

SHARK BITES

Slicing and dicing info into "bite" sized pieces!

OUR TOP PICKS

We are striving to excite, engage and enrich your understanding of YOUR connection to local waterways, no matter where you live.

At the core of all that we do is a passion to inspire others to help leave this world a better place, be the change to protect our planet, and instill a love and wonder of the natural world in you and future generations.



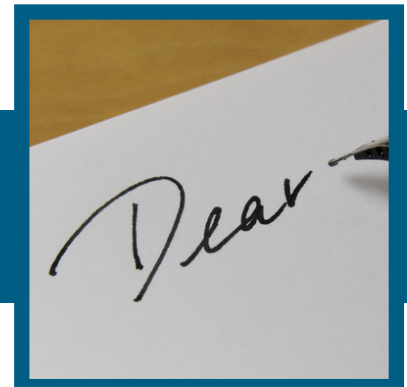
CHRONIC FLOODING

What is it? Where does it come from? Can it be predicted?



ROCKFISH - STATE FISH IN PERIL?!

Learn more about the status of Maryland's state fish, the rockfish.



DEAR SHARK BLUE CRABS

You have questions, we have answers! We will reply to your most pressing queries about our local waterways!

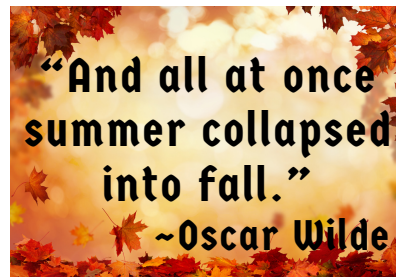


CHRONIC FLOODING BASICS & WHERE IT COMES FROM

BY JOSALYN BONNEY, EDITOR

If you live in or visit Annapolis, you've most likely experienced how heavy precipitation affects the city. And if you've been downtown during or in the aftermath of a severe rainstorm, you've probably seen the mess that flooded streets have caused. Blocked roads due to an overflow of water have become a more common occurrence in recent years. Even within my lifetime of twenty-three years, I've seen how quickly things have changed. In the early 2000's, only tropical storms or nor'easters could flood the streets. Now, it seems that you can't drive downtown without hydroplaning after a hard rain.

[Read more...](#)



Sponsor Showcase

HIMMEL'S LANDSCAPE & GARDEN CENTER
ELIZABETH ELLIOTT, OWNER

In what way did CSH2O's mission prompt you to become partners?

We think it's very fitting for a garden center and an environmentally focused non-profit that share space in the community to come together in our efforts to make a positive and lasting impact.

Why is CSH2O's work so important to your business and how does their mission align with yours?

Himmel's Mission is 'Helping our neighbors build a better, healthier and more beautiful world', and one of our core values is educating young people on the beauty and significance of the Chesapeake Bay and watershed. What better way to fulfill this mission than by partnering with a local organization whose goals align so closely with our own!

What have been the biggest rewards and benefits to supporting a local non-profit?

The greatest reward to partnering with CSH2O is observing how their hands-on approach benefits local youth. The intangible benefits -- the smiles and laughter, the light-bulb moments -- are the most meaningful, and we are looking forward to supporting future events and activities.



ROCKFISH - STATE FISH IN PERIL?!

BY BRYAN KENT GOMES, CSH2O ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The striped bass, Maryland's State Fish, is sometimes better known locally in our Bay's watershed as a rockfish. It's a nickname they've acquired because they spend much of their time over and around the oyster reefs or oyster "rocks" in the Chesapeake (spoiler alert – this is where the habitat and, therefore, the food is). The fish has other regional nicknames including "schoolies", "cows", and "linesiders". And in New England, where George Gavutis Jr., US Fish and Wildlife Service retiree fly fishes for them, they are known as "stripers".

It is (maybe more like "was") an abundant fish throughout the Chesapeake Bay. This is because the striped bass is anadromous, meaning it leaves the saltwater environment where it spends most of its adult life and travels upstream to fresher water portions of rivers to spawn each April. Rockfish return to the same rivers where they were spawned to reproduce as well.

[Read more...](#)



Fall Vibes

"Leaf" the Leaves!

Stop! Don't rake those leaves just yet! Did you know that insects and other critters rely on the decaying leaves for warmth and protection over the winter?

So, put down that rake and let the leaves be!

Learn more [HERE!](#)



Eat Seasonally & Locally

Get your Fall produce from local farmers markets. Check out [Fruitful Farmers](#) at Himmel's on weekends.

Try out this Fall recipe [Curried Butternut Squash Soup](#).

Share your favorite Fall dish with us!



Calling all TEACHERS

We're ready to visit your classrooms! Beat the rush and schedule your environmental education programs today!

[Contact Us](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Himmel's Fall Fest

Saturday, 10/8 10:00-1:00 PM



Chesapeake Cluster Trunk Or Treat

Saturday, 10/22 3:00 - 6:00 PM



Giving Tuesday

All Day 11/29

Dear Shark,

I heard that on July 15th, the size limit to keep Blue Crabs went from 5" to 5.25" and that that the latest survey showed that blue crab numbers are at the lowest in 33 years. Yikes - what's going on with this iconic Bay animal?

Sincerely, A Bay-Friendly Crabber

Answer provided by: Jen Aiken, CSH2O Environmental Educator

Dear Bay-Friendly Crabber,

Great question...And you're not the first to ask! This amazing arthropod is a big part of Maryland's seafood industry and a summertime favorite for Marylanders and tourists alike. With that being said, the 2022 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which provides an annual estimate of the population of blue crabs in the Bay and its tributaries, estimated that the total crab population is 227 million. While that number may sound high, according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation it's actually the lowest number recorded in the survey's 33-year history. In Maryland, blue crabs must be 5" from one lateral spine to the other (tip to tip) in order to be "keepers".

[Read more...](#)



**Keeping
Up**
WITH THE
CLEARSHARKIANS



**CSH2O Summer Photo
Contest**

Congratulations to the winners.
See page 6.

**CSH2O Team Members were
busy bees this summer!**

From Pasadena to the Eastern Shore, our team engaged with camps, libraries and community groups. We also had a summer intern who learned about water quality testing. And, we relaxed with Shark Yoga and Full Moon Paddle events. Finally, we must not forget about the osprey banding experience at Patuxent River Park!

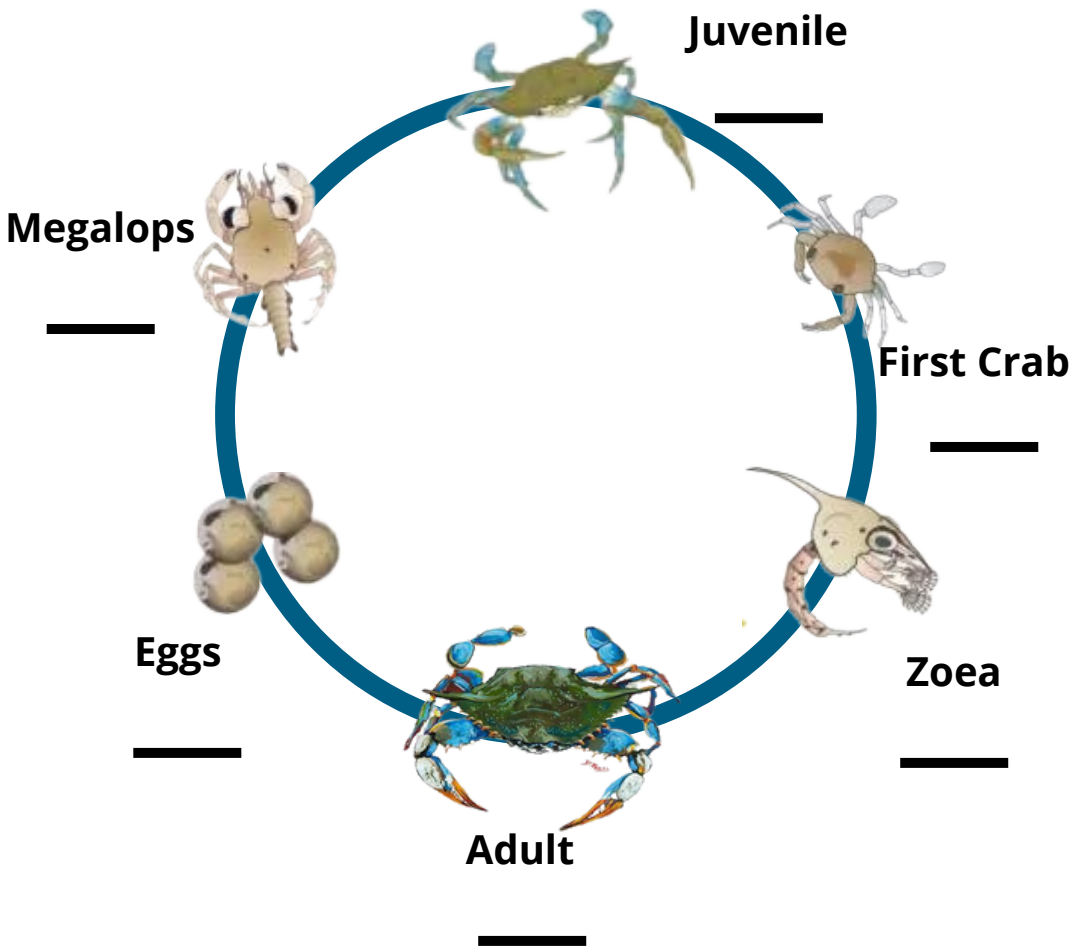
**Congrats to Bryan Kent
Gomes, CSH2O
Environmental Educator
2022 Jan Hollman
Environmental Education
Award Recipient**
Read More [HERE](#).



KIDS KORNER

Uh Oh! Something's not quite right & this blue crab's life cycle is out of order!

Help this cool crustacean complete it's life by numbering their stages in order 1 - 6!



Learn More about about blue crabs & their life cycle [HERE!](#)

Answers: #1 - eggs, #2 - zoea, #3 - megalops, #4 - first crab, #5 - juvenile, #6 - adult



SHARE YOUR
PICTURE WITH US



HERE ARE TWO OF OUR FAVORITE CRAFTS TO DO USING FALL LEAVES

Leaf Rubbings

1. Grab a variety of freshly fallen leaves, crayons, drawing paper & wax paper.
2. Put a few leaves on the wax paper and put the drawing paper over that. Then use a red, yellow, orange and/or brown crayon to rub across the drawing paper.
3. Once finished you can even cut out the leaves to hang throughout your home instead of using plastic leaves.

Watch "How-To" [HERE](#)

Leaf Confetti

Did you know traditional confetti is made out of harmful microplastics? Instead use old leaves and a hole puncher to make your own eco-friendly confetti!



CSH20 SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

FIRST PLACE
SHANA STERKIN, ELLICOTT CITY, MD
“POLLINATOR PARTY”



SECOND PLACE
TIM BOND, PASADENA, MD
“FOGGY BAY BRIDGE”



THIRD PLACE
PAM DURKIN, BALA CYNWYD, PA
“REFLECTION”

