

DECAYING LEAVES CONSUME OXYGEN

Leaves that decay on land consume oxygen from the air;  when decaying in the water, leaf decay requires twice as much oxygen, and robs the water of its much needed dissolved oxygen, thus encouraging fish kills and stressing virtually all animal life that lives in the vicinity.

SO, WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT A FEW LEAVES?

**Please consider pledging to remove the leaves from hard surfaces around your yard this Fall. It really does make a difference!**

**Click the link to take the pledge:** [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LeafPledge**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LeafPledge) **Click** [**here**](http://www.aawsa.org/Download-document/70-Leaf-Bag-Coupon.html) **for a discount on yard waste bags from KB True Value.**

**The Watershed Stewards responsible for this project will be at the Ward 1 meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd to introduce themselves and answer any questions!**

[**Meet the Stewards!**](http://www.aawsa.org/Download-document/65-Leaf-Squad-Bios.html)  
**Steward Contacts:**  
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This communication is part of a series! Click [here](http://www.aawsa.org/Download-document/64-Your-leaves-in-the-water-AREN-T-NATURAL.html) to see last week’s message.  
  
If you want to learn more about the Watershed Stewards Academy, please visit their website: [**www.aawsa.org**](http://www.aawsa.org/)

DECAYING LEAVES RELEASE NITROGEN

Anne Arundel County rivers have an average annual yield of 1.81 **tons** of Nitrogen/ sqaure mile. A lot of this   
Nitrogen comes from the break down of leaves in the waterways. This excess of nutrients causes an increased growth of algae blooms. Algae limits the amount of sunlight and reduces the oxygen avaiable for fish, plants, and other aquatic life! Depleted oxygen is the driving force which causes “dead zones” in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The foregoing two articles show how leaves which decay in the water result in a double-whammy in so far as the water quality is concerned.

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