



down to earth

Environmental Restoration Quarterly • Winter 2024

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Brynwood Stream Restoration

By Janet O'Meara, Bureau Chief

The Brynwood stream restoration project restored approximately 1,753 feet of an unnamed tributary to Little Morgan Run. Located in Eldersburg, this tributary was severely eroded. The Bureau of Resource Management partnered with the Department of Public Works on this project to address drainage, flooding issues, and the stream impairment. Century Engineering was contracted to design a new storm drain system that would convey drainage from the top of the drainage area at Johnsville Road, through a system that would run down Miriam Drive and tie into an existing storm drain outfall. The second piece of this project was to then design a stream restoration that would begin at the outfall

and extend through property owned by the Brynwood Homeowners Association to a stable point in the channel. Construction was awarded to CJ Miller and began in June 2023. The stream restoration construction was very time consuming for the crew, but with guidance from the design engineer, they constructed numerous rock weirs and pools, along with creating a floodplain adjacent to the new stream channel. This design helps to dissipate the velocity of the stormwater flowing through the stream during rain events. Following construction, the area was planted back with a variety of native trees and shrubs. Construction will continue this Spring to finish storm drain installation.



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Protecting and managing Carroll County's natural resources for the pleasure and enjoyment of its Citizens

This Winter, Be Chloride Conscious

By Claire Hirt, Watershed Management Coordinator

For homeowners, salt is an important tool in the toolbox for managing winter weather events. Just like every tool, though, it has a time and a place, and we should be mindful of the limitations on its use. For example, did you know that sodium chloride, the most commonly used type of salt for melting ice, is ineffective when temperatures drop below 15°F?

Road salt is carried away from driveways, parking lots, and roads in snowmelt or rain. The salty runoff can cause corrosion on certain types of infrastructure, like bridges or storm drain pipes. And as it flows into streams, reservoirs, or groundwater, it increases the “saltiness” (or salinity) of our water resources.

Fish and other organisms that live in our surface waters are impacted by rising salt levels. Drinking water also becomes saltier, which can corrode certain metal pipes that carry it to and through homes. With a high enough salinity, it can even cause health problems for those who require a low-salt diet.

For all of these reasons, keep an eye on your salt use over the winter months. Make your house more “chloride conscious” by following the three tips to the right from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

ATTACK THE SNOW LIKE A PRO!

SHOVEL EARLY, SHOVEL WELL

Removing snow before ice has the chance to form is the best way to stay on top of winter maintenance.





12 oz mug =

10 sidewalk squares



A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

In order for salt to be effective as a deicer, its important to measure out the right amount (no more, no less) for the surface you need to cover.

SPREAD EVENLY

Avoid clumps of salt. Use a handheld spreader or shaker in order to achieve an even spread where the salt granules are at least 1-2 inches away from each other.



Grant Funding Update



The Bureau of Resource Management was awarded \$75,000 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Infrastructure Support for Most Effective Basins for the Carroll County Tree Planting project. This project provides for 10.42 acres (2.47 riparian and 7.95 upland) of native tree species plantings on four public properties and two private properties. The tree plantings will provide for a reduction of pollutant loads, stabilization, and improved habitat in various watersheds throughout the County.

The Bureau of Resource Management was awarded \$550,000 from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund for the Century High School Stormwater Management Retrofit. This project converts the existing shallow marsh facility to a complex surface sand filter system, a stormwater management practice that effectively treats stormwater by passing it through a natural filter prior to discharging to the receiving stream. The drainage area to the facility is 130 acres, 51.7 acres of which are impervious, and the new facility will reduce thermal impacts and provide for water quality treatment.

Carroll County's 2nd Annual Environmental Symposium

By Kelly Martin, Watershed Grants Technician

The Department of Planning & Land Management held Carroll County's 2nd annual Environmental Symposium on Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 – 12:00 at the Carroll County Agriculture Center.

Sixteen exhibitors participated in the Symposium, including: Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch, Friends of Liberty Reservoir, Charlotte's Quest, Carroll County Bird Club, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited. All exhibitors shared information about their organizations and ways to protect our natural resources while recruiting volunteers to assist in implementing their missions.

A recycled art contest for high school students was the highlight of the Symposium. Twenty-nine high school students crafted works of art from recycled materials. Over 120 Symposium attendees voted for their favorite creation.

Ashlynn Kief, Manchester Valley High School, won first place with her sculpture "Second Chances." Joshua Myrick-Whittaker from Century High School, came in second with his "Bigfoot in Hawaii". Third place was awarded to Emily Upham, Winters Mill High School, for "Dragon".

New this year, two demonstrations were presented, one by the University of Maryland Bay Wise Committee of Master Gardeners and another by Carroll County Floodplain Management and Army Corps staff.

Special thanks to all of the exhibitors and students that participated.

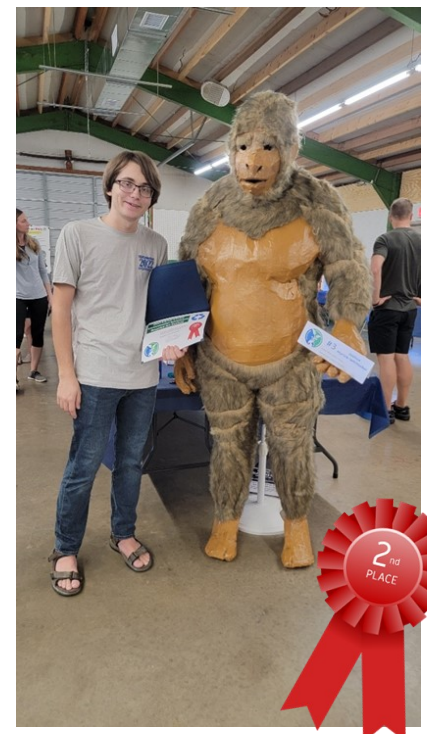
To close out the Symposium, the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council recognized the 2023 Environmental Action Awards winners. Ashlynn Kief won the "Student Engagement" award for her book-sharing box at Charlotte's Quest Nature Center. The Student Engagement Runner-Up, Patrick Grundy, was also awarded a prize for his informational sign at Piney Run Park.

Friends of Liberty Reservoir won under the "Positive Practices" category for their work to promote and support recreation around the Liberty Reservoir. John Hubbs won in the category "Educational

Outreach" for his environmental education initiatives with several groups, including the Carroll County Bay Wise Committee and Friends of Krimgold Park.



Ashlynn Kief – Second Chances
Manchester Valley High School



Joshua Myrick-Whittaker
Bigfoot in Hawaii
Century High School

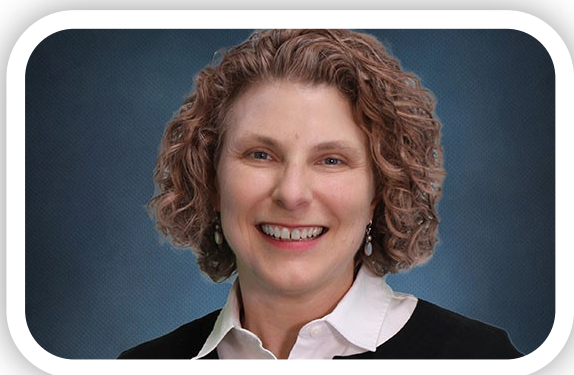


Emily Upham – Dragon
Winters Mill High School

Meet the Staff

Daphne Daly
Deputy Director
Planning & Land Management

As deputy director, Ms. Daly will work closely with the department director and provide direct oversight to the Bureau of Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Administration and will also act as the lead planner for the county, responsible for the strategic direction, development, and processing of Carroll County Master Plan documents. Ms. Daly earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Architectural History from University of Maryland, College Park and a Master of City Planning degree from University of Pennsylvania with a land use and environmental planning focus. Ms. Daly previously worked eleven years for the Carroll County Bureau of Comprehensive Planning, and her experience also includes working for the Baltimore County Department of Planning and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Daphne is married and has two adult children and a dog. She loves exploring the history and culture of new places, as well as hiking, gardening, and visiting museums.

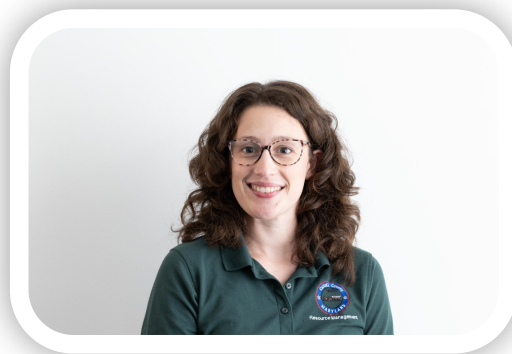


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Claire Hirt
Watershed Management
Coordinator

Claire grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and received her B.S. in Biology from the University of Maryland and her M.S. in Geography at Penn State University. For the past 3 years, she has worked as an NPDES Compliance Specialist for the County, overseeing GIS mapping and data, engaging the public with outreach programs, and working with municipal partners on stormwater-related issues. Claire is excited about becoming more involved with the County's restoration projects in her new role as Watershed Management Coordinator. She lives on her family's Christmas tree farm in Westminster with her husband and their two mischievous little boys. In her free time, Claire enjoys painting, hiking, and going on bug hunts with her kids.



Garrett Tucker
Water Resource Technician

Garrett grew up and went to school in Carroll County and received his bachelor's degree in environmental studies from McDaniel College. Garrett's first experience was at Hashawha Environmental Center as a student and intern. He then was an employee at McDaniel College where he facilitated first year orientation events at the college's environmental center. Garrett has been involved in the environment since high school and looks forward to pursuing a career in the field. In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing, hunting, and throwing the frisbee with his dog.

