



**Watershed Stewards Academy's Seventh Annual Conference:  
"Spring into Action" February 24, 2018  
Northeast High School**

**8:00 a.m. Annual Steward Meeting and Breakfast: Connecting Stewards to Action**

**9:15-9:30 Registration**

**9:30 a.m. Opening  
Keynote Address, Steve Raabe, Citizen Stewardship Indicator**

**10:30 a.m. Session 1**

**Track A. Nature Knows Best** Rich Mason, *How Healthy Soil Can Help Restore the Chesapeake Bay*

*A presentation and hands on demonstration of how soil provides clean water for people and our waterways. A discussion of how accelerating the use of soil as a restoration tool can have profound benefits for clean water, healthy food production, and climate change. Included will be a primer on soil biology which provides the foundation for the cycling of carbon, nutrients, water, and terrestrial life on our planet.*

**Track B. Detoxing Our Landscapes** Jay Feldman, *Beyond Pesticides*

*What are today's most common pesticides and what alternatives are there to their use. With this information, you will be prepared to protect yourself and the environment from the potential adverse public health and environmental effects associated with the use and misuse of pesticides.*

**Track C. Dynamic Engagement** *Increasing Diverse Engagement through Citizen Stewardship*

*What does diversity, equity and inclusion mean to you? How can we, as a restoration community, make meaningful progress to increase the diversity of those engaged in restoring Anne Arundel County waterways? Have you always wanted to reach out to diverse audiences and just don't know how to get started? Join this dynamic discussion and be part of changing the landscape of citizen engagement.*

**Track D. WSA PRO** Kate Austin, *Getting it Right: Rain Garden Retrofits in Public Spaces*

*Six years into Lancaster's Green Infrastructure Plan, inspections, maintenance, and retrofits are key to keeping the City's GI practices functioning at optimum. Ms. Austin will present on the challenges of operating and maintaining GI practices in parks, right of ways, and public properties and opportunities to improve upon previously implemented designs. This session will provide design, operation, and corrective maintenance case studies of bioretention practices built on public land in the City of Lancaster, including rain gardens and vegetated curb extensions.*

**11:45 a.m. Session 2**

**Track A. Nature Knows Best** Lincoln Smith, *Restore Ecosystems & Produce Food with Forest Gardens*

*Forest gardens produce an abundance of food and supplies while restoring a healthy forest ecosystem. In this workshop, we will review the principles of forest gardening with examples from Forested's 10-acre research site in Bowie, MD. Lincoln will discuss forest garden methods, some of the great plants you can grow, and how to take care of them. Learn from Lincoln's 10 years of forest garden successes and learning experiences.*

**Track A2. Nature Knows Best** Frank Rogers, *Trees 101*

*What healthful impacts can a tree have? Can one tree in the city compare to a forest of trees? Trees provide oxygen and shade but you might be surprised at all their benefits. Trees fight free radicals, stave off asthmas, improve cognitive skills, and more. Trees are the answer!*

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**Track C. Dynamic Engagement** Steve Raabe, *Citizen Stewardship Indicator*

*Dig deep into the behaviors and motivations of the citizens of Anne Arundel County as understood through a special Anne Arundel County fielding of the Citizen Stewardship Indicator. How does citizen stewardship in Anne Arundel County compare to the rest of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed? How can this data inform your work on the community level to change behaviors and increase stewardship practices?*

**Track D: WSA PRO** EQR, Liam O'Meara, *Schools of Thought: A Review of Stream Restoration Design Approaches from a Builder's Perspective*

*This is a review and discussion of the most commonly employed approaches to stream restoration in our region today from the perspective of someone who implements them. Design practitioners largely have the same goal, but there are several different philosophies when it comes to the best method for improving the natural function of streams. Surprisingly, in relatively small field, these can be radically different views and science has yet to prove which is most optimal. We'll review Natural Channel Design (NCD), Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (RSC), Legacy Sediment Removal (LSR), and Passive Restoration/Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs), while briefly looking at examples of each approach.*

**12:45 p.m. Lunch**  
**Award Program**

**1:45 p.m. Expanded Gallery and Exhibit Walk** in Zones

- **Zone #1: Funder Office Hours**
- **Zone #2: Vendors, sponsors and eco market place**
- **Zone #3: The Doctor is In: Ask an Expert**
- **Zone #4: Engagement tools and techniques**
- **Zone # 5: GIS Update**

**3:00 p.m. Session 3**

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**Track C. Dynamic Engagement** *Let's Do Something BIG: Lessons learned from the trenches of large project implementation.*

*Stewards Betsy Love and Molly LaChapelle are tackling projects that challenge even the most seasoned restoration professionals. Learn how they and their partners from Underwood and Associates, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, WSA, and their communities have navigated the pitfalls of community engagement, permitting and project management.*

**Track D. WSA PRO** Erik Michelsen, *Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and YOU*

*Learn about the steps being taken to improve Anne Arundel County's water resources. We'll detail the restoration, implementation, and ecological evaluation work associated with the County's clean water obligations under its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum daily Load (TMDL).*

**4:15 pm      Closing Remarks: Spring into Action!**

**After Party**