

**2017 Mid Atlantic Environmental Literacy Forum**

# November 29-30, 2017, National Conservation Training Center

**Purpose:** To establish a cadre of Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Ambassadors who have the understanding and skills to advocate for and support the development of state and local environmental literacy programming that includes MWEEs.

# Wednesday, November 29th: What exactly is a MWEE and why is it important?

**9:00 Registration and Coffee**

**9:30 Opening Session (Auditorium)**

* Welcome and Introductions *(Shannon Sprague, NOAA)*
* Chesapeake Bay Program Environmental Literacy Goal *(Kristin Saunders, UMCES)*
* Washington County Public Schools Student Testimonials
* Timeline *(Tom Ackerman, Chesapeake Bay Foundation)*

# 10:30 BREAK

**11:00 Recognizing the MWEE as a Powerful Educational Tool (Auditorium)**

Session Goal: MWEEs describe a research based approach to teaching and learning. In this session, we will discuss the evidence based ways in which MWEEs support student engagement, academic achievement, 21st century skill development, and environmental stewardship while improving evidence based decision making.

*(Facilitators: Donna Balado/Amy Green/Bart Merrick)*

# LUNCH

**1:00 Understanding the MWEE (Auditorium)**

Session Goal: Forum participants will have a focused conversation about the essential elements and supporting practices of the MWEE, which will help to develop an in-depth and shared understanding of these elements and how they support each other. *(Facilitators: Donna Balado/Amy Green/Bart Merrick)*

# 5:00 Adjourn

**6:00 Dinner**

**7:00 Informal Meet Up (Lounge)**

**Thursday, November 30th: How do I design MWEEs and advocate for their use?**

***Note: For day 2, participants will be meeting in two separate break out groups (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). Please check your badge for which break out groups you are assigned to.***

# 8:30 Designing and Implementing a MWEE

Session Goal: This session will focus on familiarizing participants with the tools from the MWEE Guide so they can effectively use the tools and assist others in using them.

Speakers will include Candace Lutzow-Felling from Blandy Farm and Joe Davis from Baltimore County Public Schools who will highlight how they have approached the development and implementation of MWEEs.

**BREAK OUT 2A: Instructional East 105** (*Facilitator: Amy Green)*

**BREAK OUT 2B: Instructional East 111** *(Facilitator: Bart Merrick)*

# LUNCH

**1:00 Supporting a MWEE: Role of Ambassadors in Advancing MWEEs State level coordination**

**BREAK OUT 2C: Instructional East 105**

Session Goal: During this session, participants will use the collective impact framework to understand state efforts to advance environmental literacy and MWEE implementation. The group will discuss actions participants and the Chesapeake Bay Program can take to assist state efforts. *(Facilitators: Shannon Sprague/Tom Ackerman)*

# Systemic Implementation in School Districts BREAK OUT 2D: Instructional East 111

Session Goal: During this session, participants will explore strategies school districts are taking to implement MWEEs. Model programs and best practices will be discussed with an eye towards actions participants can take to advance MWEE implementation and how the Chesapeake Bay Program can prioritize resources to assist district efforts.

*(Facilitators: Kevin Schabow/Tara Baker)*

# 3:00 Next Steps/Discussion Time 4:00 Adjourn

