlling Invasive Weeds*

**Neil Gillies**, Executive Director, Cacapon Institute, *Deer Browse*

### Lunch

**Herb Peddicord**, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forester, West Virginia Division of Forestry, *Growing Native*

## PARTNER PROJECTS

### Worthington Manor Golf Course Wetland and Reforestation Project

**Partners:** *Potomac Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage*

In January 2007, Frederick County Government's Watershed Management Section received grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of Environment for the Urban Wetlands Program, Bennett Creek Watershed Pilot project. A forest stewardship plan has been developed by the Director of Restoration with the Potomac Conservancy, the wetland enhancement project will be designed by Ducks Unlimited during Winter 2009 and construction and planting is anticipated to occur during Summer/Fall 2010.

**Contact:** *Jessica Hunicke, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Project Manager, Frederick County Division of Public Works, Watershed Management Section, 301-600-1350, [jhunicke@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jhunicke@frederickcountymd.gov), [www.watershed-alliance.com](http://www.watershed-alliance.com)*

### Backyard Buffers, Maryland Forest Service

**Partners:** *Potomac Watershed Partnership, Department of Natural Resources*

Maryland is undergoing extensive urban and suburban development. Many small streams are located in or adjacent to residential areas, which negatively affect streams through excess nutrient and sediment inputs, thermal impacts, and degraded habitat for living resources. The heart of the Backyard Buffers program is the "buffer-in-a-bag", a tool used to distribute educational material along with irresistible free trees and shrubs.

**Contact:** *Chuck Harris, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, [charris@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:charris@dnr.state.md.us)*

### Developing Legislation to Ban Invasive Plants in Maryland

**Partners:** *Anacostia Watershed Society*

This project is a collaboration of Anacostia Watershed Society and other organizations to develop a white paper, which will include a policy review of the invasive plant laws of eight states. They are drafting an act to be submitted to the Senate and House of Representatives for its formal approval, and soliciting comments, suggestions and recommendations from various organizations, stakeholders and individuals to make this act more comprehensive and inclusive.

**Contact:** *Leena A. Chapagain, Conservation Biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society, 703-209-8343, [lchapagain@anacostiaws.org](mailto:lchapagain@anacostiaws.org)*