

**Critical Area Commission
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays
& Maryland Coastal Training Program**

**Improving Shoreline Habitat and Buffer Functions
Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center
Queenstown, MD
May 16, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:40	Welcome and Introductions <i>Mary Owens</i>
9:45 – 10:20	Review of the Buffer Regulations and Recent Changes <i>Lisa Hoerger- Critical Area Commission</i> The Buffer regulations were revised last year, and several changes were made to provide additional flexibility for local governments. As the regulations are being implemented, innovative approaches are creating opportunities to improve implementation. This session will provide an overview of the regulations with emphasis on the recent changes and will cover the important definitions, Buffer delineation and expansion, Buffer planting, Buffer maintenance, and enforcement. Mitigation ratios, plant stocking tables, vegetation type credits, and strategies for dealing with Buffer establishment and mitigation on difficult sites will be discussed.
10:20 – 10:30	Break and Walk to Field Sessions
10:30 – 11:05	Field Discussion of Functioning Buffers <i>LeeAnne Chandler-Critical Area Commission</i> This session will involve a walking tour of the shoreline and general discussion about the Buffer and Buffer functions. The instructor will discuss the importance of structural diversity and the canopy, understory, shrub, and herbaceous layers. Participants will see what a fully forested Buffer looks like and will learn how to enhance and supplement a Buffer that is not fully forested. Other topics to be addressed will include the types of activities that can be permitted with a Simplified Buffer Management Plan and how to address long term management and maintenance of the Buffer.
11:05 – 11:50	Identifying and Addressing Invasive Species <i>Kerrie Kyde, Wildlife and Heritage Service - DNR</i> Invasive species are prevalent throughout the Critical Area and can be particularly difficult to control when they are located within the Buffer. Frequently, the control and eradication of invasive species are included in Buffer Management Plans, yet many homeowners aren't sure of the best methods to deal with them. This field session will cover some of the most common invasive species and their basic growth patterns and habits. Treatment and removal strategies and methods will be

covered. Attendees will also learn ways to avoid introducing and promoting the spread of invasive species.

11:50 – 12:30 Lunch & Networking Opportunity (*Provided*)

12:30 – 1:20 Using the New “Green Book for the Buffer”

Mary Owens and Julie Roberts-Critical Area Commission

The Critical Area Commission recently collaborated with Adkins Arboretum to develop and print the *Green Book for the Buffer, An Illustrated Guide to Planting at the Shoreline*. This book is a companion publication to *The Green Book for the Bay*, and the new publication focuses on the Buffer. This session will provide a summary of the information in the book which includes general information about the importance of the Buffer, how the Buffer is measured, the different types of Buffer Management Plans, and sample Buffer Management Plans. The instructor will demonstrate how local governments can work with homeowners to use the various “Buffer Garden Plans” to prepare a Simplified or Minor Buffer Management Plan and meet the Buffer planting requirements.

1:20 – 1:30 Break and Drive to Field Session

1:30 – 2:15 Living Shorelines – Designing for the Site

Kevin Smith, Chesapeake & Coastal Service - DNR

New regulations for controlling shoreline erosion have recently become effective, and the regulations require nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures that preserve the natural environment, such as marsh creation or other living shoreline practices. This session will cover how living shoreline practices and techniques should be designed for the specific site conditions and what factors should be considered when evaluating proposed designs. The integration of living shoreline design with Buffer Management Plans will be addressed including species selection, shading, and bank grading.

2:15 – 2:30 Questions and Answers, Wrap-Up, and Workshop Survey