



GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

May 2026 E-Newsletter



Celebrating Our Team!

This month, as our team takes on several projects and events at Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC), we want to take some time to celebrate several personal accomplishments. Our team has been hard at work dedicating time to their personal and professional goals.

Elizabeth's debut children's book was recently published by Sourcebooks!

Her book, [*Weird, Wild, and Rare: Extraordinary Animals of the United States*](#), has already received glowing reviews from kids (and adults!).

Sydney will be graduating this year from Montana State University with a Masters in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. On May 6th, she presented on her professional project titled "Are Vermont's Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Habitats Adequately Protected? A Watershed-Scale Analysis".

Amy is the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM)'s junior historian! She is currently working on a book celebrating NHSM's forthcoming centennial anniversary in 2029, and recently [gave a talk about the legacy of Romeo Mansueti](#)—founder of the journal *Chesapeake Science* and a pioneering researcher at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

Shyanne just completed a ten-week course called "The Woods In Your Backyard" taught by the University of Maryland.

The entire reforestation team (Colin, Shyanne, Matt, and Kim) finished their chainsaw certifications!



OLDFIELDS SCHOOL CAMPUS PRESERVED!

A LEGACY ROOTED IN CONSERVATION

We are thrilled to announce a historic milestone for Gunpowder Valley Conservancy! The 159-year-old Oldfields School campus is now preserved in perpetuity, protecting over 127 acres of critical woodland, vibrant habitats, and rolling hills. This achievement ensures that the natural beauty and environmental integrity of this landmark will remain untouched for generations to come.

“Land in the Baltimore metro area is at a premium, and once it’s gone, it’s gone. That’s what makes conservation easements so meaningful. We are not just protecting trees and wildlife; we are protecting the water people drink, the air they breathe, and a place that will still be here long after everything around it has changed.”

-Lindsay Crone, Executive Director of GVC

[Read The Press Release Here](#)

Upcoming Events



Explore the Gunpowder

What treasures lie within your own backyard?

Ahoy, Explorer! The Gunpowder Watershed is rich with hidden discoveries: natural wonders, local gems, and secrets waiting to be found. Will you encounter a new creature? Chart a course to a new favorite spot? Uncover something you never knew was there? It's not too late to start your adventure! **The challenge runs through June 3, 2026.**



Intro to Fly Fishing - May 17

We are excited to offer a unique way to earn your Explorer Sticker! The Gunpowder is cherished by anglers for its population of native Brook Trout. Come see what all the excitement is about and learn the basics of fly fishing with Trout Unlimited! No experience or equipment required.

Tree Planting- May 23

Do you like being outside in nature and getting your hands in some soil? Join us and make a difference for future generations by planting trees!

More than 40,000 trees have been planted throughout the Gunpowder Watershed by enthusiastic volunteers over the past 36 years, and we need YOUR help to plant even

more!



Mindful Nature Walk - May 23

We are excited to offer a mindful nature walk in partnership with the Center for Nature Informed Therapy. Led by Phillip McKnight, certified mindfulness meditation teacher, this session is designed to move you from a state of doing to a state of being. Unplug from the fast-paced world and reconnect with yourself!

Stream Clean Up - May 30

Help us prevent trash from entering the Chesapeake Bay! Our local waterways, from a neighborhood stream to our drinking water reservoirs, are at risk from trash buildup. Anything that flows into storm drains goes directly into the closest waterway unfiltered.

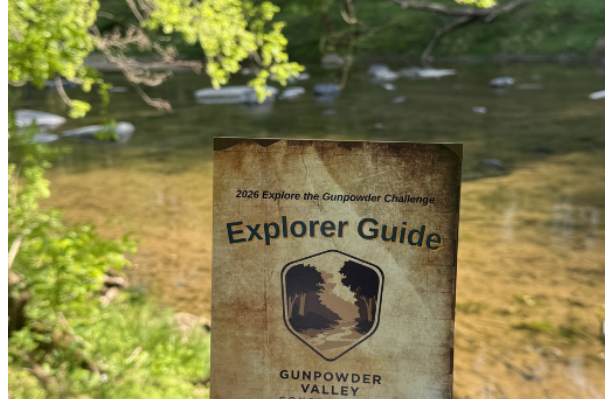


Bayscape Tour & Workshop - May 30

Create a beautiful yard, preserve local waterways, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Bayscapes replace lawn with native plants that support wildlife, reduce landscape maintenance, and filter rain water from your yard, driveway, roof, or other hard surfaces.

Explore the Gunpowder Hike - May 31

Earn your Explorer Sticker while enjoying a leisurely walk with our staff and board members! Our former Executive Director, Lou Etgen, is leading an early morning hike along the Sweathouse trail in Gunpowder Falls State Park.



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Gunpowder Valley Conservancy | P.O. Box 9733 | Towson, MD 21284 US

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