

WSA's 12th
Annual Conference



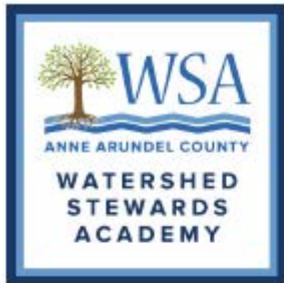
SPRING INTO ACTION!



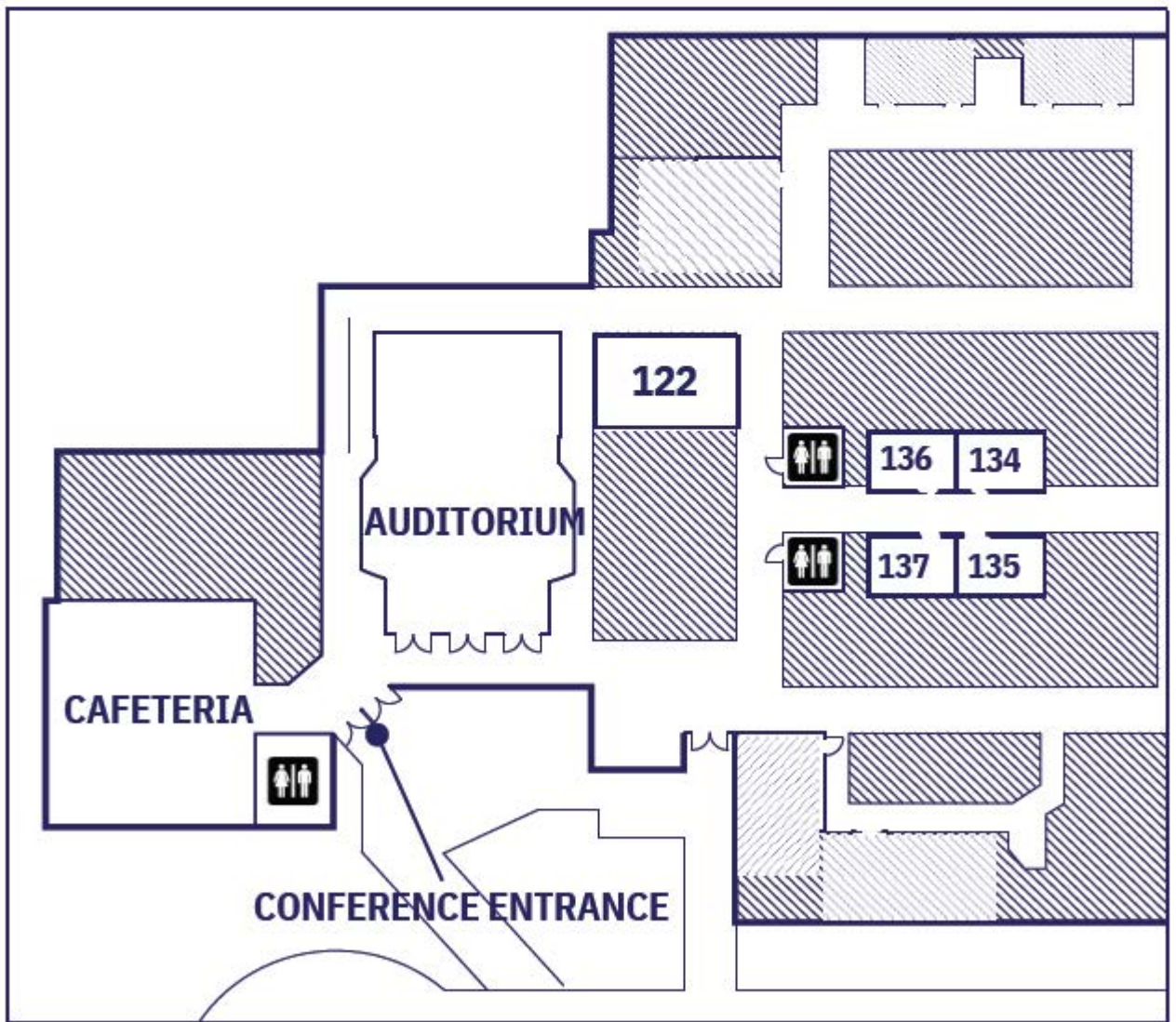
**MAINTAINING
MOMENTUM**

Saturday
March 25, 2023





Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy 12th Annual Conference Annapolis High School Site Map



Spring into Action!

Take Action During Earth Month

April 1: Talking Tr@sh Stream Clean-up Event, Severn

April 8: Inaugural ANN-ual Day of Maintenance, Severna Park

April 22: Watershed Steward Class 15 Project, Cape St. Claire

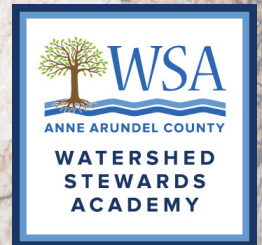
April 22: Odenton Library Earth Day Celebration, Odenton

April 22: St. Luke's Restoration of Nature Earth Day & Arts Festival, Annapolis

April 29: Good Neighbors Group Earth Day Festival, Severna Park

April 29: Scenic Rivers Land Trust, Walk for the Woods, Crownsville

Visit aawsa.org/events to view all of WSA's events and our partner events for Earth Month!



Calling all Tree-Lovers!

RePlant Anne Arundel and RePlant Annapolis are initiatives to engage communities to plant and appreciate trees across Anne Arundel County.



Join the Movement: Become a Tree Trooper!

Tree Troopers are trained volunteers who are passionate about planting trees in their communities! Their dedication to the mission of RePlant Anne Arundel and RePlant Annapolis is a primary driver of increasing tree canopy throughout the area. The trees they plant will reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay for years to come, which is why we here at RePlant like to say “clean water grows on trees!”

Our virtual trainings begin in April. Visit our website for more information and fill out an interest form: aawsa.org/tree-trooper



A partnership between



with support from the Helena Foundation

Spring Into Action!

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00
am

STEWARD ACTION BREAKFAST

for Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards only

9:00
am

CONFERENCE WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Ron Bowen Environmental Legacy Award presented by County Executive Stuart Pittman

10:15
am

SESSION 1

1A | CAFETERIA

Poverty Amidst Plenty VII: Moving Forward Together

Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D. | Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth & Families

1B | AUDITORIUM

Critical Knowledge for the Critical Area

Jennifer Esposito & Charlotte Shearin | The Critical Area Commission

1C | ROOM 122 (Band room)

Knockout Natives: Results from Mt. Cuba Center's Trials

Sam Hoadley | Mt. Cuba Center

**please note this presentation will be virtual with an in-person proctor who will facilitate questions*

1D | MEET IN REGISTRATION LOBBY

Maintenance Matters: An Outdoor Field Session (limited space)

Nancy Moitrier | Designs for Greener Gardens

11:15
am

BREAK

11:30
am

SESSION 2

2A | ROOM 135

Survey Says: Your Neighbors Are In!

Steve Raabe | OpinionWorks

Francesca King | Watershed Stewards Academy

2B | ROOM 122 (Band room)

Stormwater Rules: What Your Local Government is Doing About it

Erik Michelsen | Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration

Betsey McKeown & Michael Rossberg | City of Annapolis

Matt Fleming | Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

2C | AUDITORIUM

Where The Wild Things Grow: Choosing the Best Native Plants for Your Project

Jeffrey Popp | Watershed Stewards Academy

2D | MEET IN REGISTRATION LOBBY

Maintenance Matters: An Outdoor Field Session (limited space)

Nancy Moitrier | Designs for Greener Gardens

12:30
pm

LUNCH & NETWORK

Meet your local watershed organization, attend funders office hours network with sponsors, restoration professionals, and more!

1:45
pm

SESSION 3

3A | ROOM 122 (Band room)

Stories From the Shores: How Segregated Beaches Shaped Our Water Access

Vincent Leggett | *Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation*

Janice Hayes-Williams | *2021 Historic Annapolis Preservation Award Winner*

Mike Lofton | *Public Water Access Activist*

Hon. Cynthia Abney Carter | *former Annapolis City Council Alderwoman*

William Rowel | *Mayor's Office of the City of Annapolis*

Terryl Acker-Carter - *Watershed Stewards Academy*

3B | ROOM 135

Planting Seeds Where you Read:

Partnering with the Library to Connect with Your Community

Martha Sykora* • Lynette E DelPrete* • Johanna Doty* • Kt Zawodny

*Anne Arundel County Public Library | *Watershed Steward*

3C: | AUDITORIUM

Pests and Disease: What's Harming Our Trees?

Rob Dallmann & Lou Meyer | *Davey Tree Experts*

Dr. Chris Riley | *Bartlett Tree Experts*

Bud Reaves | *Anne Arundel County Forester*

3D | CAFETERIA

Restoration Adaptation: Responding to Project Challenges

Jennifer Carr | *Arundel Rivers Federation*

Sally Albright | *Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration*

2:45
pm

BREAK

Last chance to visit vendors, purchase jewelry and bid on silent auction items

3:00
pm

PLENARY & CLOSING REMARKS

Ann Jackson Steward of the Year Award

Presented to Candy Dayton, Thomas Marston, and Dawn Taft

WSA Consortium Member of the Year Award

Presented to Jennifer Carr

4A | AUDITORIUM

Maintaining Momentum: The Motivation All Around You

Nancy Lawson | *The Humane Gardener & Author of Wildscape*

4:30
pm

CONFERENCE AFTER PARTY

The Pier Waterfront Bar & Grille

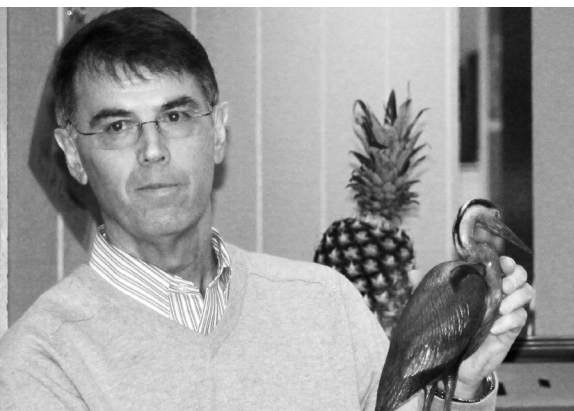
48 South River Road S. #103

Edgewater, MD 21037

RON BOWEN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY AWARD

Honoring a public servant who has gone above and beyond to foster environmental stewardship. This award honors the legacy of WSA co-founder, Ron Bowen by recognizing an individual who has made a unique contribution to environmental stewardship in Anne Arundel County by connecting government or institutional resources with private sector investments to generate significant environmental actions.

The Ron Bowen Environmental Legacy Award was initiated in 2018 as part of WSA's 10th Anniversary Celebration. The intent is to honor the legacy of Ron's contributions, which have lived on as a model of government leadership, and continues to be a critical foundation for the success of WSA. The Award recognizes and honors the efforts of an individual who comes from a local, state, or federal government agency or a non-profit organization. The purpose of the Award is to honor Ron and the awardee, and to encourage the continuation of Ron Bowen's vision of agency and citizen partnership to make Anne Arundel County a cleaner and healthier place to live.



Ron Bowen served as the Director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, DPW. Ron was recognized for his outstanding leadership in establishing county wide environmental assessment data and state of the art restoration solutions. Ron retired from his director position in 2013 and unfortunately, he passed away in May of 2018.

One of Ron's proudest roles was as a co-founder of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy, WSA. Ron recognized that we could maximize our environmental action by combining the resources of Department of Public Works with an engaged population of trained environmental leaders. Ron's organizational and technical skills were crucial in developing WSA's mission and structure.



OUR 2023 HONOREE KEN PENSYL

Former Program Manager for Sediment, Stormwater & Dam Safety Divisions of Maryland Department of the Environment

In over 40 years of service to the environmental field, Ken made incredible contributions to statewide stormwater regulations at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and at the local level here in Anne Arundel County. Ken helped usher a paradigm shift from collecting and conveying stormwater to holding and treating it in the landscape.

Ken also shared his expertise with WSA as a key instructor for our Stormwater Success Course and our Watershed Steward Certification Course. His enthusiastic explanations of stormwater ponds and engaging site tours were an important part of learning for hundreds of community leaders across the County.

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we honor Ken Pensyl, posthumously, with the 2023 Ron Bowen Environmental Legacy Award.



Scan here to
read more about
RON BOWEN



Scan here to
read more about
KEN PENSYL



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Save the Date!
June 6 - 7, 2023

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SESSION 1

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

1A | CAFETERIA

Poverty Amidst Plenty VII: Moving Forward Together

Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D. | *Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families*

WSA envisions every community in the county actively engaged to ensure a healthy environment for all. This session explores the county's most recent needs assessment, Poverty Amidst Plenty VII: Moving Forward Together, which provides an overview of the issues in Anne Arundel County that impact the economy and quality of life. Qualitative and quantitative data was collected, representing diverse voices throughout the county including residents, advocates, and health care personnel and providers: a total of 168 participants. The information contained in the report is essential for meaningful progress toward achieving a healthy and strong community for all of the residents of Anne Arundel County.

1B | AUDITORIUM

Critical Knowledge for the Critical Area

Jennifer Esposito & Charlotte Shearin | *The Critical Area Commission*

Since 1984, The Critical Area Commission has been developing and implementing a comprehensive program to protect the shores and tidal areas of the Chesapeake Bay. Known as the Critical Area Law, these regulations help property owners minimize the risks associated with development and other land use changes that impact water quality and habitat. This session will highlight frequently asked questions about projects being implemented in the critical area, differences between the critical area and the critical area buffer, types of projects that require Critical Area Commission approval, and best ways to enhance these areas that improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

1C | ROOM 122 (Band room)

Knockout Natives: Results from Mt. Cuba Center's Trials

Sam Hoadley | *Mt. Cuba Center*

Join Sam Hoadley as he highlights knockout native species and cultivars from Mt. Cuba Center's trials. Top performers and favorites of Monarda, Phlox, Helianthus, Echinacea, wild hydrangea, and Carex represent some of the best native plants for the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Sam will discuss their horticultural and ecological performance and will share important information on standouts that will make beautiful additions to your garden.

**please note this presentation will be virtual with an in-person proctor who will facilitate questions*

1D | MEET IN REGISTRATION LOBBY *(Extremely bad weather backup - Room 135)*

Maintenance Matters: An Outdoor Field Session *(limited space)*

Nancy Moitrier | *Designs for Greener Gardens*

Get outside and observe several stormwater best management practices (BMPs), including a bioretention, a pollinator garden, and tree plantings. At each stop, you'll hear about what maintenance is necessary and learn suggested techniques. You'll also learn about what causes projects to fail: you guessed it... improper maintenance!

SESSION 2

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

2A | ROOM 135

Survey Says: Your Neighbors Are In!

Steve Raabe | *OpinionWorks*

Francesca King | *Watershed Stewards Academy*

WSA and OpinionWorks are in the middle of an exciting project, designed to help you help your community! In Fall 2022, we surveyed over 1,000 county residents, including a concentrated sample of residents in Steward communities! Dive into the data as we explore the results from surveys and focus groups. Your neighbors want to plant native plants and trees, come learn what they need to help them!

Tools and Resources informed by the data will be coming later in the year

2B | ROOM 122 (Band room)

Stormwater Rules: What Your Local Government is Doing About It

Erik Michelsen | *Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration*

Betsy McKeown & Michael Rossberg | *City of Annapolis*

Matt Fleming | *Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County*

Join this session to hear about your local government's plan for reducing pollution to our local waterways. You'll hear about the city of Annapolis' and Anne Arundel County's progress toward clean water goals and climate resilience, and the priorities of local government leaders working toward a clean environment for all.

2C | AUDITORIUM

Where The Wild Things Grow: Choosing the Best Native Plants for Your Project

Jeffrey Popp | *Watershed Stewards Academy*

WSA's own Director of Restoration will discuss the importance of native plants and the many benefits of incorporating them into the landscape. From residential gardens to large restoration projects, native plants are the key to supporting biodiversity and improving water quality. Learn how to select the best plants for your project by thinking about how they naturally interact in the wild.

2D | MEET IN REGISTRATION LOBBY *(Extremely bad weather backup - Room 135)*

Maintenance Matters: An Outdoor Field Session *(limited space)*

Nancy Moitrier | *Designs for Greener Gardens*

Get outside and observe several stormwater best management practices (BMPs), including a bioretention, a pollinator garden, and tree plantings. At each stop, you'll hear about what maintenance is necessary and learn suggested techniques. You'll also learn about what causes projects to fail: you guessed it...improper maintenance!

SESSION 3

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

3A | ROOM 122 (Band room)

Stories From the Shores: How Segregated Beaches Shaped Our Water Access

Vincent Leggett | *Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation*

Janice Hayes-Williams | *2021 Historic Annapolis Preservation Award Winner*

Mike Lofton | *Public Water Access Activist*

Hon. Cynthia Abney Carter | *former Annapolis City Council Alderwoman*

William Rowel | *Mayor's Office of the City of Annapolis*

Terryl Acker-Carter - *Watershed Stewards Academy*

Dive into the history of water access in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. You'll learn about the heritage and recent preservation of Carr's, Elktonia, and Beverly Beaches, hear stories from beachgoers who faced segregation, and find out what you can do to address the inequities that exist today.

3B | ROOM 135

Planting Seeds Where You Read: Partnering with the Library to Connect with Your Community

Martha Sykora* • Lynette E DelPrete* • Johanna Doty* • Kt Zawodny

*Anne Arundel County Public Library | *Watershed Steward*

Over the past few years, WSA's connection to AACPL has sprouted and grown! Several AACPL staff are now certified Stewards, multiple projects have been installed, and educational environmental programs have been hosted at libraries across the county. Join this session to explore the connections between libraries, communities, and environmental stewardship. You may just walk away with your next project idea.

3C | AUDITORIUM

Pests and Disease: What's Harming Our Trees?

Rob Dallmann & Lou Meyer | *Davey Tree Experts*

Dr. Chris Riley | *Bartlett Tree Experts*

Bud Reaves | *Anne Arundel County Forester*

Caring for our existing, mature trees is a critical part of a healthy environment and community. Unfortunately, many are plagued by pests and diseases. Hear from a panel of experts on how to identify pests and diseases, when to be concerned, and most importantly treatment options. Join this session if you're concerned about oak decline, Beech Leaf Disease, and more.

3D | CAFETERIA

Restoration Adaptation: Responding to Project Challenges

Jennifer Carr | *Arundel Rivers Federation*

Sally Albright | *Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration*

In the past decade, Anne Arundel County has built an ever-growing inventory of voluntary environmental restoration projects on public and private property. Each project has provided new perspectives and knowledge. Join Sally Albright of Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration and Jennifer Carr of Arundel Rivers Federation as they share stories of projects that took unexpected turns, and how each lesson learned helps to get more projects in the ground in the future. You'll hear about design challenges, utility constraints, property owner relationships, and more!

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rcarey@providencecenter.com

Earth Day Open Greenhouse Event!

Fri., April 21 - Sat., April 22

8:30am - 1:30pm

Pick up native plants for your community beautification projects!

Pottery & Plants Spring Sale!

Sat., May 6

10am - 2pm

Hanging baskets, summer veggies, herbs, and more!

We're looking for the best kind of people:



Volunteers!

Join us this spring for Project Clean Stream. More information at <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/project/project-clean-stream/> or scan the QR code below.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

4A | AUDITORIUM

Maintaining Momentum: The Motivation All Around You

Nancy Lawson | *The Humane Gardener* & Author of *Wildscape*

Sometimes the best way to maintain momentum in our work is to slow down and look around. Inspiration is everywhere when we stop and smell the milkweed, listen to the crickets, and feel the mosses and leaves under our feet. Restored habitats are vibrant realms where many languages are spoken, sometimes in sensory alphabets we humans have only just begun to decipher. Although these communications are often invisible to us, they're critical to the well-being and survival of the plants and animals who share our world. Through science, heart, and our powers of observation, we can not only create refuges for increasingly displaced flora and fauna but also enter a whole new world of discovery--one that will sustain us in our quest to bring life back to our home and community landscapes.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NANCY LAWSON

Nancy Lawson is nature writer, naturalist, and sought-after speaker. She is the author of *The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife* and the forthcoming *Wildscape: Trilling Chipmunks, Beckoning Blooms, Salty Butterflies, and other Sensory Wonders of Nature*.

Through The Humane Gardener, LLC, she pioneers creative planting strategies and other wildlife-friendly landscaping methods. Her presentations at diverse venues—from national wildlife refuges to local wildflower preserves—have inspired even seasoned horticulturists and wildlife experts to look at their landscapes in a new way. Certified as a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional and master naturalist, she co-chairs Howard County Bee City and helped her sister win a landmark victory to save her pollinator garden from an overreaching HOA, eventually leading to the passage of a state law. Her book and garden have been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *O magazine*, and other media outlets.

TAKE ACTION FOR CLEAN WATER ALL YEAR

Volunteer with Save Our Trees!

**Help remove invasive
vines and save our
tree canopy!
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Volunteer with RePollinate!

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aawsa.org/repollinate

Become a Tree Trooper!

**Training sessions
begin
April 18, 2023**

aawsa.org/tree-trooper

**Join a Stewards Only Action Group!
Environmental Literacy • Residential Site Assessment • Monitoring
Maintenance Corps • Steward Engagement**

**WSA's 12th Annual Conference would
not have been possible without
all of our amazing volunteers!**

Thank you!

SPEAKER INFORMATION

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KT ZAWODNY

AACPL

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PDK Horticultural LLC Invasive Plant Control Services
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Scenic Rivers Land Trust
srlt.org

Severn Grove
severngrove.com

Sylva Native
sylvanative.com

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Secretary: Melanie Parker

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Development Chair: Don Simpson

**Khadija Abdur-Rahman, Jan Atwood, Sam duPont, Nina Fisher,
Kevin Green, Leila MacCarthy, Ron Snyder, Erica Whorley**

**WSA is seeking board members! Share with folks you recommend.
More information: aawsa.org/join-the-board**

Thank you for attending
SPRING INTO ACTION!
2023



Since 2009 we have...



TRAINED OVER
300

Watershed Stewards



INSTALLED OVER
4,350

projects



PLANTED OVER
202,500

native shrubs and
trees to reduce
pollution



ENGAGED NEARLY
205,000

residents to take action
to improve the health
of the Chesapeake Bay
watershed

How did we do?

Evaluate our conference here



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Arundel County, it will take each one of us.

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Please complete our demographic
survey to help us understand the
communities we serve!



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