

MAC Early Spring Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SWS Student Virtual Conference** – April 5,6, 2024. Students and nonstudents welcome! This year's theme is climate change. We're empowering students to engage in thought-provoking discussions, explore innovative solutions, and be leaders in the climate space. [Register here.](#)
- **NY State Wetlands Forum, Inc.;** April 16, 17, Saratoga Springs, NY, click [here.](#)
- **Field Trips**
 - **Pocomoke Cypress Swamp Kayak Tour**, Snowhill MD: Saturday, May 18th join us for a kayak tour of the Pocomoke State Park Cypress Swamp. Attendees will meet at **10am** at the Pocomoke River Canoe Company to enjoy a 2.5-3 hour canoe/kayak tour from Potters Crossing downriver back to the rental store. We'll paddle through thick bogs of bald cypress and vast beds of spatterdock with views of turtles, great blue herons, and possibly migratory birds! We'll wrap up with a post-tour discussion to share knowledge of the cypress swamp wetlands and any wildlife observed with an optional lunch at a local joint (TBD). Regular members, students, and guests are invited to attend. Cost for boat (canoe or kayak) rental is \$30 per person, with 2 persons per boat. Please email Erin Knauer by April 20th at eknauer@gpinet.com to register for this event so we can reserve the boat rentals.
 - **Great Swamp, N.J.** – Saturday, June 8th at 9:00am. Our past field trips to the Great Swamp were so successful that we have decided to hold another one in 2024! Join us for a full day field trip at the Great Swamp, including a special guided tour with Friends of Great Swamp volunteers to kick-off the morning. Regular members, students, and guests are invited to attend. Events will start at 9AM at the Wildlife Observation Center (WOC - 220 Long Hill Road, Basking Ridge, NJ [Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge | Map | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)), where we will split in two (2) groups for a guided tour of the Great Swamp to learn more about the wildlife, invasive species management, and day-to-day operations of the National Wildlife Refuge. We will then reconvene at the WOC before heading back out as a group to see some of the special places within the 15-square mile Great Swamp. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their knowledge of wetland plants, along with more formal discussions as a group on wetland conditions at various wetland types found along the network of trails within the Great Swamp. The event will wrap-up with an optional social and early dinner at Casa Maya, an authentic Mexican restaurant along the southern edge of the Great Swamp. Please contact Jillian Olsen at jillian.olsen@cherryridgellc.com to register for this event.
 - **Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens**, Washington D.C. – Saturday July 20th at 9am. The lotuses should be in bloom and July 20th coincides with the 2024

Lotus and Water Lily Festival at [Kenilworth](#). Contact Bill Morgante if interested. (bill.morgante@maryland.gov)

- **Happy Hour:**
 - Chessies Wharf, Annapolis: Friday, June 7, 5:30pm. Contact Bill Morgante if interested (bill.morgante@maryland.gov).

REPORT

DE Wetlands Conference

A message from the organizer: On February 6 and 7 Delaware DNREC hosted the 2024 [Delaware Wetlands Conference](#) at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Delaware. This was the 10th anniversary of the event, which is held biennially. DNREC Secretary Garvin gave opening remarks. In total, 430 participants from 17 states attended the event which included plenary speakers, 3 concurrent sessions of 54 presentations total, 35 poster presenters, a student poster contest, 50 sponsor and exhibitor tables, several field trips, a lunchtime business meeting each day for professional organizations (including SWS MAC), and several 10th anniversary special activities. The conference ran very well and was a positive experience. Thank you to all who attended, supported and presented. We are still accepting participant feedback via a short [online survey](#). See you in 2026!

- Meeting minutes from the MAC conference lunch meeting below.



OTHER

- **Logo:** if you have any ideas or talent to help MAC create our very own logo – contact Bill Morgante (bill.morgante@maryland.gov)

Meeting Minutes February 7th MAC Meeting

1. Introduce MAC Leadership:

MAC Board

- President – Bill Morgante
- President Elect – Jillian Olsen
- Past-President – Adam Gailey
- Treasurer – Haley Kelly
- Student Representatives – Carolyn Grace Melton

State Committee or Representative

- Delaware – Alison Rogerson
- District of Columbia – Jennifer Dietzen
- New Jersey – Kim Edelman
- Maryland – Duncan Simpson
- New York - OPEN
- Pennsylvania – Emily Bjorhus
- Social Media – Jenni Slacum
- Field Trips - -Erin Knauer

2. Field Trips/Events

a. Great Swamp, NJ-

- i. Slated for June 8 and led by Roy Messaros and Jillian Olsen
- ii. Possibility to rent a bus from the Baltimore Area

b. Event Suggestions

- i. Great Cypress Swamp, DE
- ii. Local Meet-Ups/Happy Hours (potentially one in Baltimore Region, Mid-Late March)
- iii. Webinars/Seminars/Lunch and Learns
- iv. Regional Supplement Training
 - 1. This generated a lot of talk and interest from the group
 - 2. Dr. Richard Chin was mentioned as a potential source for training
 - 3. Does USACE still offer training? Is there an opportunity to help them host a training for us?

c. Conferences: We may want to have booths at

- i. Restore America's Estuaries (March_
- ii. New York Wetlands Forum (April)
- iii. Mitigation Conference in Pittsburg
- iv. DE Wetlands Conference 2026

3. Increasing student/young professional participation

- a. Caroline Grace Melton (Student Rep) is trying to increase student involvement
- b. Duncan Simpson (MD State Rep) will assist Caroline with identifying student chapters and professors who can assist

4. Wetlands of Distinction

- a. There are several Wetlands of Distinction in Maryland
- b. GOAL: Have at least 1 Wetlands of Distinction from each state in our Chapter
 - i. Bill M can help with application

5. Outreach

- a. Outreach is one of the objectives of Strategy 2025
- b. We discussed potential partnerships with other local organizations
 - i. Maryland Biodiversity
 - ii. National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM)
 - iii. Maryland Stream Restoration Association (MSRA)

- iv. MidAtlantic Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS-Sarah Roberts)
- c. Regional and Local Partnerships
 - i. Grad school program in Tanzania
 - ii. “sister” chapter with an SWS international group