



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

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2018 Environmental Awareness Awards RECIPIENTS

On a biennial basis, the Carroll County Commissioners and the Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council recognize the people and businesses in our community who have made a difference in instituting or forwarding positive environmental thought and action. Recognition this year was given through the Environmental Awareness Awards in the following categories: Individual, Institution, Student, Agriculture, and Business.



The INDIVIDUAL Award

Nancy Bittler

Ms. Bittler volunteered as the adult supervisor to the 4H GOES (Green Outdoor Environmental Science) Club that her daughter founded in 2015. Despite the fact her daughter went on to college the next year, Nancy stayed on as the supervisor, where she educates 10 to 18 year olds about the environment. The club hosted several expert speakers, and she facilitated the kids' participation in eight events in 2017, including display tables, a trip to Morgan Run, bluebird house construction, demonstrations, kayaking at Piney Run Park, and more.

Prior to 4H GOES, Ms. Bittler was an advisor to the Venturing Crew 202 Envirothon Team. Under her leadership, the Venturing Crew 202 won the county- and state-level competitions in 2015 and 2016 and placed seventh and fifth, respectively, at the North American level. Nancy also earned her Master Gardeners certificate and served as Superintendent for the Natural Resources Department at the 2017 Carroll County 4H Fair, where she developed the idea for the successful Monarch Butterfly Tent.

Ms. Bittler continues to grow the children's knowledge and to nurture environmental stewardship, while educating the greater public through their activities.

The INSTITUTION Award

Bryan Shumaker

Mr. Shumaker, Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) STEM Coordinator, incorporated the Coastal Conservation Association of Maryland's goals from the Living Reef Action Campaign into CCPS goals and initiatives. As a result, related themes have been embedded into the curriculum. Among the activities he has facilitated are creation of reef balls at through the Carroll County Career and Technology Center as part of its masonry training programs, Oyster Week Celebration at Friendship Valley Elementary School, and the Oyster Bagging Challenge. The program also provides a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE), which is a requirement of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

"...He is constantly (and consistently) bringing us, getting us, showing us, teaching us how good we can be. With everyone he meets, he shares his fascination, curiosity, and passion for

STEM education and the world. He has continuously shown us what could be, what the possibilities are for all of us, for our instruction, and for our understanding..." – Kathy Rollings, CCPS STEM educator

The STUDENT Award

Stella Schoberg

Stella has been part of the Environmental Club at her elementary school for three years. This year, she took over as a student leader and helps direct other students on projects around the school. She has lead students in litter clean-ups and rain garden development. Stella also played a key role in the recycled fashion show, for which students design outfits and accessories and then make them from recycled materials. She designed posters for display at the school that address how to pack a more environmentally friend lunch as well. Stella is a role model, helping to teach the younger children, and is always full of enthusiasm.



The AGRICULTURE Award

Carolyn & Mike Krome



The Kromes board 20 to 25 horses on their 132-acre farm, which is permanently preserved through the Agricultural Land Preservation Program and located in the heart

of the Liberty watershed. They have been working with the Carroll County Soil Conservation District (SCD) since 1998 to identify and implement measures to protect the environment. Currently, 42 acres of the farm are managed as wildlife habitat using

warm-season grasses, and 45 acres are grazed and managed as pasture. In 2004, the Kromes installed a manure storage structure to safely store horse manure. They installed stream fencing and watering systems in 2006 and planted a riparian forest buffer in the spring of 2007. The horses do not have access to the streams or wetlands. In 2014, a wetland was restored near the entrance to the farm to enhance wildlife habitat. The Kromes host annual pasture walks to promote proper pasture management and conservation practices. They recently were certified as "Conservation Stewards" by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, the first horse farm in Maryland to be certified in this program.

The BUSINESS Award

Legacy Septic & Excavation LLC

The owners and staff of Legacy Septic & Excavation discovered that homeowners sorely needed information to be available regarding maintenance of their septic systems. The company found that the Carroll County Public Library was receptive to Legacy providing educational classes at the libraries. George Schooley, one of the co-owners, with over 35 years of experience in the septic industry, began offering the "Septic 101" class at each library branch twice a year. The free class is informative, and Legacy offers free activities for the children while their parents learn. This year, for the first time, Legacy also will be teaching a class specific to septic systems that use Best Available Technology (BAT), called "BAT – What's That?" Question and answer periods are offered at all classes, and no sales pitch is made.

