

Our One Year  
Anniversary Issue!

# MDE Environment

Maryland Department of the Environment

May 1998

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## 1998 Legislative Session Review

### Environmental Bills of Interest

by Diane Shaw

The 1998 Legislative Session of the General Assembly ended April 13. Several bills important to the environment were passed by both chambers of the Legislature.

#### HB 599/SB 178 Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998

This landmark legislation requires persons operating farms to implement nutrient management plans by a certain date. Farms utilizing chemical fertilizer must have nitrogen and phosphorus based nutrient management plans by December 21, 2001 and comply with the plan by December 31, 2002. Farms using sludge or animal manure must have a nitrogen

based nutrient management plan by December 31, 2001 and comply with the plan by December 31, 2002; and must have a nutrient management plan for nitrogen and phosphorus by July 1, 2004 and comply with the plan by July 1, 2005. To facilitate control of nonpoint source runoff from animal waste, the bill also establishes a special technology fund within the Department of Business and Economic Development and creates a pilot project for transportation of chicken litter.

#### HB 286 Public Schools Integrated Pest Management

After considering the issue of pesticide application in schools over the last several sessions, the Legislature passed House Bill 286 requiring: elementary schools to notify parents, students, and staff of pesticide applications. Each public school

district must also adopt an integrated pest management program approved by the Department of Agriculture.

#### HB 493/SB 177 Maryland Water Quality State Revolving Loan Fund and Drinking Water Revolving Loaned Fund Programs – Linked Deposit

Passage of this legislation allows MDE to provide farmers and other private citizens to obtain low interest loans for control of nonpoint source pollution from their banks. The bill will also assist local communities with improvements to their drinking water systems.

#### HB 1334 Environment – Waste Information and Assessment Program

House Bill 1334 requires solid waste

(continued on page 2)

## Gear up for Ozone Season

by Suzanne Bond

The mild winter and temperate spring Maryland has experienced could give way to a warm summer or a very hot summer -- no one knows for sure what kind of weather El Nino will bring next. But one thing is certain, the time to think about ground-level ozone is fast approaching because ozone season officially begins at May's end.

In anticipation, May 21 has been designated as Ozone Awareness Day. On this day, states along the East Coast will participate in activities designed to remind and educate about ozone smog. Each one of us can take part by voluntarily carpooling or taking mass transit on Ozone Awareness Day. Follow through with some of the clean air tips to preserve energy and reduce emissions from automobiles or gardening equipment: combine errands into one trip, refuel after dark,

put off lawn mowing. These actions, when undertaken by many, help bring about measurable improvements in ozone smog when the hot days of summer hit.

Ground level ozone, or smog, is an invisible gas formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) "cook" in hot sunlight and high temperatures. The primary sources of VOCs and NOx include automobiles, power plants, small businesses, small gasoline powered engines and consumer products such as paints and household cleaners. High concentrations of ozone can aggravate heart and respiratory problems and cause lung damage. The young, elderly and those with pre-existing lung conditions are particularly at risk.

The Air Quality Hotline number is (410) 631-3247 for information about current and projected ozone levels.



Earth Day, a sure sign of spring....Jane Nishida and students from Ben Franklin Middle School in South Baltimore enjoy Earth Day by participating in tree plantings and a cleanup.

See more on the Back Page.....

*MDE Environment is a monthly newspaper published by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Information contained within this publication is not intended to fulfill any legal or regulatory community information requirement.*

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## May 13 Conference on Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

On Thursday, May 13, a roundtable discussion entitled *Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances (AFPOs) & How They Can Influence Growth Patterns*, will be held at the State Highway Operations Center in Hanover. Directing growth to appropriate areas in Maryland is a goal shared by both state and local governments. But pressures on public facilities in growth areas may actually be creating barriers for additional growth because of traffic congestion and school overcrowding. The Growth Commission's Roundtable on AFPOs

continued from page 1.....

## Session Review

facilities to submit information regarding the quantity and type of waste disposed of at the facility. Requiring facilities to submit this information, allows MDE to more accurately determine the transport of solid waste both into and out of the State.

### HB 1024

#### Refuse Disposal -- Permit Applications -- Departmental Processing

House Bill 1024 requires MDE to stop processing certain permit applications for refuse disposal systems until the Department receives, in writing, specific approvals from local government. The bill clarifies that both State and local approvals are needed before refuse disposal systems may be established in Maryland.

### HB 1393

#### Flood Management Grants – Local and Site Contributions

House Bill 1393 alters the cost-share funding formula to provide additional funding for local governments to reduce the potential impacts associated with flooding.

## Smart Growth Update

will look at these complex issues and create a better understanding of AFPOs and how they impact growth; identify mechanisms to coordinate county and municipal AFPOs and related funding policies; identify conflicts between AFPOs and state funding policies and construction standards; and recommend approaches to resolving conflicts. For more information, call Paul Maihan at (410) 767-4571.

### Site Planning Roundtable on Model Development Principles

The National Site Planning Roundtable, convened by the Center

for Watershed Protection, recently achieved consensus on a set of model land development principles aimed at accommodating growth while protecting streams, lakes and watersheds. The roundtable members represent an impressive array of transportation, community, environmental, development, and land planning interests. Within the roundtable's consensus agreement, a total of twenty-two development principles are organized in three parts: "Habitat for Cars," containing recommendations for residential streets and parking lots; "Habitat for People" addressing open space, sidewalk, and other needs; and "Habitat for Nature," incorporating techniques for conservation and environmental protection.

For more information contact the Center for Watershed Protection at (410) 461-8323.

### MDE Community Relations Coordinator Hired

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has hired Suzanne Bond as MDE's community relations coordinator to respond to the needs of environmental organizations and community groups throughout the state.

"MDE has a unique opportunity to widen the avenues of communication between these customers and the department," said MDE Secretary Jane Nishida. "In over four years with the department's Air and Radiation Management Administration, Suzanne has met with many communities across the state and heard grassroots comments about environmental protection concerns." Bond will be actively seeking opportunities to meet with community and environmental groups about their environmental prerogatives.

"I look forward to determining what environmental issues are of the greatest concern to them and to exploring ways that MDE can become even more proactive in meeting their needs," she said.

Bond will develop regionally targeted outreach strategies to gather and disseminate information about MDE programs and policies to community and environmental groups. An important goal will be identifying opportunities to develop, expand and/or strengthening critical partnerships.



**Suzanne Bond, MDE's new  
community relations coordinator**

To register your community or environmental group with MDE, contact Bond with your group name, contact person, address, phone and fax numbers and e-mail address. Questions or concerns about environmental issues under the auspices of the Maryland Department of the Environment, that are held by these groups may be addressed to Bond, who will act as liaison with department staff to facilitate answers. Ms. Bond can be at (410) 631-3003. Questions or concerns can be faxed to Bond at (410) 631-3936 or e-mail to [sbond@mde.state.md.us](mailto:sbond@mde.state.md.us).

## Shared Facilities Serve Smart Growth

by Dr. Ching-Tzone Tien and Jane Gottfredson

How does development using on-site sewage disposal systems fit into Smart Growth? Often overlooked by developers, local government, and regulators are opportunities to use large on-site sewage disposal systems to serve small communities. This approach, called "shared facilities," can provide effective sewage treatment while allowing the clustering of homes to preserve open space and reduce lot sizes below those generally required to dispose of sewage on individual properties. These shared facilities provide enhanced treatment to better serve the Chesapeake Bay and the local environment.

With on-site sewage disposal systems soils provide physical and chemical filtering as well as biological break down of many pollutants found in sewage, including microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses and

nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. A variety of treatment options including septic tanks, sand filtration, or aerated biological units, can precede soil treatment and

financial resources for initial construction, operation, maintenance and repair are needed. Such oversight can be achieved through public ownership and operation, private utility formation or

and Worcester counties have established dozens of well-sited, well-designed, operated and maintained facilities successfully using the soil for effective sewage effluent treatment and disposal.

Calvert County has applied to the Department of Natural Resources for funding under the federal Coastal Zone Management Program for a demonstration project to compare nutrient loading from subdivisions using septic systems versus subdivisions using a shared facility with enhanced nitrogen removal on the Lower Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. It is an extraordinary effort toward the use of shared facilities. MDE supports the proposal and will cooperate in its implementation.

The many treatment, operation and maintenance options available through the use of shared facilities will secure a place for these technologies in Maryland's future as communities seek to use land and water resources wisely and to grow "smart."

***Dorchester, Howard, Prince George's and Worcester counties have established dozens of well-sited, well-designed, operated and maintained facilities successfully using the soil for effective sewage effluent treatment and disposal.***

disposal to further treat sewage to meet water quality and public health protection goals. Critical to successful use of shared facilities, as with community sewerage facilities, is competent oversight to ensure proper operation and maintenance of system components for longevity and effective performance, adequate

some combination employing public oversight of private sector contractors.

Several Maryland counties have taken the initiative to enable the use of shared facilities by adopting local ordinances outlining the rules for establishing, operating and maintaining shared facilities in their jurisdictions. Dorchester, Howard, Prince George's

## Task Force Examines Landfill Concerns

by Bonnie Beradelli and Hilary Miller

In response to citizen concerns over the siting of new rubble landfills and the acceptance of out-of-state waste, Governor Parris N. Glendening established a Solid Waste Management Task Force to take a hard look at this recent national trend and how it will affect Maryland's environment. Within the past five years many Maryland local governments have followed the national trend to close county owned landfills and transport municipal solid waste out of state. Privately-owned rubble landfills also have been built in Maryland to accept construction debris and other industrial waste from other states

"The work of the task force will be of great importance in providing meaningful recommendations and solutions on the management of solid waste in our State," said Governor Glendening. "The citizens of Maryland have expressed interest in, and should have the opportunity to participate in county solid waste management planning and in helping to determine the locations of solid waste facilities."

The task force consists of 17 representatives from state and local government, industry and concerned citizens and must report its recom-

mendations for a long-range solid waste policy to the Governor by December 1998.

The group plans to invite guest speakers with expertise in the legal aspects and management of solid waste to make presentations. In addition, public meetings will be conducted throughout the state to solicit citizen input. The task force plans to meet on the third Monday of each month through July 1988 at MDA. The schedule for additional meetings will be published at a later date.

*For additional information, contact Hilary Miller at (410) 631-3314.*



### Members of Governor's Solid Waste Task Force

The following citizens have been appointed by Governor Glendening to serve on this task force: Edwin Richards, Chairperson, former Administrator for Caroline County; Honorable Clinton S. Bradley, III, President, Talbot County Council; Honorable Robert Willey, Easton Town Councilman; Dan Williams, Bureau Chief of Solid Waste, Calvert County; William H. Davis, Sr., Area Vice President for Collection Operations, Browning-Ferris, Inc.; Pamela Metz Kasemeyer, Executive Director of Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Assoc.; Melvin Kelly, President, K & K Trash Removal, Inc.; Torrence E. Lewis, District Manager & Representative for Government Affairs, USA Waste Services, Inc.; Rev. Clark Aist, Ph.D., President of the Mattaponi Citizens Assn.; Richard S. Alper, Attorney, Frank, Berstein, Conaway and Goldman; Katharina DeHaas, President, Forks of the Patuxent Improvement Assn.; and Loretta Walls, President, Millington Quality of Life Preservation Coalition, Inc.

Richard Collins, Director of the Waste Management Administration of MDE; James Peck, Director of the Maryland Environmental Service; and Robin Depot, Executive Director of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority also will serve on the task force, as well as yet un-named members of the Maryland Senate and the House of Delegates.

## Second Life for Hart-Miller Islands

by Visty Dalal, Nat Brown, Tim Rule and Billy Evans

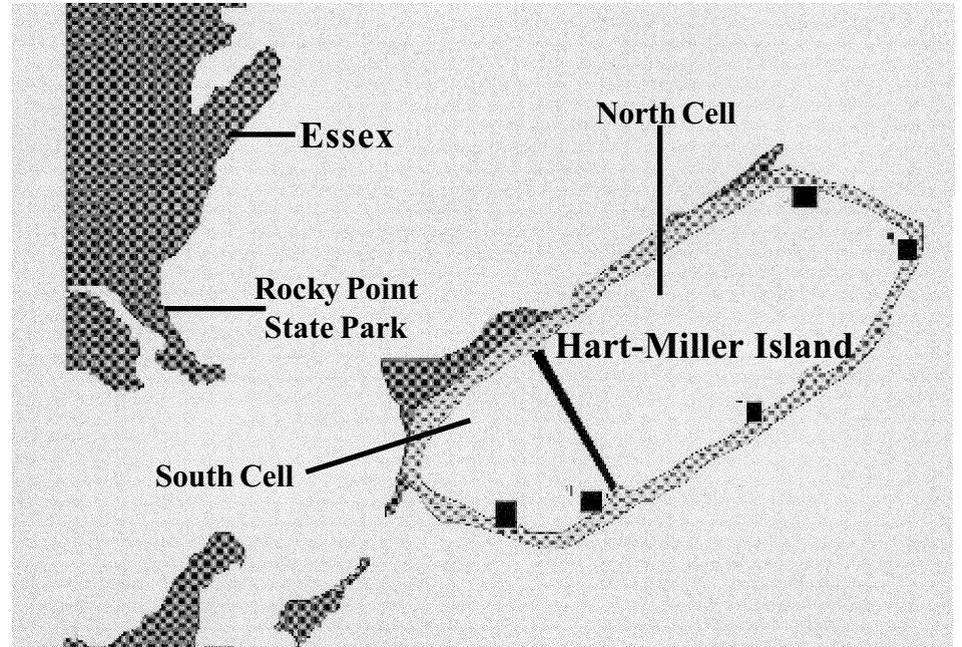
New environmental challenges often lead to creative solutions. This is the case for Hart-Miller Island. By the late 1970s, Hart and Miller Islands was slowly eroding into the Chesapeake Bay. Today, the combined land masses, have been re-built using dredged materials from the Bay and will soon look forward to its second life as a natural habitat and recreation area complete with bird watching opportunities and hiking trails.

The Maryland Port Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers have rebuilt the islands using dredged material from the channels leading to the Port of Baltimore and other small local dredging projects. This project has become a national model for confined disposal facilities and has made it possible for Maryland ports to remain open and prosperous.

When state and federal governments authorized the construction of

the Hart-Miller Island facility, it was stipulated that after the site was completely filled, the confined disposal facility would be converted into a recreational and natural resource area. Since 1990, the South Cell has been at capacity and is in an aggressive dewatering program to expedite consolidation of the dredged material to prepare for the transition. A feasibility study is currently being done by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for converting the South Cell of the facility from a dredged material deposition area to an environment that will support a variety of animal, aquatic and avian habitats. A draft report is due out by June.

In 1995, the perimeter dikes enclosing the North Cell were raised another 16 feet to 44 feet above mean sea-level to increase the placement capacity at this portion of the site. The 16-foot additional increase in the dike height of the 800-acre North Cell



provided another 30 million cubic yards capacity. This will keep Hart-Miller Island active until the year 2009, when the North Cell also will be converted to provide wildlife habitat and passive recreation for the public.

*For more information about the Hart-Miller Island Facility and the current feasibility study, contact the Baltimore Corps of Engineers at (410) 962-4713.*

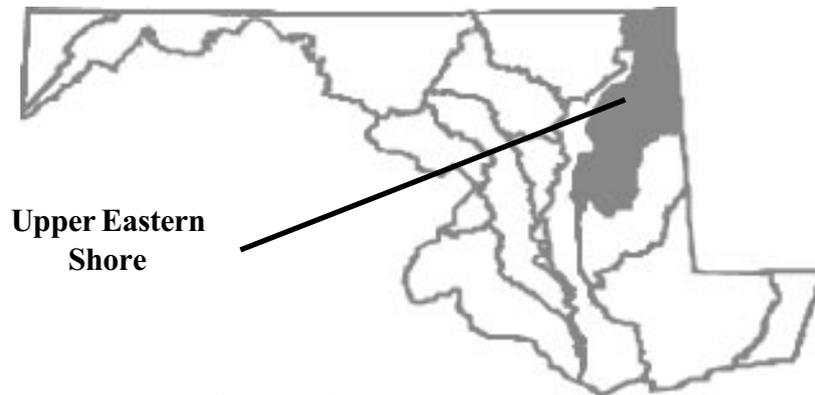
## Tributary Strategies: Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team

by Matt Fleming, DNR

The Upper Eastern Shore Watershed covers 950 square miles, about 10% of Maryland's land area including all of Kent County and parts of Cecil, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. Thirty-three percent is forest or wetlands, 60 percent is farmland and the remaining seven percent is developed land. Upper Eastern Shore waters provide spawning grounds for four species of herring and shad, striped bass, and yellow and white perch. The freshwater streams in the watershed support about 37 species of fish, and some 40 species of fish can be found in the brackish, lower rivers. The Upper Eastern Shore also is a major harvest area for soft shell clams, supports a commercial and recreational blue crab fishery and is an important concentration area for waterfowl.

Despite this diversity, populations of several important fish species, such as American and hickory shad and white perch, are at low levels. Populations of pollution tolerant fish, such as menhaden and gizzard shad, are increasing showing that much more needs to be done for the health of these waters.

Since September of 1985, under the



leadership and direction of Raymond Forney, the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team has been working to oversee the implementation of the Tributary Strategies and to restore the water quality of the Upper Eastern Shore. The team's role includes advising state and local governments on nutrient reduction programs and policies, particularly relating to agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, resource protection and urban development practices. The team consists of representatives from local government, agriculture, business, environmental organizations, citizens and other interests.

Over the past two years the team has played an important role in opening dialogue between elected officials and increasing community awareness of the Tributary Strategies

and the importance of nutrient reduction. During August of 1996, the Upper Eastern Shore Team co-sponsored a Cover Crops Workshop examining their environmental effectiveness; state and federal policies and programs associated with cover crops; and the barriers to the implementation of cover crops. In addition to this workshop, the subsequent work of a Cover Crop Task Force, and a demonstration project on aerial seeding, the Upper Eastern Shore Team was recognized by the Governor for playing a central role in identifying the importance of cover crops in controlling nutrients and in building public awareness and support for this program.

Recently, the team sponsored a series of workshops designed to investigate the economic advantages of

the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). With over one-hundred land owners in attendance, representatives from state and local agencies involved with CREP were able to accurately address questions surrounding the program and directly counsel property owners. The Team's work towards outreach and education is an important unit in what makes up the Upper Eastern Shore's strategy.

"Maryland's Tributary Strategy is the best shot we have at contributing toward real improvement in the quality and productivity of the Bay, and the dedicated people we have on the Upper Shore Team are going to make a difference," said Dr. Raymond Forney, Team Chair.

The Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Kent County Board of Education in Chestertown. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

If you would like to receive more information on the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team, contact Matt Fleming, Team Coordinator, at (410) 260-8827.

## Quality Assurance for the Health of Maryland Women

by Bob Nwadije

One in eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer. Yet, when breast cancer is found and treated early, before it has spread beyond the breast, the five-year survival rate is an amazing 93 percent. The key to such a high survival rate is the accuracy of the mammography and the regularity of the tests.

The federal Mammography Standards Quality Act, enacted in 1994, has ensured that Maryland women receive quality mammography services by empowering the Maryland Department of the Environment to oversee quality assurance and Maryland's 200 mammography facilities that have the potential to release a significant amount of radiation to our environment if not managed properly.

"MDE inspectors are a large part of the quality assurance structure and help to ensure that Maryland

women who undergo screening or diagnostic mammography obtain the maximum benefit from the examination" said John McCrohan, acting director of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) division of Mammography Quality and Radiation. "The Food and Drug Administration entered into a contractual agreement with all states to perform this local role of inspection and quality assurance."

MDE inspectors are responsible for auditing medical physicists' annual reports, monitoring equipment standards, reviewing medical personnel qualifications, examining patient records, and examining facilities medical audit and outcome analysis programs. Reviewing the mammography medical system from all angles on an annual basis ensures that patients will be provided with the best services possible. Facilities are required to do daily, weekly and monthly and even quarterly monitoring and reporting to prove that they are in compliance with the federal act. In most cases,

independent medical physicists also required to do annual system checks on machinery.

Evidence exists the quality of mammograms has improved significantly with the implementation of the mammography quality standards. Various research has shown mammography to have an accuracy of up to 94 percent in detecting diseased tissue. Since the standards, most mammography facilities also have initiated a peer review and medical outcome tracking system for those physicians who interpret mammogram results to assure even higher quality services. The act also prompted competition among those delivering the services that has resulted in a higher level of service and consolidation of providers.

The Maryland Department of the Environment employs four radiation machine health physicists to perform the rigorous testing, training, and quality assurance program. All have been certified as Mammography

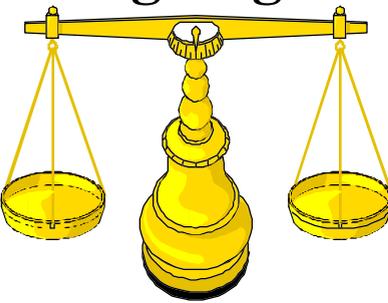
Standards Quality Act inspectors after completing intensive FDA training. Maryland mammography facilities must also be accredited by the American College of Radiology. MDE also is responsible for testing and evaluating other radiation producing machines such as x-ray machines in medical and dental offices.

"There are many checks and balances built into the federal Mammography Quality Standards Act," said the FDA's McCrohan. "The federal government, state governments and the individual facilities work together to provide the best medical services available for women at risk."

"I am a firm believer that this kind of joint federal-state effort is essential to combating recognized national health threats," said Roland Fletcher, MDE's Radiological Health program manager and consultant for the National Mammography Quality Assurance Advisory Committee.

For more information contact MDE at (410) 631-3300

### Weighing in on Recycling



The U. S. EPA will be sponsoring a satellite forum entitled *Weighing in on Recycling Measurement...EPA's Standard Method* on June 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. MDE will host this forum at the Point Breeze downlink site in Dundalk, MD.

Comparing the recycling rates of different states and counties is like comparing apples and oranges. To promote consistency, EPA developed a voluntary, standard methodology to help states and localities accurately evaluate the success of their recycling programs and save valuable time and money. Attendance at the forum will help answer questions regarding EPA's method and recycling measurement in general.

Those interested in attending this forum should contact Terry Kuta at (410) 631-3305 by May 22.

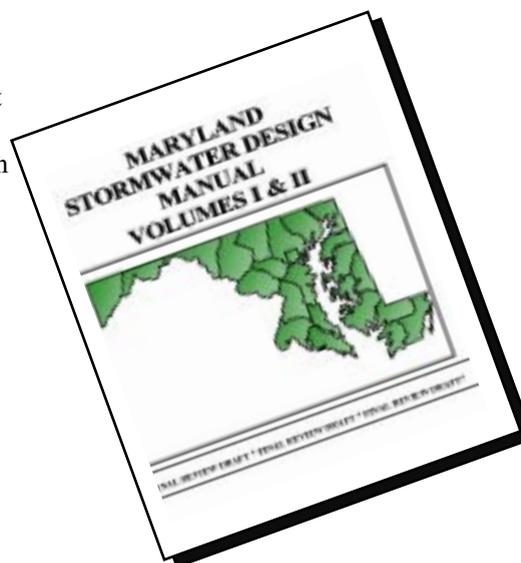
## Maryland's New Approach to Urban Runoff Treatment

By Ken Pensyl and Stuart Comstock

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is changing stormwater management regulations through the development of the draft Maryland Stormwater Design Manual. By improving the protection of streams and living resources impacted by runoff from new development and re-development, MDE will strengthen Maryland's stormwater program. The manual will be a primary source of stormwater information for the development community and regulatory reviewers in Maryland.

The Maryland Stormwater Design Manual will incorporate the significant experience gained by the state's stormwater community and develop much needed improvements for managing urban runoff. It is hoped that the design standards and environmental incentives contained within the manual will produce better methods of managing stormwater by relying less on singular BMPs for all development projects and more on mimicking existing hydrology using

total site design polices. The inherent philosophical change that considers



runoff management as an integral component of project design will reduce emphasis on BMPs and provide incentives for more environmentally sensitive development.

Maryland's stormwater management program was developed in 1982 based on the idea that if the flooding caused by increases in runoff from new development was controlled, then

the quality of receiving streams could be sustained. Since then, design requirements have been slanted toward flood control. Experience gained has shown that new emphasis should be placed on controlling the quality of runoff from urbanization and on controlling the volume of the runoff for stream channel protection.

The Maryland Stormwater Design Manual includes a unified approach for sizing stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet pollutant removal goals, maintain groundwater recharge, reduce stream channel erosion, prevent overbank flooding, and pass extreme floods. It establishes performance criteria for five groups of water quality BMPs including ponds, wetlands, infiltration practices, filtering systems and open channel systems. Additional criteria for a series of non-structural techniques and incentives were developed to encourage environmentally sensitive site designs.

For a copy of the draft Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, please contact MDE's Nonpoint Source Program at (410) 631-3543.

## New Scrap Tire Playground in Allegany County

by Jim Richmond

Volunteers from Lonaconing and surrounding Allegany County communities teamed up with MDE, the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Environmental Service to build Maryland's sixth scrap tire playground. The new play area, located at Dan's Mountain State Park includes a variety of play equipment as well as a challenge course. The handicapped accessible play area was designed by Learning Structures of Portsmouth New Hampshire. Allegany County and the State Highway Administration and American Rent-All donated the use of heavy equipment to complete the project.



## Recycling and Economic Development: Making the Link

by Cliff Dowling

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Northeast Industrial Waste Exchange recently presented three seminars on the importance of recycling to Maryland's economy to representatives of local economic development offices, local recycling coordinators and small business development center staff. The seminars were held to encourage greater communication and cooperation among local economic development and recycling officials. Their cooperative efforts should benefit the business community and help to develop markets for recyclable materials

"As an economic development professional in Maryland I found the seminar to be very, very helpful. It gave me an understanding of how to help existing businesses in my county

as well as what resources we have available to attract new businesses," said Amy Coleman, Director of Economic Development for Queen Anne's County .

The seminar was designed to give an overview of recycling efforts in Maryland, the resources available to assist recycling businesses, new business opportunities in recycling and what a business can do to improve their bottom line through recycling. The meetings also served as an opportunity for local economic development staff and county recycling coordinators to better understand their respective missions and how to increase cooperative efforts to bolster recycling rates while generating economic development opportunities.

*For more information on recycling programs and how buying recycled can help your business contact Cliff Dowling at (410) 631-3535.*

## Do You Need a CHS Facility Permit?

By Ed Hammerberg

The Maryland Department of the Environment regulates the management of hazardous waste in the state through Controlled Hazardous Substances (CHS) permits for facilities that treat, store or dispose hazardous waste. With certain exceptions, a CHS facility permit is required to conduct the following activities in Maryland:

- Treatment of a hazardous waste
- Storage of hazardous waste for more than 90 days
- Acceptance of hazardous waste from off-site
- Land disposal of hazardous waste (i.e., managing hazardous waste in a landfill, surface impoundment, land treatment unit or waste pile)

To apply for a CHS facility permit submit a completed application containing all information specified in COMAR regulations 26.13 .05 and .07.02-.02-.11. including:

- Facility description, providing detailed information on facility design and operation
- Waste analysis plan, explaining how the facility will characterize its wastes (expected hazardous constituents, waste variability, methods of sampling and analysis, quality assurance/quality control.)
- Contingency Plan, explaining how the facility will respond to an emergency such as a fire, spill or explosion
- Inspection schedules, describing the inspections that will be performed to assure that there is no situation developing that could threaten human health or the environment
- Training plan, describing how personnel will be trained in facility operations and in implementation of the contingency plan
- Closure plan, describing the actions that will be taken at facility closure to assure that no residual contamination remains
- Demonstration of financial assurance for closure, assuring that funds will be available for proper closure of the facility even if the facility owner goes bankrupt, and evidence of liability coverage.

Upon receipt of the completed application, MDE reviews the application for completeness. Once the application is found to be complete and MDE is satisfied that the applicant can manage hazardous waste safely and in accordance with all applicable regulations, MDE prepares a draft permit. Public notice of the preparation of the draft permit is made and an opportunity for public comment is given. The public (including the applicant) is given a minimum of 45 days to review and comment on the draft permit. A public hearing on the draft permit is scheduled only if requested. MDE also may schedule a public hearing if the department recognizes that there is significant interest in the facility.

MDE is required to address all substantive comments received during the public comment period. Issuance of the permit then follows the administrative procedures outlined in the law.

CHS permits have a term of five years. Annual fees for CHS permits range from \$11,000 for a storage facility to over \$40,000 for post-closure care permits for closed hazardous waste landfills. The permit fee is set at a level to reimburse MDE for the cost of regulating the facility, and to reflect the threat to the environment posed by the particular wastes that are to be treated, stored or disposed.

*Persons with questions concerning CHS facility permits may contact Edward Hammerberg or Amin Yazdanian at (410) 631-3345.*

# Earth Day 1998



MDE's Assistant Secretary Bob Hoyt joins in the fun by planting seedlings.



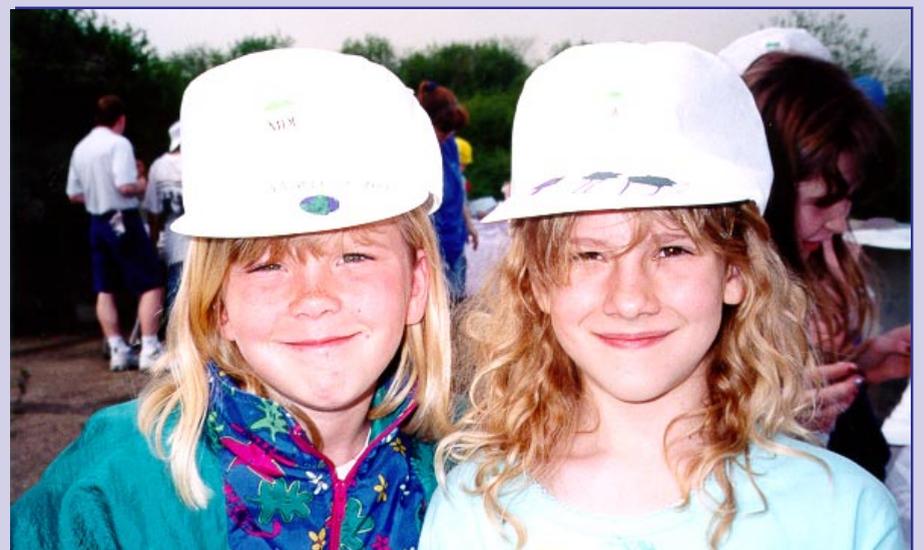
Taking a break to create Earth Day hats



MDE's Alan Williams explains cleanup safety to students



Ben Franklin Middle School students haul tires from the stream



Friends show off their latest Earth Day fashion creations after a day of planting trees and bagging trash.



Maryland Department of the Environment  
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## Cut Costs by Cutting Waste

On June 17, the U.S. EPA's WasteWiSe Program will present a free national satellite forum entitled *Waste Prevention Pays: Businesses Cut Costs By Cutting Waste*. MDE will host this forum from 11a.m. to 1p.m. (EST) at a downlink site at Point Breeze in Dundalk.

This is an interactive, two-hour program which will help businesses identify and implement money-saving waste prevention strategies. The satellite program will feature representatives of companies that have significantly reduced costs by implementing waste prevention.

The forum presents an opportunity for Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and Small Business Assistance Centers (SBAC) to help companies make the link between waste prevention and their bottom line. The experience of programs has been that environmental assistance draws new clients to the SBDC. Some SBDCs have experienced a 30 percent increase in assistance requests due to new clients seeking environmental services.

Interested in attending the forum? Contact Terry Kuta at (410) 631-3305 by May 22.

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