



# News from The Green Team

By Barbara Kete

Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/cbgreenteam/>) and visit our web page (<http://www.chesapeake-beach.md.us/GT.htm>)

Now that winter is finally fading into memory it's time to THINK GREEN! We all know how important it is to the health of our Bay to control storm water run-off and stop excess nutrients from entering waterways. An excellent way to do this is to replace grass and impermeable surfaces with native plants in a buffer garden. Please see Master Gardener Melanie Crowder's article below on the development of the town's first buffer garden, and how to get your own garden certified as "Bay-Wise".

Interested in making your own rain barrel? So many folks expressed an interest in winning a rain barrel or learning how to make their own at last summer's Taste the Beaches festival that we will be sponsoring a workshop at the Northeast Community Center on May 6th. Check out this link for more information or to register: <https://extension.umd.edu/events/sun-2018-05-06-1130-north-beach-and-chesapeake-beach-rain-barrel-workshop-may-6-2018>

Want to start eating better? Check out Brandy Summerlin's news about a new CSA drop-off here in town this summer.

And, of course, don't miss Dr. Rasmussen's article on natural beach replenishment. 

# Town Buffer Garden and Bay-Wise Tips

By Melanie Crowder, Master Gardener

A Buffer Garden is simply a landscaped area designed to reduce pollution and improve the environment. Buffer Gardens are an excellent way to help us be good stewards of our Bay and watershed. Buffer Gardens reduce storm water run-off, prevent soil erosion, absorb excess nutrients before they reach the Bay, and provide a habitat for local wildlife.

The simplest way to start your own buffer garden is to identify an area where lawn or bare space can be replaced with native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Slopes, drainage ditches, and standing bodies of water

are excellent locations. Planting in these areas stabilizes the soil, filters rain water, and slows runoff.

The Green Team will be planting a town Buffer Garden next to Kellam Field in May 2018. Keep an eye out for the garden as it develops and look for more information in "Chesapeake Beach Happenings" and the Green Team Facebook page and web site.

One of the goals of the Green Team is to encourage homeowners to learn Bay friendly yard care practices. Check out this short video about Bay-wise

gardening: <https://maryland-grows.umd.edu/2018/01/10/5-steps-to-a-chesapeake-bay-friendly-landscape/>

To invite a member of the Calvert County Master Gardeners to visit your yard for

a free consultation, please contact Liz Laher at the University of Maryland Extension Calvert County office at 410-535-3662 or e-mail [llaher@umd.edu](mailto:llaher@umd.edu). 



# The First International Grow Rack Coming Soon to Chesapeake Beach

By Brandy Summerlin

Grow Free carts are a concept created by Andrew Barker and his community. The movement spread and has a large following in many communities across Australia. The concept works a little like ‘give a penny take a penny’ but with sustainable gardening and local food systems. Their motto is simple: “Take What You Need, Give What You Can”.

The Chesapeake Beach Green Team is sponsoring a Grow Free site for residents of Chesapeake Beach. Community members are

invited to drop off extra seeds from their garden, seedlings, excess produce from their garden, handmade toilet paper roll seedling starters, clean canning jars, and more. Instructions and an outline of do’s and don’ts will be provided when the rack is operational. Any resident will be able to stop by and pick up items that they need or find useful. For updates about the Chesapeake Beach Grow Free site visit our Facebook page or check out web site. (More information on Grow Free can be found at: <http://www.growfree.org.au>) 

# Community Supported Agriculture

By Brandy Summerlin

The Green Team is proud to announce our coordination with Floating Lotus Farmstead as a way to bring local, nutritious, sustainably grown produce to the community! CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) are systems in which farmers sell shares of their upcoming crops before the season begins. Throughout the growing season at a predetermined time, each week or bi-weekly, the farmers provide seasonal local produce to CSA members. That way, farmers are able to better plan their crops for the year and only plant what is needed and not grow more than they can sell. Less waste during the process and paying ahead allow the crops to be sold at a lesser overall rate

since waste is not an issue. A benefit to the CSA member is that the crops are distributed at the freshest possible state. Crops are picked and distributed quickly without sitting around and waiting for a buyer.

If you have limited time or space for a garden of your own CSAs could prove to be an excellent option for you to get the homegrown taste without the time, effort, and space.

For more information on how Floating Lotus Farmstead's CSA works, deadlines, or to register for your share for the Spring/Summer/Fall/ Full Season please check out their website <https://www.floatinglotusfarmstead.com/csa-program>. 🌱

# Seasons of Our Bay and Beach

By Dr. Kenneth Rasmussen

Springtime rains and run-off, decreasing water-clarity due to soil particles, and nutrient-fed summertime plankton blooms—these are all unfortunate parts of the coming months for the Chesapeake Bay. Do what you can to be “Bay-Wise”—try to limit your use of lawn fertilizers (and never before heavy rains

are expected), and consider a buffer garden to cut down on your runoff.

Did you know that most of Chesapeake Beach’s waterfront is “armored,” and therefore no longer provides a natural and “living” beach? That’s just one of the ways in which Brownies Beach is so exceptional and precious!



What do you see in these pictures of Brownies Beach?



We see natural beach-replenishment! Cycles of freeze and thaw in the Brownies cliff-face at this time of year supply much-needed sand to the recreational beach below it. Southerly breezes, more common in summer, push these sediments (the “lifeblood” of any beach) north, beyond our new foot-bridge, to where they are in shortest supply. Sounds

like a great system, no? But be advised: the natural “spalling” of cliff-side layers at the base makes upper layers less stable and more prone to collapse. No walking under overhangs, ever—but especially at this time of year when our beach is being “fed”! 🌿