



Spring 2023

Dear Friend of the Corsica River,

As we all know, it has been a disruptive few years. We managed to issue our restoration report in December of 2020. You can find the report on our website www.corsicariverconservancy.org. The onset of the COVID quarantine forced cancellation of CRC's planned 2020 community meeting and several activities in 2020 and 2021. Weather canceled the 2022 Corsica River Day for the first time in 15 years. CRC and the County are looking forward to this year's **Corsica River Day on Saturday, October 7th from Noon to 4pm** at Ship Point on the Corsica - the Corsica River Yacht Club location. Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us for a fun and informative afternoon for the whole family at a beautiful location and what we trust will be a gorgeous Fall day at Conquest Preserve.

Land Use and Long-term Planning

On the administrative front, the County Commissioners approved a long-range Comprehensive Plan in May of last year including 10-year goals for land use and natural resource protection. We viewed that plan as potentially very consequential for the Corsica as well as other watersheds and actively participated throughout the process. The Town of Centreville is conducting a similar review and will be finalizing its long term plan. Assumptions about future growth and solutions to waste water treatment constraints will be key to future land use decisions. CRC's written comments to the County and the Town on these plans can be viewed on our website.

CRC also objected to a proposed amendment to the County code that would weaken current woodlands protections. QAC Planning staff are currently revising its code of regulations regarding woodlands and lands in the critical area. Other issues that CRC has recently commented on include

support for the environmental components of the proposed Carter Farm development in Centreville and objection to the proposed expansion of the Town's commercial lot size to allow a large Royal Farms. Together with our environmental partners, we will continue to track issues and development proposals that can impact the watershed and to advocate for conservation of our treasured natural resources.

As we tracked and participated in the development of Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan last year, it became clear that pressures for development are increasingly coming into conflict with natural resource protection. As the County is nearing its wastewater treatment limits, more of future development will be in its towns. The impact on Centreville is two-fold. The town itself is approaching limits on wastewater treatment, that will require costly upgrades. And there will be more pressure on sensitive ecological areas. We will continue to weigh in as development issues present themselves and to ask you to make your voices heard.

Water Quality

Monitoring of the Corsica shows that water quality results are mixed. The Shore Rivers 2021 Water Quality Report gave the Corsica an overall health grade of D+. A continuing challenge is that the upper portion of the tidal Corsica is shallow. The water volume in this section can't handle the excessive nutrients from runoff resulting in algae blooms that block light and degrade water quality. On the other hand, water quality in the non-tidal streams of the Corsica historically has been good. Moreover, recent study of these streams shows constant and accelerating improvement. Even in the tidal mainstem of the river, water quality indicators, while low, have been steadily improving.

Analysis of the results of Shore Rivers 2022 monitoring are not yet available and bacteria is not figured into their grading system. However, bacteria levels that were high in the Corsica in 2021 substantially decreased in 2022. With funding, DNA source bacteria testing and expanded location sampling will help identify the additional information needed to prioritize corrective actions. In addition to ShoreRivers testing,

CRC was successful in getting Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to expand its ongoing non-tidal water quality monitoring to include bacteria testing. One action already taken for the 2023 boating season is that the Town has moved the boat pump out station to a more convenient and prominent area at the landing.

Working With Partners

Significantly, CRC remains instrumental to the continuing cooperative effort of the Town, the County, Shorerivers, local and state agencies including DNR, MDE, and the Cooperative Extension Service and other non-profits through the Corsica Implementers Group. This group was formed during the early stage of the Corsica restoration process and has operated continuously for over fifteen years to obtain funding, track progress, and initiate a host of on the ground improvements that enhance the health and vitality of the Corsica watershed. Over the last year we have advocated for better identification of sources of pollution in the Corsica, ecologically effective use of the State-owned property near Millstream Park, effective stormwater management and wastewater treatment, and growing the tree canopy and habitat in the watershed.

How You Can Make a Difference

We encourage all who live, recreate, or just enjoy being in the Corsica Watershed to take a part in its restoration. If you own or operate a farm and have not yet taken advantage of the cover crop, other best management practices (BMPs) or available conservation easements assistance, contact our local Soil Conservation District (SCD) office (410-758-3136).

If you own or rent a home, take a close look at how rain water flows from your roof, driveways or surrounding slopes. If you are interested in planting trees on your property, contact the DNR Forestry Office in Centreville (410-819-4120) for help. Remember that Maryland's biggest "crop" is our lawns. Be as parsimonious as possible in applying fertilizer and pesticides and abide by the law. Continue to consult our website and your helpful Extension Service office (410-758-0166) for tips and guidance. The latter can provide 'Baywise' program materials to help you.

Mulch, compost, or take your yard waste to the dump. Clippings add nutrients that increase algae and deplete oxygen needed for aquatic vegetation. When you shop, take your own bag. And volunteer to help with trash pickups. **Our next spring stream clean will be on April 2nd starting at 1 pm. Meet up at the town wharf.**

Talk with your neighbors about the many ways you can individually or collectively improve the watershed in your own neighborhoods. Our website contains events, news, and resource pages that can help direct you.

Your commitment to CRC strengthens our voice in local decisionmaking and helps us obtain project funding. We hope that you will renew your membership, follow us on our Facebook and Instagram, participate in our volunteer activities, respond to action alerts, and contribute financially. Send us your photos from around the Corsica and we will post them.

CRC continues to be an all-volunteer non-profit organization. We do not have staff or facilities to support. All of our efforts go towards the mission of restoring and conserving. **You can renew your membership and donate at www.corsicariverconservancy.org. Click on the “Donate Now” button and follow the instructions.** If you prefer, you can mail in your donation/renewal to PO Box 235, Centreville, MD 21617. We need and appreciate your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Frank DiGiallenardo
President, Board of Directors

Corsica River Conservancy is a 100% volunteer-run organization and a component fund of Chesapeake Charities, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the State of Maryland. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.

Stay in the loop on our advocacy efforts. [Sign up for email alerts.](#)