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## Weekly Watershed Announcements July 5, 2019

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Thank you for your continued support of the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT)!

If you have information that you would like shared in the MJRT weekly announcements, please send it to [dur24@henrico.us](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In the News

#### CBF calls on EPA to hold states accountable to Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint

*(Augusta Free Press)*



The EPA recently released its evaluation of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland's draft Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans.

Once final, these plans will provide the roadmap for each state to meet its commitments to reduce pollution under the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint by 2025. The EPA is a critical part of the saving the Bay because it provides oversight and enforcement of the Blueprint. If any jurisdiction fails to take the appropriate actions, EPA has promised to hold them accountable.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

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#### House OKs \$85 million for Chesapeake Bay Program

*(Times Record)*



Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation commended the U.S. House of Representatives for passing a government funding bill that includes increased federal funds for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

"As chairman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, I commend the House for agreeing to increase federal funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program," Hogan said in a written statement. "Since March, we have been fighting the federal administration's attempts to make cuts to the program. The Chesapeake Bay is our state's greatest natural asset, which is why over the last five years, we've invested \$5 billion in wide-ranging restoration efforts; as a result, we have seen marked improvements in the Bay's health."

To read the full article, click [here](#).

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#### Commonwealth of Virginia Takes Landmark Action

*(Department of Environmental Quality)*



RICHMOND, VA - At its meeting in Richmond on June 27, the State Water Control Board (SWCB) approved amendments proposed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to the Water Quality Standards Regulation (9 VAC25-260-310 (bb)) regarding the numeric chlorophyll-a criteria applicable to the tidal James River. The new regulation, subject to final approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), delineates updated criteria and revised assessment methodologies for James River chlorophyll.

High levels of chlorophyll, the green pigment in microscopic plants or algae, may indicate nutrient over-enrichment and can lead to other problems such as low dissolved oxygen and potentially harmful algae blooms that can impact aquatic life and public health.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

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### **Bay-friendly gardening in Richmond can improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay**

*(Richmond Times-Dispatch)*



You may not live near the Chesapeake Bay, but what you do directly affects it - as does what you do or don't plant. Efforts to protect and restore the bay are not new, but some planting practices are.

"We have this idea in the Mid-Atlantic region that an ornamental landscape must have rows of plants surrounded by mulch," said Elizabeth Fogel, senior horticulturist at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Henrico County. "That's not a natural way to grow, and it's not the most water-friendly landscaping."

To read the full article by Lynn Jackson Kirk, click [here](#).

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### **For the Glorious Fourth, the James River eagles have landed (and nested)**

*(William and Mary News & Media)*



The Center for Conservation Biology has compiled 2019 survey results for bald eagles nesting along the James River.

CCB Director Bryan D. Watts reports that the breeding population has increased to 302 pairs, making the James the most significant tributary for eagles throughout the Commonwealth.

To read the full article by the Center for Conservation Biology, click [here](#).

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### **Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Population Went Up 60% Since 2018, Report Says**

*(CBS Baltimore)*



The blue crab population in the Chesapeake Bay has increased nearly 60% since 2018, a new report says- meaning you can dig into 60% more crabs over Fourth of July weekend!

The annual Blue Crab Advisory Report released Tuesday by the Chesapeake Bay program and developed by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee, found that the overall blue crab population is not depleted and is not being overfished. It increased from 372 million in 2018 to 594 million in 2019.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

**Save the Date: Virginia Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference**  
(February 26-28, 2020)



This year's conference theme "EE for EverybodEE" is a celebration and call to action to make environmental education accessible to everyone in the Commonwealth. Featuring workshops, networking, field trips and a day and a half of concurrent sessions VAAE 2020 promises to be our most exciting conference yet!

The 2020 Virginia Environmental Education Conference will be held at the Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center at Sweet Briar College in Amherst, Virginia from Wednesday, February 26th to Friday, February 28th.

For more information, go to <https://vaeewildapricot.org/VAEE2020/>.

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