



Anne Arundel County

Watershed Stewards Academy

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Anne Arundel County • Watershed Stewards Academy

www.aawsa.org

What's the Problem?

storm-water n.

any drop of water that does not evaporate or soak into the ground when it rains.

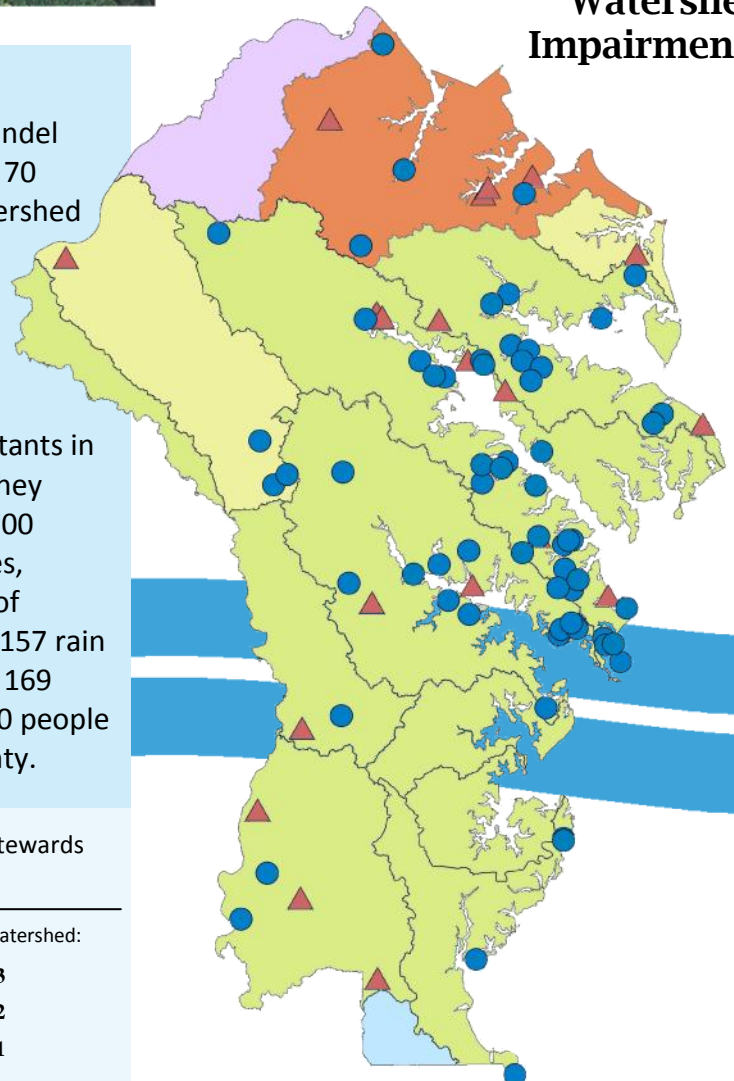
Stormwater picks up **pollutants on land**, including sediment, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, heavy metals, gas, and oil, and carries them to the nearest stream or river. Impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roadways, and parking lots can intensify stormwater as it picks up speed, causing **damaging erosion**. The excess sediment and nutrients brought into our waterways cause **dead zones** – areas where oxygen is too low for life to survive. Every waterway in Anne Arundel County is impaired by major pollutants, which can include nutrients, sediment, metals, toxics, bacteria, or trash (see map below).



Of the 410 miles of perennial streams assessed by Anne Arundel County, 57% were rated degraded to severely degraded.

Anne Arundel County Watershed Impairments

Watershed Stewards Academy of Anne Arundel County now supports 70 Certified Master Watershed Stewards and 25 Steward Candidates currently enrolled. In 2011, Stewards gave over 3,500 volunteer hours to reduce pollutants in their communities. They have planted over 1,700 native plants and trees, created 8,600 sq. ft. of rainscaping, installed 157 rain barrels, and provided 169 presentations to 6,740 people in Anne Arundel County.



- Master Watershed Stewards
- ▲ Steward Candidates

Number of Impairments by Watershed:

7	3
6	2
5	1
4	

DID YOU KNOW?

Anne Arundel County Health Department issues a no-swimming, no-direct-water-contact advisory for ALL beaches for 48 hours after EVERY rainstorm exceeding 1 inch.

We are the Solution.

WSA equips residents and businesses across Anne Arundel County to think and act differently about the water that falls on their property. Not only do our Master Watershed Stewards engage neighborhoods to put good projects in the ground, but they educate and encourage thousands of individual citizens to become better stewards for the long term. In time, this innovative approach will transform the thinking of whole communities and create a new norm about how our citizens relate to the land and our precious waters. WSA thanks Arlington Echo for launching and housing this project, and our founding donors for their generous support that has made this all possible.

Steve Raabe

Chairperson, Founding Board of Directors



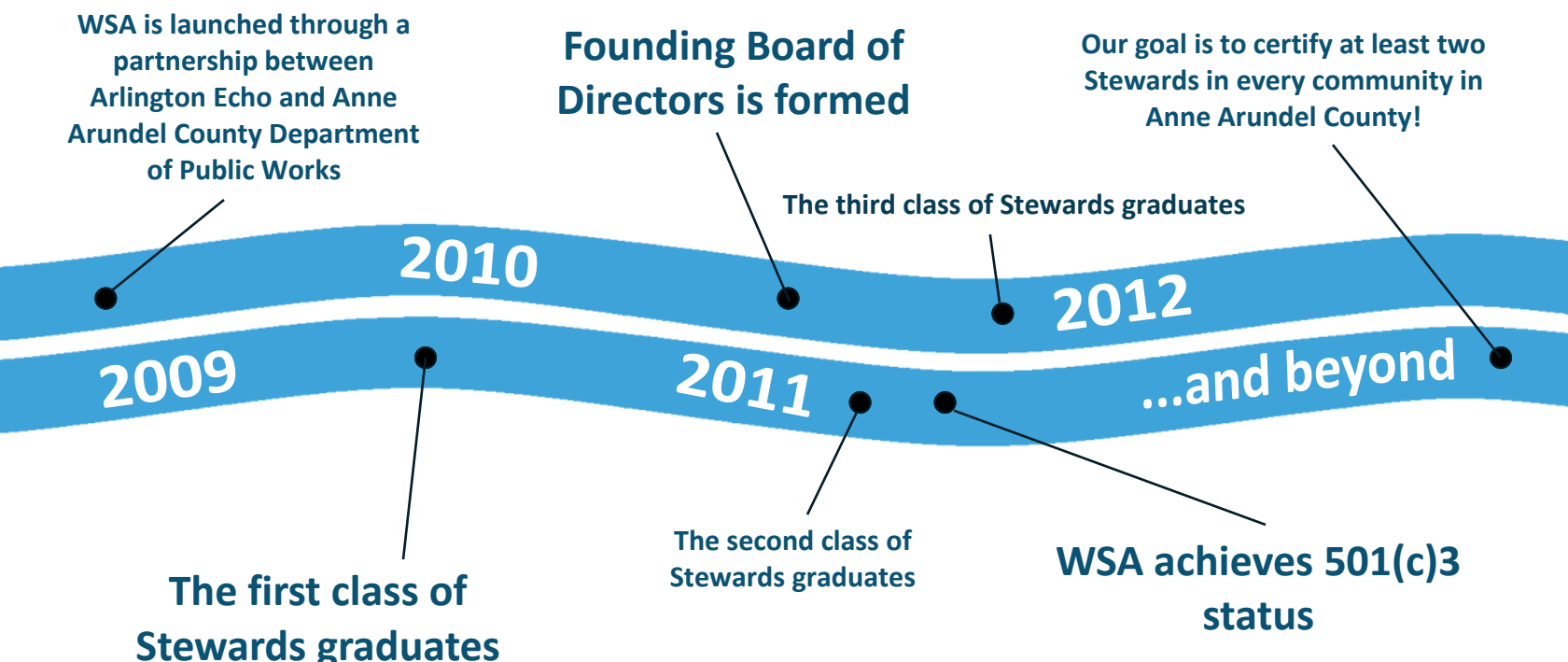
Our Vision

Empower communities to restore the landscape

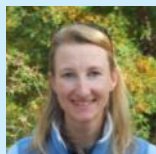
...one watershed at a time.

Our Strategy

In partnership, Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center and Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works founded WSA to address the enthusiasm and desire of so many communities to restore their waterways. When 46% of the nitrogen load and 39% of the phosphorous load come from private and residential land, the solution to our impaired waterways *must* engage citizens and communities, but many communities simply do not know where to start. The Watershed Stewards Academy provides community leaders with knowledge and connections to solve issues. As long-term members of the community, trained Stewards are able to approach their neighbors as friends or peers, utilizing the persuasive power of personal connections. Public outreach and modeling by the Stewards can connect individual citizens to their role in the restoration of our streams, rivers, and Bay.



Meet Our Team



Suzanne Etgen
WSA Outdoor Educator



Lara Mulvaney
Program Assistant



Megan Wickless
Program Assistant

Housed at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, WSA connects the environmental planning and assessment provided by Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works (DPW) with the educational expertise of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

WSA is different in many ways...

A Community Based Program

Stewards live within the community they serve and are an ongoing presence affecting long term change.

The Support Structure

WSA connects Stewards with Anne Arundel County watershed restoration goals, Anne Arundel County Public Schools environmental literacy goals, and over 80 environmental professionals supporting Steward action.

The Hands-On Training

Our program teaches on-the-ground techniques to achieve specific pollution reduction goals.

The Ongoing Involvement

Once certified, Stewards maintain certification through continued volunteer involvement in their communities, networking with other professionals, and continuing education credits.



Stephen Barry
Coordinator of Environmental/
Outdoor Education, AACPS

WSA was created out of a partnership between Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, under the leadership of Stephen Barry, and the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works to build capacity within each neighborhood in order to reduce pollutants entering our waterways via stormwater. Ron Bowen, Director of Public Works, and Ginger Ellis, Planning Administrator, of Anne Arundel County DPW continues to provide critical support in connecting Stewards and communities with watershed studies, planning and restoration efforts.

Our Goals:

- **Certify** 25 new Master Watershed Stewards each year.
- **Support** Certified Master Watershed Stewards by providing connections to resources and expertise, networking opportunities, and continuing education classes.
- **Network** environmental professionals and Stewards to foster collaboration in the effort to achieve Anne Arundel County pollution reduction goals.
- **Collaborate** with Anne Arundel County Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Services toward achievement of the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan to reduce pollutants in our waterways.

The role of the Master Watershed Steward is to...

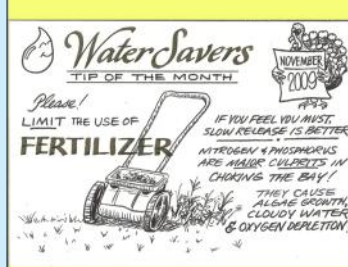
Assess Watersheds



Educate Communities



Reduce Pollutants

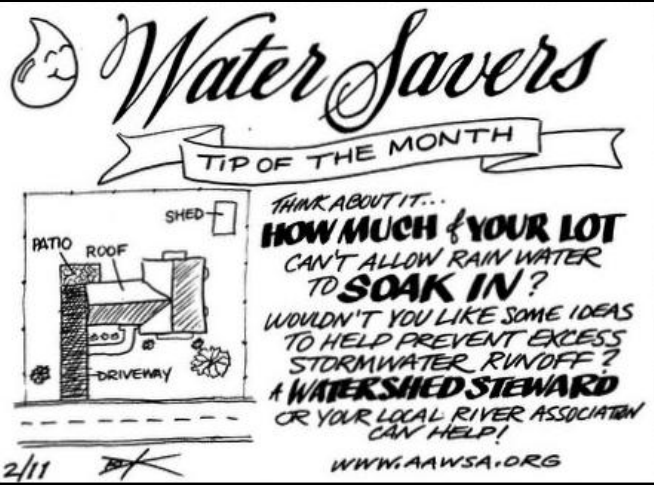


Take Action



The Back Creek Believers

Steward teammates Annie Hillary, Patrick Fleeherty, Jimmy Dick, Darlene Finch, and Loni Moyer installed rain gardens, interpretive signage, and a pet waste collection station at the Horn Point Marina in Eastport. Fourth-graders from Eastport Elementary painted a beautiful landscape mural that the team installed on one of the marina's sheds. "The Believers" conducted educational outreach with the Eastport Civic and Business Associations and marina management to pursue "Clean Marina" designation from the MD Department of Natural Resources. The rain gardens capture and filter polluted runoff from about ¾ of an acre right next to Back Creek and the collected pet waste no longer washes into the water.



Water Savers Tip of the Month

Brad Knopf is a Master Watershed Steward who has been involved heavily with education and outreach in his Cape St. Claire community. Brad created the "Water Savers Tip of the Month," which features a hand-drawn educational cartoon regarding how you can have a positive impact on water in your yard and around

your house. Brad now writes for the Broadneck Patch.com and dedicates a Water Savers "Neighbor of the Month" for members of the community that demonstrate Bay-friendly yards. By displaying a "Neighbor of the Month" yard sign and describing the specific Bay-friendly practices the homeowner has employed, Brad encourages other neighbors to follow suit.

Olde Severna Park Rainscaping

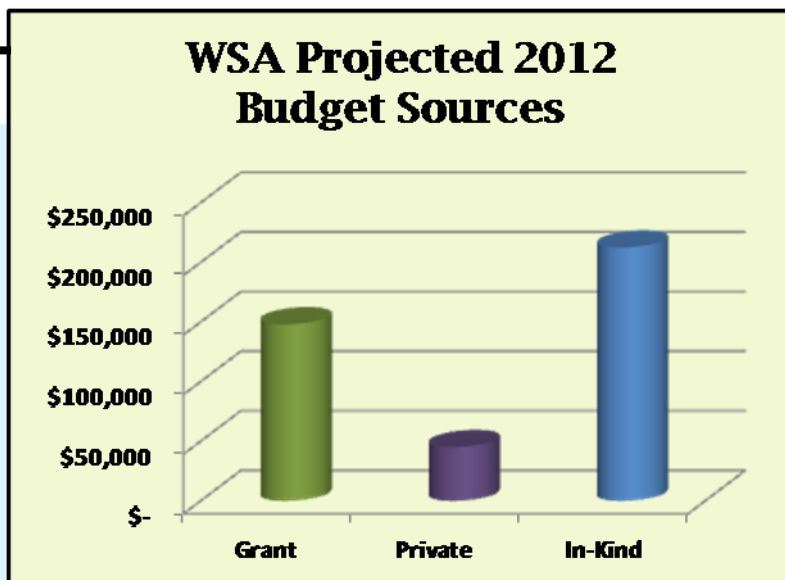
Ann Jackson is a Master Watershed Steward from the inaugural class who continues to make big changes in her community. She lives in Olde Severna Park and has been actively engaged in creating a neighborhood environmental assessment and a plan to alleviate the stormwater runoff going into the Severn River. Ann has led the installation of two rain gardens in her community since 2009, and has plans for a third garden. She volunteers at many community events, presenting educational material about stormwater and the benefits of rain barrels and rain gardens. Ann has engaged more than 75 volunteers and logged over 25 presentations to her community to involve them in helping her clean up the Severn River!



Financial

WSA believes that matching the right funding to the best solution for the community will attract the highest caliber of long-term funding sources for the organization. This approach creates a unique partnership of public and private resources in the community. Our financial model is to fully maximize funding sources by leveraging funding from other resources

as WSA provides real on-the-ground solutions that enable communities to become good stewards of their own environment. WSA is proud that our administrative costs are less than 5% of the budget and the remaining 95% is dedicated to solutions for pollution problems in our communities.



Do you like what Stewards are doing?

Consider supporting them with a tax-deductible donation!

(Flip to the back cover to learn how.)



How we will put your dollars to work:

\$4,000	Certify a Master Watershed Steward
\$2,000	Sponsor a Rain Garden
\$1,000	Convert 300 square feet of turf to a native plant conservation landscape
\$600	Install 10 Rain Barrels
\$500	Support a Certified Master Watershed Steward for 1 year
\$250	Plant 25 trees

Acknowledgements

Consortium of Support Professionals

AA County Department of Inspections and Permits
AA County Forestry Board
AA County Department of Public Works
AA County Bureau of Highways
AA County Office of the County Executive
AA County Soil Conservation District
AA County Waste Management Services
AA County Watershed Ecosystem Restoration Services
Anne Arundel Waterway Restoration Alliance
Advocates for Herring Bay
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Alliance for Sustainable Communities
Architectural Gardens
Baywise Master Gardeners
Biohabitats
Brightwater, Inc.
Capuco Consulting
Center for Watershed Protection
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Program
Chesapeake Bay String of Pearls
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Chesapeake Ecology Center
Ciminelli's Landscape Services, Inc.
City of Annapolis
City of Greenbelt
Critical Area Commission-DNR
Deborah M. Schwab Landscape Architecture
Eco Gardens LLC
Environmental Matters
Forestry for the Bay
Furbish Company
Good Earth Gardeners
Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
Greenman Pedersen, Inc.
Low Impact Design Studio
Lower Western Shore Tributary Team
Magothy River Association
Magothy River Land Trust
MD Department of Natural Resources
MD Department of the Environment
Maryland Environmental Trust
Maryland Sea Grant
McHale Landscape Design
Rainscaping.org
Patuxent Riverkeeper
River Network
Scenic Rivers Land Trust
Severn Grove Ecological Design
Severn River Commission
Severn RiverKeeper
Severn River Association
Sigma Engineering
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board
South River Federation
Spa Creek Conservancy
SusDevTech
Sustainable Resource Management, Inc.
Underwood & Associates
UMD Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics
UMD Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
University of Maryland Extension
Unity Gardens
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Volunteer Center for Anne Arundel County
Water Savers, LLC
West/Rhode Riverkeeper
...and growing!

The Watershed Stewards Academy is extremely grateful for its funders and partners!



The Watershed Stewards Academy has been successful because of the hard work of:

Master Watershed Stewards

Find the closest Steward to you by visiting www.aawsa.org!

Consortium of Support Professionals

The list of organizations that support Master Watershed Stewards (left) continues to grow!

Founding Board of Directors

Linda Kennedy Currier
Kate Fritz
Mike Fritz
Harry Higgins
Matthew Miller

Kincey Potter
Steve Raabe
J. Paul Rickett
Shannon Waldron

Be Part of the Solution!



With the help of motivated citizens of Anne Arundel County, the **Watershed Stewards Academy** has made a great impact in just its first few years. As a relatively new organization, we have the desire and ability to grow and evolve to continue to help people do real things to shift the norm in their neighborhood.

We asked some of our Stewards why they chose the Academy as a way to get involved, and many of them said it was an **opportunity to do something real.**

You can do something real too!

To improve the waterways in Anne Arundel County, it will take **each one of us.**

Not sure how to start? You may choose to...



Support a Watershed Steward in your neighborhood

Volunteer to build a project or make a donation for materials. Visit www.aawsa.org for Stewards' names and locations!



Become a Master Watershed Steward

Classes will prepare you for being a positive force in your neighborhood. For more information, visit www.aawsa.org or contact Suzanne Etgen at setgen@aacps.org!



Support the work of the Watershed Stewards Academy

Sponsor a Watershed Steward to make a difference for an entire year for just \$500! Any amount will help us move closer to having swimmable and fishable water.

Consider making a tax-deductible donation using the form below or by visiting www.aawsa.org!

Donate to the Watershed Stewards Academy

Be part of the effort! Help us to train and support people like you to lead Anne Arundel County to healthier streams, river, and Bay!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Watershed Stewards Academy is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please mail slip and check to:

Paul Rickett, Watershed Stewards Academy
5625 Gunner Run Road, Churchton, MD 20733



Yes! I would love to help the Watershed Stewards Academy make a difference in neighborhoods and in the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Please accept my enclosed gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250

\$500 Other: _____

Please make check payable to **Watershed Stewards Academy** or visit

www.aawsa.org

to make a contribution online.