



CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE SHORELINE

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Sustainable Lawn Care

Some Simple Practices to Save Time and Energy – and the Bay

By Sue Mastyl

During a webinar sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation last October (<https://www.cbf.org/events/webinars/save-the-bay-with-sustainable-lawn-care.html>), Paul Tukey, Chief Sustainability Officer for Glenstone Museum, described the experiences of 100% organic lawn care maintenance at the museum since 2010. He was joined by Beth McGee, Director of Science and Agricultural Policy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to discuss the impact of lawn care practices on the Bay cleanup.

The Example at Glenstone

Tukey, author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, described the practices at Glenstone, a museum of modern and contemporary art integrated into nearly 300 acres of gently rolling pasture and unspoiled woodland in Montgomery County, Maryland, less than 15 miles outside Washington, DC. They are committed to environmental sustainability and regenerative practices, and to developing the financial and biological evidence to make the case for adopting these practices on a large scale.

In 2010, the lawns were very homogeneous, maintained with integrated pest management (along with fertilizers, and weed control 6 times a year) and mowing down to 2 inches. But they decided they didn't want young children, dogs, and guests walking through poisons. "Synthetic

chemicals are poisons – fertilizers, weed killers like glyphosate, insect killers, weed and feed – we just don't need to use them," Tukey said. Instead, they switched to compost – a mixture of various decaying organic

"Going organic in your lawn care isn't ugly, and it's cheaper and safer" – Paul Tukey, Chief Sustainability Officer for Glenstone Museum

substances (any animal or plant matter, including dead leaves, grass, or manures) used for fertilizing the soil. Over time, they've reduced the turf lawn from 16 acres to 5.5 acres, and have installed more than 40 acres of native meadows – blends of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. The meadows require frequent mowing (3 to 4 times per year until established) and ongoing weed control to combat invasive species, but provide significant habitat for bees and birds.

"Going organic in your lawn care isn't ugly, and it's cheaper and safer," said Tukey, noting that they saved 18% the very first year.

Environmental Impact of Lawns

Tukey reviewed studies showing that lawns account for 2% of fossil fuel consumption (18 gallons per family) in the U.S., including the fossil fuels needed to make synthetic fertilizer. In addition, only 35% of synthetic fertilizer reaches the target plants, and only 2% of

pesticide reaches the target pests, with the remainder finding its way into runoff, and contributing to the degradation of our waterways. There are 3.8 million acres of lawns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (9.5% of the land area), which has increased 3-fold over the last 3 decades, and is more than the cropland for corn, wheat, and soybeans combined.

Three-fourths of those lawns are in homeowners' yards, with an estimated 215 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer applied to lawns each year in the Bay area.

McGee added that urban/suburban lawns represent 11% of the excess nitrogen and 30% of the excess phosphorus going into the Bay each year. "Homeowners with lawns need to play a role in reducing pollution going into the Bay," she noted.

See **Lawn Care**, cont'd on p. 2

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How to Go Organic

Tukey recommended that homeowners consider alternatives to a turf lawn, including flower gardens, which promote diversity and require fewer resources than lawns; xeriscapes and drought-tolerant plants, which use less fertilizer and water; rain gardens, which limit runoff, and promote diversity and wildlife habitat; and trees and shrubs, which require less maintenance and inputs, and sequester carbon.

He provided tips for developing an organic lawn –

- Obtain a soil chemistry test. The 3 key measures are the amount of organic matter (ideally 5% to 8%); the calcium/magnesium ratio (ideally 6:1 to 7:1); and the cation exchange capacity (sponge factor; how much water and nutrients the soil can hold onto – ideally 10 to 20/25). Tukey noted that adding compost will improve all these numbers.
- Think of your soil as alive! Organisms in the soil have the exact same needs as we do – to eat, to drink, to breathe.
- Grow the right grass.
- Water well (once per week) – soak down 10 to 14 inches deep, so the

roots of the grass grow down to get water.

- Mow properly (3.5 to 4 inches high), and leave the clippings on the lawn.
- Avoid synthetic materials.
- Add compost (1/4" layer, which equates to 40 cubic yards per acre).
- See weeds as messengers (indicators of poor soil conditions).

A 1% increase in organic matter increases the water-holding capacity by 25,000 gallons per acre.

- See insects as messengers (insects attack weak plants).
- Overseed regularly, especially in the fall.

Tukey noted that “clover is not a weed – we let it grow, we welcome it.” It is a legume, which fixes nitrogen for use by other plants; it is drought-tolerant, and slow-growing; and it is an excellent food source for bees and other pollinators. He added that research by the University of Maryland compared side-by-side plots with organic and traditional methods; after 3 years, there was no difference in outcome. “If someone tells you different, they don’t know how to work it,” he said.

McGee added that healthy soils sequester carbon, and help to fight climate change. A 1% increase in organic matter increases the water-holding capacity by 25,000 gallons per acre, leading to more drought resistance and less runoff. She added that native species play an important role – “natives by nature have deep roots, which soak up more rainwater and reduce runoff.” She advocated starting small, and expanding over time.

Both McGee and Tukey addressed approaches for homeowners associations, recommending focusing on cost and safety risks. Tukey added that we

can all talk to our town and county officials about how our parks are maintained.

Additional Resources

Although there are plenty of resources available, here are a few to get started:

Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Professionals (<https://certified.cblpro.org>)

Healthy Virginia Lawns program (technical assistance; <https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/healthy-virginia-lawns-resources>)

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (financial assistance for rain gardens, green roofs, etc.; <https://vaswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017VCAPbrochure.pdf>)

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. New online yard design tool helps you “reduce your stormwater.” <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/2016/08/new-online-yard-design-tool-helps-you-reduce-your-stormwater/>

Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Healthy lawns, healthy waters: a guide to effective lawn care for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-guides-fact-sheets/CBF_LawnCare.pdf

Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Raking leaves? Drop the rake and stop what you’re doing. <https://www.cbf.org/blogs/save-the-bay/2020/10/raking-leaves-drop-the-rake-and-stop-what-youre-doing.html>

Chesapeake Bay Foundation. What’s your bay footprint? https://secure.cbf.org/site/SPageNavigator/bay_footprint.html

Roberts C. A lush lawn without pesticides: the truth about the chemicals that keep your lawn green, and how to create a healthy oasis without them. *Consumer Reports*, May 2021. <https://www.consumerreports.org/lawn-care/a-lush-lawn-without-pesticides/> 

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Sea Level Rise and Inundation ...

... Elevate, Demolish, or Retreat?

By Mary Miller

An Outer Banks town considers a massive tax increase to try and keep its main road from washing away.¹ Historic rural burial grounds in Maryland are turning into marshland.² “Ghost forests” are now part of the coastal seascape. The paths at Washington, DC’s Tidal Basin are frequently underwater from daily tidal flooding. Towns on Virginia’s Western Shore fear that new “resilient shoreline” regulations will turn neighborhood lawns into tidal flats.³ The Bay Act buffer zone is retreating into waterfront lawns and gardens – and so are the marshes. Will humans be far behind in this retreat – as sea level rise makes some communities uninhabitable?

In Avon, NC, the town needs \$11 million to stabilize its main road. Where would the money come from? At a town meeting, residents were full of ideas about who would pay – the Federal government, state government, the county, tourists, businesses that rent to tourists – anyone but them. Dare County wanted to raise Avon property taxes by up to 50%. Towns along the Outer Banks have had to fund millions of beach replenishment projects to help save beachfront homes and protect the roads – a recurring cost every few years as storms wash away the “beach nourishment.” The projects are funded by a tax on tourists, combined with a property surtax on local homes. The mayor of Nags Head observed that the millions of dollars spent on the beaches every few years was cheaper than buying out all the beachfront homes that would otherwise fall into the sea.

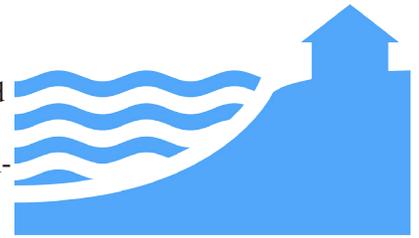
In Dorchester County, MD, rising waters threaten an old family burial ground on the Robinson Neck Preserve – a significant wetlands, natural area, and marsh preserve. But like many early settlements near the Bay, old cemeteries are vulnerable, and within decades, the stones will likely be underwater.

And in Mathews County on the Western Shore, where much of the land is just above sea level, landowners are concerned that new state regulations to protect tidal wetlands will prohibit them from adding fill to protect their waterfronts.

FEMA and Flood Insurance

With no national policy to address risk-planning for future effects of tidal or other flooding on homeowners or localities, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance offers after-the-fact help. Often, payments are made repeatedly on the same properties, unless local zoning or “provision of essential services” policies have effectively controlled construction on the

flood plain. Although some states have started to provide funding for planning in case of community inundation, so far, it’s a patchwork of



solutions. In the long term, a more proactive, sustainable, and equitable approach to risk planning that focuses on mitigating or reducing vulnerability, rather than responding after storms or flooding, would be the road to take, say many planners. But there is little general agreement – waterfront homeowners don’t want to hear about buy-outs and coastal retreat. Towns and counties are reluctant to consider the loss of real estate revenue from those homes. And for some older communities, sited just inland in low-lying areas along the coasts and creeks, relocation may be beyond the means of many residents.

So FEMA has become the federal entity to address the effects of increased tidal and other flooding from natural disasters. Property owners in flood plains often rely on flood insurance available under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help cover the Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC).⁴ If a building is declared “substantially damaged” by flood, 3 options are available:

- **Elevation** projects raise a home above the base flood elevation.
- **Relocation** projects move a building to a less flood-prone spot within the current lot or on a different lot.
- **Demolition** is used when severe damage makes other options not worth the investment. The property may be redeveloped after demolition.

The longer coastal communities delay facing the possibility of areas becoming inhabitable, the more painful, and often catastrophic, the dislocation will be. Will the pattern continue to be building and rebuilding in flood-prone areas and relying on FEMA to finance the solution? That may be the case – but eventually, *the sea will win.* 

1 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/climate/nyt-climate-newsletter-sea-level.html>

2 <https://www.dailyherald.com/article/20200122/news/301229954>

3 <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/03/31/on-virginias-rural-coast-resiliency-and-chesapeake-bay-goals-collide-amid-sea-level-rise/>

4 <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210318/fact-sheet-flooded-properties-get-30000-meet-rebuild-requirements>

5 <https://www.bayjournal.com/>

Ed. note: See related article, p. 8, *Keeping Track – Buying and Selling Flood-Prone Property.*

The Housing Shortage ...

... For the Workers Who Keep the Economy Running

By Mary Miller

The cost and availability of housing for workers – who teach our children, provide us with health care, work in the retail and hospitality industries, fix our cars, and raise and process our food – have been part of the Shore’s story for years. Home ownership or finding adequate rental units that fit workers’ budgets continue to be challenging. A trend emerging from both the need for housing, and the effects of the pandemic, is a shift to smaller living spaces.

Smaller Places, Smaller Spaces

The “tiny home” movement, houses up to 600 square feet, has been around for a while – the pandemic has created more interest in them. According to industry sources,¹ the market for tiny homes is growing and is expected to expand steadily over the next several years. Buyers are not limited to young, first-time homeowners, but include retirees, cash-strapped workers, and rental investors. Driving this demand are several key factors:

- Price – tiny homes can cost less than 1/3 the price of a stick-built home (median price: \$233,400²). There is usually less maintenance, lower utilities, and easy upkeep.
- Multi-generational living – families can construct a separate living space for an adult child or parent on the same property as the primary home.
- Changing regulations – building codes and zoning now permit accessory dwelling units and minimum living space requirements in many areas, including the Shore.
- Rental units – in an industry survey, “... 72% of those surveyed said they would consider using a tiny home as an investment property (long-term rental unit).”²
- Retirement living – in the same survey, “... 84% of those surveyed said they would consider a tiny home as a retirement living option.”³
- Vacation rentals – tiny home manufacturers have now started targeting customers who want tiny units to rent out for short-term rentals.

Locally, the New Road Community Development Group of Exmore has issued a Request for Contractor Proposals to construct “2 demonstration tiny homes.” Homes are about 450 square feet each and are ready for immediate construction.

Smaller Units, But Not Tiny

Back in 1975, the typical new single-family home floorplan averaged 1,660 square feet, according to data from the United States Census Bureau. New home sizes peaked in 2015, when the median hit 2,740 square feet, and have been falling ever since.

In 2019, only 20% of the total homes sold were 2,500 square feet or more, and 93% of newly constructed homes were below that size threshold.⁴

Industry is responding to consumer preferences: millennials want walkable communities and urban amenities; today’s buyers can’t afford the McMansions of yesteryear; demand is high for accessible, low-maintenance properties; trade wars and shortages are pushing up prices; and the ongoing labor shortage in the construction industry increases costs.

A similar down-sizing is happening in rental apartments – they are shrinking in size across the country. The national average size of new apartments has shrunk to 934 square feet, down from 2006, when apartments clocked in at 1,015 square feet. Overall, the average size of U.S. apartments is currently 889 square feet, irrespective of when they were built. The average U.S. studio apartment has a square footage of 472 square feet; the size of a 1-bedroom apartment is 714 square feet; a 2-bedroom apartment has an average living space of 1,006 square feet.⁵

An example of local apartment sizes is the Peter Cartright Manor in Exmore. This is a 46-unit, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly community, and rent is income-based. A 1-bedroom unit is 750 square feet, and a 2-bedroom unit is 800 square feet, according to the website. The Town recently announced that the facility’s owner is interested in building a second apartment building.

The pandemic has appeared to play a part in the growing preference for small homes and apartments. The trend, which started in 2015, is projected to continue, according to Zillow, the online American real estate marketplace company. 🐦



Image ©mlwa12

- 1 <https://blog.marketresearch.com/tiny-homes-a-booming-market>
- 2 <https://www.businessinsider.com/survey-reveals-why-tiny-homes-have-become-so-popular-2020-12>
- 3 <https://bradcohenrealtor.com/smaller-homes-are-becoming-more-popular.html>
- 4 <https://www.livabl.com/2020/01/5-reasons-single-family-homes-shrinking.html>
- 5 <https://www.rentcafe.com/blog/rental-market/average-apartment-size-in-the-us-by-state/>

Calling CBES Members!

Volunteer for “Clean the Bay Day” – Now a Week: May 31 to June 5

By Donna Bozza

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s (CBF’s) Clean the Bay Day usually finds CBES Volunteers getting “trashy” with our partner The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC’s) Virginia Coast Reserve. Under the tutelage of TNC’s Margaret Van Clief, Outreach & Education Coordinator, we launch a successful annual clean-up effort at Oyster Harbor. (Yes, that’s technically on the seaside, but we know that what we do anywhere on this narrow strip of land impacts all our waters.)

However, this year’s 31st Annual Clean the Bay Day will be different due to essential COVID-19 protocols. Participants will not be registering with the CBF under specific clean-up sites as was done in the past. For CBES, it means we will not be joining our friends from TNC.

Yes, it’s a bummer – but wait! One of the fun changes this year is that volunteers have 6 days instead of 1 to pitch in, as the event stretches from Monday, May 31, to Saturday, June 5.

Along with the flexibility of when, you also have the flexibility of where. This year, you can choose your own clean-up location, on public or private property (with permission), while still being a meaningful part of Clean the Bay Day.

CBES is encouraging our members to be part of this iconic Bay effort. Gather your family, significant other, maybe your dog, and make your corner of the Bay watershed a little cleaner.

Registration is required. Please see more information from CBF:

- The 6-day event gives participants flexibility to do a litter clean-up anytime during that period.
- Participants will be required to pre-register for the clean-up, which can be done up until the last day, June 5, at noon.
- To promote healthy competition between localities, schools, and communities, CBF will have a team registration page where individual team members can log their total litter pick-up numbers under one group.
- Participants may go to a location, where permission has been given, at a time of their choosing.
- Two weeks prior to Monday, May 31, the participant will receive an email that contains a list and map of all public and approved private sites available, and a link to a survey for data collection after they have completed their clean-up. Registration is required in order to receive this information.



Pick your own Bay Watershed clean-up spot, grab a friend, and register for the 2021 CBF Clean the Bay Day event, which has been extended to a full week, from May 31 to June 5.

- All activities must be done safely and must adhere to the current Virginia COVID-19 guidelines as noted on www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/.
- As an alternative, if litter pick up is not an option, a participant can commit to build a rain barrel or plant a native plant during the 6-day period.

Additional details can be found at Clean the Bay Day 2021 – Chesapeake Bay Foundation (<https://www.cbf.org/events/clean-the-bay-day/>). 

We’re Looking for a Few Good Pens

Are you a civic-minded individual with a bit of time on your hands and a desire to help make the Shore a better place? Are you a good communicator, and a good writer? If so, please consider becoming a contributor to *ShoreLine*.

ShoreLine’s mission is to provide objective information about community affairs to CBES members and the broader general community, and to stimulate discussion about important issues. It also provides occasional editorial opinion about community issues.

The *ShoreLine* Editorial Board selects, writes or edits, and publishes material that is consistent with the core beliefs, goals, and objectives established by CBES Board of Directors. Past issues of *ShoreLine* are published on the CBES website at www.cbcs.org.

For more information, please email the editor, Sarah Morgan, at savoystudio@gmail.com.

Local Red Cross Blood Drives

SAVE THIS LIST & You Could Save a Life

Upcoming Blood Drive Dates

May

5/25, 2 – 6 PM, American Legion Northampton Post 56, 21210 S. Bayside Rd., Cheriton, 23316

5/27, 1 – 6 PM, Hungars Episcopal Church, 10107 Bayside Rd, Machipongo, 23405

June

6/15, 12 – 5 PM, Eastern Shore Community College, 29300 Lankford Hwy., Melfa, 23410

6/15, 1 – 6 PM, Elks Lodge 1766, 22454 Front St., Accomac, 23301

6/16, 11 AM – 3 PM, Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, 20480 Market St., Onancock, 23417

July

7/23, 12 – 5 PM, St. Charles Catholic Church, 550 Tazewell Ave., Cape Charles, 23310

Who Can Give Blood?

General guidelines include being in good general health and feeling well, being at least 17 years old (or 16 with parental consent form), weighing at least 110 lbs., and not having donated blood in the last 56 days.

Message from the American Red Cross Concerning COVID-19 & Blood Drives

If you have received a COVID-19 vaccine, knowing the name of the manufacturer is critical in determining your blood donation eligibility. In most cases, there's no deferral time if you receive a vaccine.

The American Red Cross is testing all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies. These results may provide valuable insight into a donor's potential past exposure to this coronavirus, or an antibody response developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Only those feeling healthy and well should present to donate, and appointments are strongly encouraged. Test results will be available to donors via the American Red Cross Blood Donor App or at redcrossblood.org within 1 to 2 weeks.

The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. In accordance with CDC guidelines, all donors are required to wear a face mask. Valve face masks are not permitted. Face shields can be worn in addition to face masks but not as a substitute.

To make an appointment online and for more information, go to redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Roasted Asparagus and Mushrooms



It's almost embarrassing to call this a recipe. Fresh asparagus is everywhere right now – and most markets carry at least a small selection of mushrooms. So basic directions here are – clean, season, roast, and eat! This is a generous side dish – or a light meal in itself. Add spices if you want, or a light balsamic glaze.

- Asparagus, rinsed, dried, and ends trimmed
- Mushrooms – cleaned and sliced thickly
- Olive oil
- Pepper, freshly ground
- Sea salt
- Fresh lemon juice

In a shallow bowl, mix olive oil, salt, pepper, and any other spices, to taste. Thoroughly toss mushrooms, then asparagus, to coat well. Place separately, in single layers, on foil-covered sheet pan. Roast for 9-12 minutes at 400° to desired doneness. Squeeze lemon wedges over all.

Reprinted with permission: The Kitchen Hive
<https://www.talkrealnow.com/category/kitchen-hive/>

Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors and the Northampton County Planning Commission will be holding a Joint Public Hearing on the update to the county's Comprehensive Plan on May 4, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Northampton High School, 16041 Courthouse Road in Eastville. The draft Plan is available for review at the County office, or online at: https://www.co.northampton.va.us/government/departments_elected_offices/planning_permitting_enforcement/planning/comp_plan

Upcoming Primary Elections



This year, there will be statewide elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. The Democratic primary will be held June 8; the Republican party will hold a convention for statewide offices on May 8.

Democratic candidates for these offices are:

- Governor – Jennifer D. Carroll Foy, Jennifer L. McClellan, Justin E. Fairfax, Lee J. Carter, and Terry R. McAuliffe
- Lieutenant Governor – Andria P. McClellan, Elizabeth R. Guzman, Hala S. Ayala, Mark H. Levine, S. “Sam” Rasoul, Sean A. Perryman, and Xavier JaMar Warren
- Attorney General – Jerrauld C. “Jay” Jones and incumbent Mark R. Herring

Republican candidates for these offices are:

- Governor – Amanda Chase, Kirk Cox, Sergio de la Pena, Peter Doran, Octavia L. Johnson, Pete Snyder, and Glenn Youngkin
- Lieutenant Governor – Puneet Ahluwalia, Lance Allen, Glenn Davis, Tim Hugo, Maeve Rigler, and Winsome Sears
- Attorney General – Leslie Haley, Jason Miyares, Chuck Smith, and Jack White

There are 3 Independent candidates for Governor (Princess Blanding, Paul Davis, and Brad Froman), and 1 Independent candidate for Lieutenant Governor (Bobby Junes).

Key dates for the election are:

- April 24 – in-person absentee voting begins (at Registrar’s office)
- May 17 – last day to register or update your registration
- May 28 – last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you
- June 5 – last day for in-person absentee voting

For details on polling locations, visit the Registrars’ websites for Accomack County (<https://www.co.accomack.va.us/departments/registrar>; 757-787-2935) and Northampton County (https://www.co.northampton.va.us/government/departments_elected_offices/voter_registration_and_elections; 757-678-0480).

Remember, all elections matter, and every vote counts – including yours!



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RECYCLING CORNER

What's "Advanced Recycling"?

One bill that was passed by the General Assembly this year (SB1164; HB2173), co-sponsored by Sen. Lynwood Lewis, "defines, for the purposes of the Virginia Waste Management Act, 'advanced recycling' as a manufacturing process for the conversion of post-use polymers and recovered feedstocks into basic hydrocarbon raw materials and other materials." So is this a good thing?

This process, also referred to as chemical recycling, pyrolysis, solvolysis, or depolymerization, "involves putting shredded plastics into an oxygen-free vessel that is heated until the plastic melts and vaporizes; the constituent parts can then be separated out to become fuel, waxes and lubricants, and ... 'feedstocks,'" the basic components to make new plastics and chemicals.¹ According to Craig Cookson of the American Chemistry Council, many plastics (such as resealable food pouches) are unable to be recycled with traditional methods but can be repurposed using these chemical processes.¹

The 2021 bill was meant to clarify that this process is not incineration, and classifies the process as manufacturing, not waste management. One advanced recycling plant is in the works in Virginia; Braven Environmental will build a \$31.7 million chemical recycling plant in Cumberland County. Up to 5 additional facilities could be built in the commonwealth, with each facility serving a 150-mile radius.

Some advocates, including the American Chemistry Council, say that this provides a solution to the growing flood of plastic waste that can't be recycled by conventional means.² Brett Vasse, President and CEO of the Virginia Manufacturers Association, said he "believes advanced recycling will result in less plastics production overall."³

Del. Sally Hudson (D-Charlottesville) questioned whether this could lead to "unintended consequences in the form of continued overproduction of plastics."¹ Many environmental groups agreed. The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives described the process as a "distraction" rather than a solution, noting that "the industry is lobbying for and advancing development of plastic-to-fuel (PTF) facilities that will only make the plastic crisis worse while diverting public and private investment dollars away from real solutions."¹ Zach Huntington, with the nonprofit Clean Fairfax, noted that advanced recycling is "addressing a symptom without getting to the cause," i.e., overproduction of plastics. He added that there are few

See **Advanced Recycling**, cont'd on p. 9

Keeping Track

Buying or Selling Flood-Prone Property

Waterfront property is a hot commodity in both Eastern Shore counties. Buyers don't always know where to look or whom to ask about flooding risks – if they even think about flooding or inundation on the property of their dreams. Sellers have not been legally required to inform buyers of those risks. Both counties have information on their websites that either warns buyers of the potential hazards of building or buying in a flood-prone area (Accomack¹) or provide data and maps to show exactly where a buyer might expect flooding or eventual inundation (Northampton²).

For years, there have been proposals in the General Assembly to require mandatory disclosure – requiring all home-sellers to proactively disclose any flood risks to the property. The Virginia Realtors have opposed those efforts "because of the unintended negative consequences of such a requirement." This year, the Virginia Realtors partnered with Senator Lynwood Lewis to introduce SB 1389 – which, among other things, requires some mandatory seller disclosure. This will be limited to situations where the seller has actual knowledge that the property is designated as a "repetitive-risk loss" structure under FEMA. "Repetitive risk loss" means that 2 or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid on that property by the National Flood Insurance Program within any rolling 10-year period since 1978. This new Code section (§ 55.1-708.2.3)³ will become effective January 1, 2022.

1 <https://www.co.accomack.va.us/home/showpublisheddocument?id=14359> and <https://www.co.accomack.va.us/departments/building-planning-economic-development/planning/coastal-advisory-statement>

2 https://www.co.northampton.va.us/government/departments_elected_offices/planning_permitting_enforcement/floodplain_management

3 <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?212+ful+CHAP0323>

Ed. note: ShoreLine is seeking clarity on the phrase, "any rolling 10-year period since 1978," within the context of the new Code language.

SHARE YOUR RECYCLING SMARTS

Have you found an outlet for recycling that others might not know about? Or products that reduce waste? Perhaps a clever way to reuse/repurpose rather than discard? Our readers would love to learn all about it.

Send your tips to info@cbes.org or call 757-678-7157, and we may include your "trashy" creativity in an upcoming issue.

Expanded Hunting and Fishing on Refuges

After opening 8 National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) to hunting and fishing for the first time in 2020-2021, and expanding hunting and fishing at 89 other NWRs, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) this year is proposing an expansion of the hunting and fishing program at the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Fisherman Island NWRs. In October, the Center for Biological Diversity sued USFWS over last year's rule, claiming that it violated the Endangered Species Act. According to Collette Adkins, the Center's Carnivore Conservation Director, "We've never before seen such a massive expansion of bad hunting practices on these public lands. There's no sound reason for this, and [USFWS] has either ignored or downplayed the many risks that hunting poses to endangered wildlife."

According to the USFWS press release, the proposed "actions will provide additional wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, improve efficiency and management of the refuge's hunting program, and better align with State programs." Specifically, the proposed changes include:

- Expanded hunted species at Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, from white-tailed deer only, to white-tailed deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, quail, raccoon, opossum, fox, coyote, groundhog, European starling, English sparrow, pigeon, waterfowl, rail, snipe, gallinule/moorhen, coot, woodcock, dove, and crow, with an increase in acreage from 250 to 1,211 acres for big and upland game hunting, and 409 acres for migratory bird hunting
- Opening Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR to fishing, from Wise Point Boat Ramp, in accordance with State seasons for each species
- Opening Fisherman Island NWR to hunting for the first time, for migratory bird species (waterfowl, rail, snipe, gallinule/moorhen, coot, woodcock, dove, and crow) on 758 acres
- Expanding the hunting season from 93 to 151 days (September 1 to February 28)

Comments can be submitted to the refuge by mail at 5003 Hallet Circle, Cape Charles, VA 23310, or by email to HuntFishRuleComments@fws.gov (please put "Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR" in the subject line). The comment period will extend 60 days after the rule publishes, which is anticipated for mid-June. Further information, including the full draft plan, is available at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Eastern_Shore_of_Virginia/visit/hunting.html.

Please renew your membership!
The Eastern Shore needs CBES,
and CBES needs you!

Farmers Markets Resume

With masks and social distancing measures in place, several of the area farmers markets will be re-opening soon, with plenty of locally grown food and goodies from local artisans.



- The Chincoteague Farmers & Artisans Market (6309 Church Street; <https://www.chincoteagueca.org/markets.html>) will be open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays from May 29 to October 30, and Wednesdays from June 9 through September 29.
- The Onancock Market will reopen in the lot (corner of Market and Ames Streets) for in-person shopping starting on Saturday, May 1. In addition to shopping on-site, you can still use the Online Market – preorder Sunday through Wednesday for pickup from the vendor at the Market on Saturday morning. Online ordering, hours, and other details are available at <https://onancockmarket.com/>.
- Parksley Farmers & Artisans Market (Parksley Town Pavilion) is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Updates on vendors, dates, and hours can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Parksley-Farmers-Artisans-Market-736925476355317/>.
- Pearl Market, 4198 Latimer Siding Road near the southern tip of Northampton County, offers locally sourced products, seafood, produce, and creations by local artisans. Open Saturdays from 9 AM to noon from May 15 until fall. Information at <https://www.pearlmarketcc.com>.



Advanced Recycling, *cont'd from p. 8*

independent studies of these facilities, and that the greenhouse gases and other emissions from these facilities are largely unknown.¹ Many environmentalists argue that the better plan is to phase out plastic packaging and containers altogether, because of their impact on the climate and the environment.²

- 1 Vogelsang S. Lawmakers are considering adding "advanced recycling" to state code. So what exactly is it? *Virginia Mercury*, January 25, 2021. <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/01/25/lawmakers-are-considering-adding-advanced-recycling-to-state-code-so-what-exactly-is-it/>
- 2 Wheeler TB, Cox J. VA legislators boost funds for Bay cleanup, environmental literacy. *Bay Journal*, March 5, 2021. https://www.bayjournal.com/news/policy/virginia-lawmakers-boost-funds-for-chesapeake-cleanup-environmental-literacy/article_30feb13e-7dfd-11eb-a021-77a9e3018403.html

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
P. O. Box 882
Eastville, VA 23347-0882

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**2021 CBES Bike Tour
October 23**

Have Fun – Volunteer!

Please welcome Mary Ehmann, the new Bike Tour Coordinator, and consider volunteering for this year's event, which starts and finishes at Sunset Beach Resort/ Cape Charles KOA. Help before to the event with set-up, or during the sign-in process – handing out T-shirts, manning rest stops in scenic locales, or serving lunch, all the while sharing laughs with our friendly cyclists.

Give Mary a holler at
cbesbiketours@gmail.com
to find out more.

Community Calendar*

**NOTE: For current status of public meetings, go to the appropriate website or contact by email or phone.*

Accomack County
757-787-5700

www.co.accomack.va.us

- 1st Wed **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Accomac
- 2nd Wed **Planning Commission (PC)**
7 PM, Accomac
- 3rd Tues **School Board**
6:30 PM, Accomac
- 3rd Wed **Board of Supervisors (BOS)**
5 PM, Accomac
- 4th Tues **PC Work Session**
7 PM, Accomac
- 4th Thur **Wetlands Board**
10 AM, Accomac

CBES and Other Activities

- 1st Wed **VIMS Public Seminar**
7:30 PM, Wachapreague
- 3rd Tues **ES Ground Water Committee**
10 AM, Accomac
- 3rd Tues **CBES Board Meeting**
7 PM, Eastville or Belle Haven

Northampton County
757-678-0440

www.co.northampton.va.us

- 1st Tues **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Eastville
- 1st Tues **Planning Commission (PC)**
6 PM, Eastville
- 2nd Tues **Board of Supervisors (BOS)**
6 PM, Eastville
- 2nd Thurs **School Board Work Session**
6 PM, Machipongo
- 3rd Wed **Wetlands Board**
Meets as needed, Eastville
- 3rd Wed **PC Work Session**
2 PM, Eastville
- 4th Tues **BOS Work Session**
5 PM, Eastville
- 4th Thurs **School Board**
6 PM, Machipongo

For membership and other
CBES information:
www.cbes.org