



WSA'S FIELD CONFERENCE  
**An Outdoor Exploration**  
 Saturday, September 18th

**8:30 - 10:00 am** **Field Session 1**

**1A: The Long Game: Restoring the Preserve at Eisenhower** 🌳  
 The Preserve at Eisenhower Golf Course- Crownsville  
*Karen Jennings, Senior Project Manager (Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration)*

Explore the crossroads of sustainability and strategy during an exclusive tour of the ecological renovation at the Preserve at Eisenhower Golf Course. The recently completed golf course restoration project took 2.5 years and features wetland improvements, stream restoration, and a unique design centered on conservation. Executed in tandem by Andrew Green, world-renowned golf course architect, the Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, and Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, the project reduces maintenance inputs and protects the local waterways while increasing the enjoyment of the game.

**1B: Water, Water, Everywhere!**  
 Oyster Harbor and Hillsmere, Annapolis  
*Kim and John Boris, Chris Moore*

Tour two projects and see their unique response to the same issue: too much water on sites that don't drain! In Oyster Harbor, the street next to the playground flooded during heavy rains because of inadequate swales. This is now an established project focused on water storage, drainage, and water quality. In nearby Hillsmere Shores, a different approach to fixing a backyard drainage problem directs MORE water to the site. The project received the BUBBA 2021 Best Residential Project Award for its unconventional solution, featuring a vernal pool and a unique native plant palette.

**1C: Rooted in Nature** 🧑🧑  
 Bates Middle School, Annapolis (location may change)  
*Julie Diequez and Liz Argo-Wilbanks*

Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages can experience the mental, social, and emotional health benefits of nature! During this family-friendly session, explore an outdoor classroom, labyrinth and gathering area designed to give students and staff a place to reflect, calm and center themselves. Learn tips on creating your own outdoor play and relaxation areas and discover techniques to practice mindfulness in nature- you'll find yourself applying these practices each time you step outside!

**1D: Meet the Trees: Getting to Know Your Woods** 🌳  
 Arlington Echo, Millersville  
*Ginger Woolridge*

Join local author, Ginger Woolridge, to explore the magic of the Eastern Deciduous forest. Focusing on the WSA Resilient Tree Species list, Ms. Woolridge will illuminate the unique contribution native trees make to restoration, and highlight design principles and ecological challenges to consider when planting native trees and shrubs. Finally, she will present some of her favorite proven and attractive trees and shrubs, and their uses. This session will include both an information filled presentation from this renowned local tree expert and a walk through the woods at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center.

**1E: Controlling the Chaos: Design Tips and Tools for Native Landscapes**  
 Arlington Echo, Millersville  
*Josh Clark, Tara Mairs and Jennifer Vaccaro*

Whether a conservation landscape or a simple butterfly garden, native landscapes are often met with aesthetic and functional questions. Why do native plants always look so “messy?” Can native plants fit into my strict HOA guidelines? How can I design a landscape with maintenance in mind? This session will give you hands-on tips, tools, and resources to answer these questions and more!

**2A: Pollinator Pathway: What's the Buzz?**

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel

*Sam Droege, Jim MacNicholl, and Lauren Toomey*

Did you know, an Eastern tailed Blue Butterfly can only fly 1000 feet to find food? A bumblebee only travels one mile to forage. We can all help host pollinators in our own yards by planting locally native plants. Visit the Bee Lab at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to learn how native plants and their pollinators are connected from world renowned native bee expert Sam Droege. Join Stewards Elmer Dengler, Jim MacNicholl, and Lauren Toomey to learn how you can be part of the Pollinator Pathway, a regional effort to connect pollinator habitats throughout Maryland. And, participate in a variety of hands-on activities designed to give you tips and tricks for propagating your own pollinator pathway project.

**2B: Turning Faith into Action**

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park

*Bob Royer*

Join the One Water Partnership and Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church to connect faith to environmental action. Congregational leader, Bob Royer, will showcase Wood's commitment to reducing energy use by 60%, and how changes in church infrastructure and habits are helping to combat climate change. Next, stroll through the native gardens on the property to reflect on God's creation through the eyes of several local faith traditions. This outdoor spiritual reflection will be led by people of faith from several religious traditions.

**2C: WSA Kids: Critters, Crafts and Clean Water** 🧑🧒

Arlington Echo, Millersville

*Nan Henry, Denise Peach, Kyle Parr, Rachel Pierson*

Calling all curious kids (and kids at heart) who love to explore! Seine in the headwaters of the Severn River and meet the fish who call it home. Then come back to shore and let the natural world inspire you as you create a one of a kind eco-art project.

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12:00 pm

Picnic Lunch

1:00 pm

WSA Awards

1:30 pm

Explore Echo