



**GUNPOWDER
VALLEY**
CONSERVANCY

April 2025
E-Newsletter

*Bridging People, Land Preservation and Waterway
Restoration Since 1989*

How Will You Celebrate Earth Day?



Here at Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) we want to make sure that you have plenty of opportunities to celebrate our special part of the Chesapeake Bay--the Gunpowder Watershed--throughout "Earth Month".

- **Got rain? Need barrel?** Our next Rain Barrel Workshop is coming up on Monday, April 14th from 6 - 7 pm at Loch Raven Skeet and Trap Center. [Pre-pay for your barrel\(s\) here.](#)
- **Get your hands dirty for clean water** by attending one of our spring tree plantings! We still have spaces for many of our Saturday morning events, as well as our special 4/22 Earth Day tree planting at Loch Raven Fishing Center. [Click here to view our volunteer events.](#)
- **Give a hoot, don't pollute!** We have two community stream clean-ups this month in need of extra volunteers on [April 12](#) and [April 26](#).

- **Visit us at upcoming community events**, including [Dejon Vineyard's Earth Day Celebration](#) (4/26 in Hydes), [Baltimore County's Earth Day at the Ag Center](#) (4/27 in Cockeysville) and [Grow Wild Harford's Spring Fling](#) (5/3 in Bel Air)
 - **Be part of something new!** The first [Flotilla for the Gunpowder River](#) takes place at Mariner Point Park on April 26th. Boat rentals will be available for participants who want to celebrate our favorite river. This event is co-sponsored by Mad About Mud and Gunpowder Riverkeeper, one of our 2025 *Explore the Gunpowder Watershed Challenge* partners.
 - **Pick up your Gunpowder Passport!** The 2025 [Explore the Gunpowder Watershed Challenge](#) officially begins on April 22nd. Stay tuned for a separate message next week with all the details.
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My GVC Hero

2025 continues to be a year of change for Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC). Program Director, Darcy Herman, will be retiring at the end of June 2025. We have a message from Darcy AND some well wishes to share below.



My time with GVC has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career. In the next chapter of my life, however, **I'm looking forward to emulating some of the heroes I've met in my work here: the super-**

volunteers who make a regular and ongoing commitment to supporting our mission and amplifying the work that our incredible staff and contractors facilitate. It's a powerful privilege to serve a cause out of passion, and I look forward to devoting time to promoting healthy lands, healthy waterways, and healthy communities wherever my next journey takes me!

It turns out that Susan Bath, one of GVC's super-volunteers, had similar sentiments: "Gunpowder Valley Conservancy has a decades-long history of attracting people with true commitment to and love for the environment. Many of these talented people have become my GVC Heroes. **Darcy Herman is among the best! Her leadership in the early days of the Clear Creeks project fostered tremendous progress** in improving our watershed. Many thanks and best wishes!"

Building A Better Shoreline



Living shorelines restore marine habitat, filter stormwater runoff, combat climate change, among other benefits. We are thrilled to announce that GVC is partnering with Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to replace 450 feet of deteriorating bulkhead with a living shoreline in Bowley's Quarters. Check out our blog post!

[Read More](#)

A Historic Partnership in Monkton



What happens when an environmental nonprofit partners with a historic arts and education center? We can't wait to see! Later this spring, GVC will begin installing conservation gardens at Manor Mill, a former grist mill that traces its founding to 1743.

“This project is a shining example of how a business can positively impact not just its own property, but the entire watershed,” said GVC Executive Director Lindsay Crone. “By reducing sediment pollution and managing runoff responsibly, Manor Mill is helping to protect the health of the Gunpowder River and Chesapeake Bay. More importantly, it’s showing visitors that conservation isn’t just necessary—it can also be beautiful and deeply rewarding.”

Check out our blog to learn more about this exciting project, which is funded in part by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III.

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Keep in touch with Gunpowder Valley Conservancy:



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