



**GUNPOWDER
VALLEY**
CONSERVANCY

November 2025

E-Newsletter

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

Gratitude for the Gunpowder



*...it is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning
in the broken world ~ Mary Oliver*

As the days get shorter, we **hope you can find time to seek solace outdoors**. Even if it is just a few minutes in your backyard or neighborhood. We recently had a guest at one of our presentations share how adding milkweed plants to his backyard brought him closer to his neighbor. Once they slowed down to notice a monarch butterfly chrysalis, they began texting each other butterfly pictures!

Here at Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) **we also see the value in small actions that can have a larger, positive impact** within our

watershed community. Small actions like starting a new job, volunteering to pick up trash, and shopping locally. Wishing you and yours a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday full of gratitude.

Welcome New Staff!



Welcome!

Join us in welcoming not one but two S.W. staff members—**Sydney West** (left) and **Shyanne Wells** (right)—to our team! Besides their initials, Sydney and Shyanne also have in common their status as [Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps](#) program alumni.

Sydney is our new Programs Assistant. She will be overseeing our Streams Program as well as assisting with garden workshops and other GVC volunteer activities.

Shyanne is our new Reforestation Technician, caring for young trees, removing invasives, and planting new trees. Make sure to say hi at an upcoming tree planting event!

[Read More](#)

Successful Stream Clean-Ups



What can one person *really* do to make a difference? Here's some math to inspire you! Since September 4th, our volunteers have **removed approximately 1,960 pounds of trash from our waterways through 139 hours** of hands-on work! A total of 55 volunteers, including employees from a local business and students from CCBC, have helped make this effort possible. They removed several pieces of major debris, including a grill, a bike, four shopping cars, a granite tabletop, and IKEA furniture.

We are deeply grateful for the energy and commitment of everyone who has hosted or attended a stream clean-up this fall, and we look forward to seeing what you can accomplish in 2026!

Interested in participating in our Adopt-a-Stream program or hosting a stream clean-up for your school group or business? Reach out to Sydney West at swest@gunpowdervc.org

Falling in Love with New Trees



Here in Maryland our autumn landscape is enhanced by the beautiful red, yellow, and orange canopies of hardwood trees. Since September, we've had **77 volunteers donate 522 hours towards our tree planting and maintenance** efforts. By the time we factor in all our November events, they will have planted 800+ native trees and removed countless pounds of invasive species. Special thanks to our volunteer leaders for going above and beyond to make sure these events are successful:

- Shashwath Athreya
- Riley Auer
- Sarah Bunk
- Ed Decker
- John Hobner
- Brody McAllister
- Geoff Miller
- Tim Somers
- Bill Vondrasek

Gifts That Give Back



This fall, shop local and give back! Gunpowder Valley Conservancy has partnered with [Words with Boards](#), a Baltimore-based company that creates personalized, handcrafted wooden home goods.

For every purchase made*, a tree will be planted right here in the Gunpowder watershed—helping to restore forests, improve water quality, and support wildlife. It's a meaningful way to give a gift that lasts while giving back to the place we all call home.

*\$150+ purchase made by a Marylander, a tree will be planted in the Gunpowder watershed.

[Shop Local](#)

Keep in touch with Gunpowder Valley Conservancy:



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