



**ALLIANCE**  
for the Chesapeake Bay

## **CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION CORPS OVERVIEW**

Rebecca Lauver, PA Forests Projects Coordinator

# MY PATH

- **Messiah University 2016-2020**
  - Tree planting while at college with the Alliance
  - Summer internships at Stroud Water Research Center
  - Senior research on stream quality
- **Chesapeake Conservation Corps 2020-2021**
  - Found about the program through tree planting contact at the Alliance
  - Placement with the agriculture and forests team at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's PA office
- **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**
  - Forests Projects Associate, August 2021-December 2021
  - Forests Projects Coordinator January 2021 onward



# CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- **Structure**

- Run by the Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Started in 2010, similar concept to Americorps but Chesapeake Bay watershed region
- Host organization placements
  - Examples: Audubon Naturalist Society, EcoLatinos, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Carrie Murray Nature Center, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland DNR, American Chestnut Land Trust
- Year long program, starts with interview matching process
- Follow-up alumni network





# CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- **Trainings and mentorship throughout the year**

- 5 group trainings
  - Leadership
  - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Justice
  - The Job Search
  - Imposter Syndrome
  - Self-Care & Boundaries
- Peer-to-peer site visits, all hands on deck trainings
- Capstone project
- Mini grant opportunity
- Periodic check-ins to go over work plan and workplace goals
- Corps Pods
- Host organization mentor and CBT mentor support





# CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- **2020-2021 Group**

- Around 35 members
- Virtual trainings with some in person site visit components
- Annual stipend of around \$20,000
- Different than the normal structure since we were mostly virtual



# CAPSTONE- NATIVE PLANT AND POLLINATOR PORTFOLIO

## Mini Grant Project, June 26th 2021: Native Plant Giveaway



### Bee Better Kit Plant Information

#### Meet your native plants:

#### Smooth Beard Tongue (*Penstemon colycousus*)



**Growth Description:** purple flower, forms upright clumps, grows 2-3' tall with a 1-2' spread

**Planting Info:** likes partly sunny sites with moist fertile soil, somewhat drought tolerant, may need watering if in full sun, plant 12-18" apart

**Attracts:** mason bees, digger bees, long tongued bees, small carpenter bees, sweat bees, bumble bees, butterflies, sphinx moths, hummingbirds

#### Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



**Growth Description:** clusters of orange flowers, bushy growth, many-branched stems from a sturdy tap root, 3' tall with 2' spread

**Planting Info:** likes full sun with dry soil, prefers sandy/loamy soils, emerges late from dormancy, space 18-24" apart

**Attracts:** monarch butterflies, other butterflies, leafcutter bees, green sweat bees, small carpenter bees, small resin bees, wasps

#### Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



**Growth Description:** purple flower, forms upright clumps, 2-4' tall with 3' spread

**Planting Info:** likes full sun, grows in wet, mesic, or dry soil and sandy to clay soils, can tolerate drought, will benefit from dividing every 4 years, space 12-18" apart

**Attracts:** bumble bees, long-tongued bees, leafcutter bees, sweat bees, wool carder bees, butterflies, hummingbird moths, hummingbirds

#### Clustered Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum*)



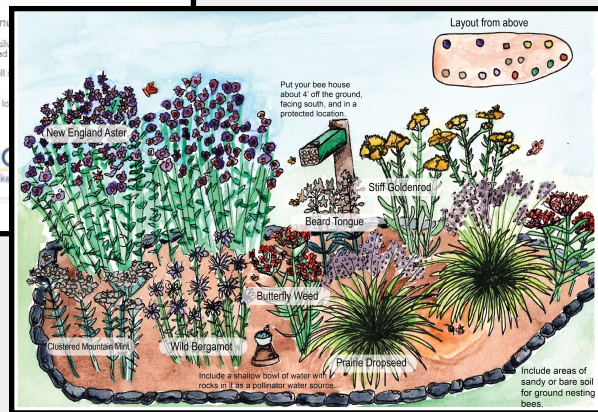
**Growth Description:** white flower, can be branching, 2-3' feet tall with 2' spread

**Planting Info:** likes part shade to full sun, loamy soil, plant 2' apart

**Attracts:** sweat bees, bumble bees, digger bees, wasps, moths, butterflies

50 ALLIANCE  
for the Chesapeake

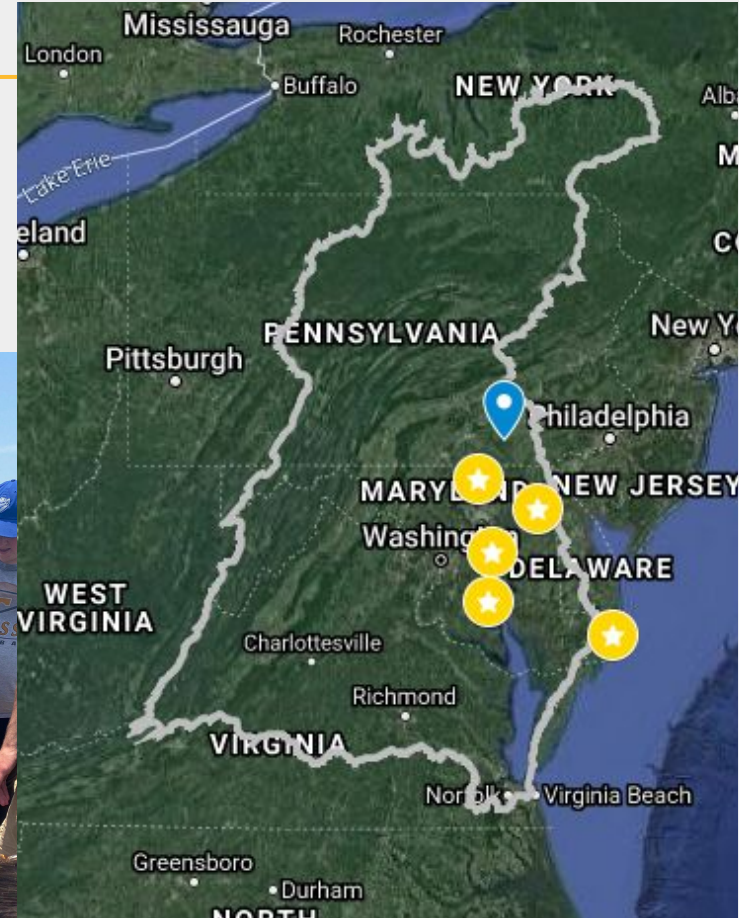
- Checklist
- 1) Bag
  - 2) Folder
  - 3) Bee Hotel
  - 4) 14 plants
  - 5) extra goodies





# CCC SITE VISITS

Assateague Living Shoreline,  
Maryland Coastal Bays Program  
July 15th 2021





# ALLIANCE WORK

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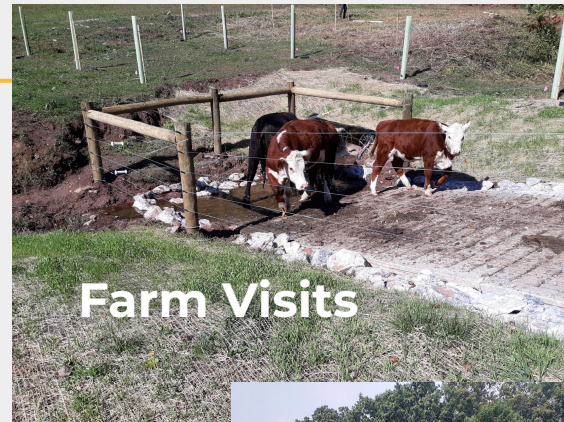
## Tree Plantings



## Livestaking



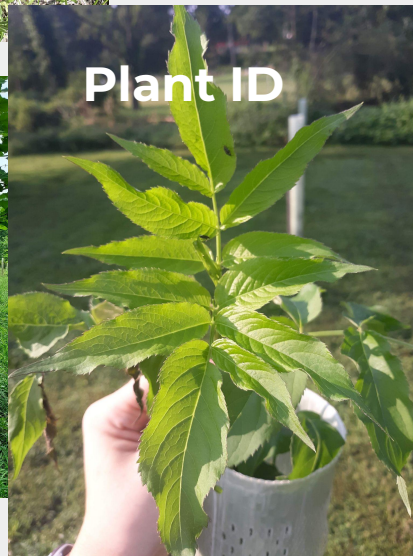
## Farm Visits



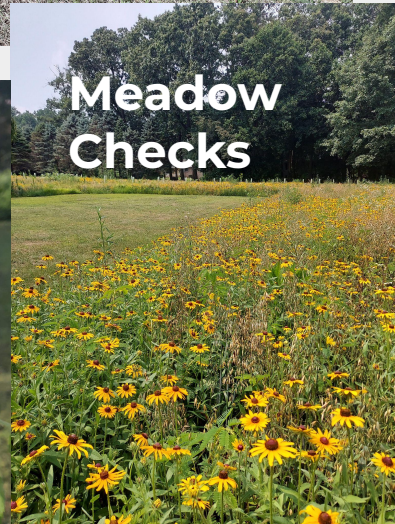
## Tree Planting Maintenance



## Plant ID



## Meadow Checks







# EXPERIENCE REFLECTIONS

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- **Prior connections were very important**
  - College connections, experience at Stroud, connections from own network
- **Having meaningful paid internship experiences with intentional educational opportunities was crucial**
  - Roughly in my field of interest, with respected professionals, and provided opportunities to learn about and try a variety of things in the related field
- **Position with CCC program directly lead to my current job**
  - Gave me a chance to try out this line of work and for the Alliance to see how I fit into the organization
- **Was helpful to be exposed to a variety of experiences through the internship**



**FORESTS**



## **HOW MY CURRENT WORK RELATES TO SOIL HEALTH**



# MY CURRENT WORK

All aspects of getting  
new forests established



AGRICULTURE



FORESTS



GREEN  
INFRASTRUCTURE



STEWARDSHIP  
& ENGAGEMENT





# MY WORK AND SOIL HEALTH

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- **When it comes to soil health, on farm practices are crucial**
  - Cover crops
  - Reduced tillage
  - Rotating crops
- **Riparian forest buffers also help improve soil health and keep soil from leaving the property**
  - Preventing bank erosion
  - Removing excess nutrients from farm runoff
  - Capturing sediment from farm runoff
  - Increases rain infiltration
  - The wider the best, at least 35 feet wide to have desired benefits





# ORIGINAL

# 1 YEAR LATER





# ORIGINAL

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# 3 YEARS LATER





# THANK YOU!

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**Rebecca Lauver**

**PA Forests Projects Coordinator**

**[rlauver@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:rlauver@allianceforthebay.org)**



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**FOR OUR FORESTS. FOR OUR STREAMS. FOR OUR FUTURE.**

