



LITTLE FALLS WATERSHED ALLIANCE

EDUCATION - ACTION - STEWARDSHIP

The **Little Falls Watershed Alliance** was formed in 2008 by a group of concerned citizens to protect the fragile natural environment of the Little Falls watershed located in lower Montgomery County and adjacent DC neighborhoods. We are committed to restoring the water quality, natural habitat and ecological well-being of the watershed by bringing neighbors together to build awareness, restore native plants, protect our community's heritage, and enhance the community's enjoyment of the many creeks in the watershed. **We invite you to get involved.**

15 Years of Stewardship by the Numbers

- 1 - Watershed Festival celebrating the Little Falls Branch;
- 3 - CBT Grants for stormwater management for neighborhood HOAs;
- 4 - Meadows blooming with native flowers;
- 5 - Norwood Park Celebration Days
- 10 - Sites on the Willett and Little Falls Branches tested for fecal bacteria;
- 14 - Creek Critter Days, where families hunt for macro-invertebrates;
- 13 - Board members trained at 9 Chesapeake Bay Forums;
- 20 - Eagle and Girl Scout projects sponsored;
- 22 - Times testifying before the State government, the County Council, and the Planning Board on behalf of the environment;
- 25 - Rain barrels distributed to residents;
- 122 - Special work days for office, school, and civic groups;
- 136 - Board meetings;
- 188 - Trash pick-up work days for the Little Falls Branch and Parkway;
- 365 - Work days restoring natural habitats by removing invasive plants;
- 572 - Bags of recycling cleaned from the creek;
- 1,583 - Storm drains labeled - NO DUMPING, FLOWS TO THE LITTLE FALLS CREEK;
- 3,121 - Volunteers who have picked up trash;
- 3,530 - Volunteers who have removed invasive weeds from the park;
- 21,048 - Total volunteers hours working for the environment;
- 63,210 - Pounds of trash removed from the creek and surface areas!

Thank you to all our volunteers and donors who have made these numbers possible.

Thank you to Westmoreland Church making this celebration possible by allowing us to use this beautiful space tonight and supporting us for so many years.

Learn how you can join our numbers at www.LFWA.org



Little Falls Watershed Alliance

Birthday Celebration

March 5, 2023



Westmoreland Church
Bethesda, MD

15 Years of Stewardship

5:30-6:00: Gathering

Food and Music by the Little Falls Ramblers
Slide Show of Activities

6:00 to 7:30: Program

Karen Thornton, President
Sarah Morse, Executive Director
The Honorable Brian Frosh
Marc Korman, MD House Majority Leader
Volunteer Recognition

7:30 to 8:00

Desserts and Music by the Little Falls Ramblers



Who's Who at Little Falls Watershed Alliance

LFWA Board of Directors: Karen Thornton, President; Mikel Moore, Vice President; George Wyeth, Treasurer; Sara Robinson, Secretary; Josie Gabel; and Jack Sobel

Executive Director: Sarah Morse

Habitat Restoration: Jane Padelford Gomes, Green Acres; Sarah Morse, Norwood and Westbrook ES; Celia Martin, Falmouth Road Project

Salt Monitoring Team: David Batson, Emily Cordas, Luca Grifo-Hahn, Lynn Huang, Elle Laycox, Alice Maio, Judy and Marty McLean, Sarah Morse, Bobby Pestronk, Sienna, Marissa and Jennifer Rancilio, Amelia and Stella Schreiber, Pauline Smith, Woody Stanley, and Julie Steinberg in partnership with Izaak Walton League

Stream Monitoring Team: Frank Sanford, Leader, Tere Baranano, Bob Burns, Colette Cowey, Susan Hutner, Phillip Mariscal, Julie Miller, Kevin Misener, Sarah Morse, Gregg Peterson, Sara Robinson, Michael Simon, Emily Simone, Averill Simone, Pauline Smith, and Sally Winthrop

Bacteria Monitoring Team: Joe Barnes, Mateo Castro, Emily Cordas, Steve Eichenauer, Felicity McGrath, Josh and Tim Nickerson, Sara Robinson, Woody Stanley, Julie Steinberg, Audrey Stewart, Graham White, and Sally Winthrop

Weed Warrior Supervisors: David Brooks, Collette Cowey, Celia Martin, Sarah Morse, and Frank Sanford in partnership with Montgomery Parks

And over **5,000 neighbors** who have pulled weeds, picked up trash, labeled storm drains, donated money, written letters, and more as stewards of our watershed.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to the environment!

Special Honorees

Woody Stanley



Woody Stanley is the reason we have a robust water quality monitoring program. After retiring from a 20-year career in the Federal Highway Administration, Woody returned to his first love, environmental science and water quality. Along with his DPA in public administration, Woody holds an MS in environmental science and engineering as well as a BA in Chemistry. After joining our macroinvertebrate team before the pandemic, Woody stepped up to help us organize and train volunteers to test for E. coli and coordinated our first bacteria monitor team. Salt testing was his next project, lending structure to our nascent efforts, and building a team to monitor winter road salt. He was named Salt Monitor of the Month by the Isaak Walton League in 2022. Woody collects all data from our monitoring efforts and analysis, producing the charts and graphs that we use on our website and social media as well as working with our IT person to develop the website pages. He is also the author of our annual Water Quality Report.

LFWA Bacteria Monitoring Team

Now in its third year, the job of the LFWA bacteria monitoring team is to sample the watershed for E.coli during the summer. Our 15 person team was out there every Wednesday morning to collect samples 8 sites all summer and into mid September. The samples, which are sent to the Anacostia Riverkeeper labs for analysis, gave us important data on fecal contamination in our two primary creeks - the Little Falls Branch, and the Willett Branch. Their work allowed us to identify a serious human fecal bacteria problem in the Willett Branch. Montgomery County Health Officials are working to identify the source of the sewage and remediate the problem.



Accenture's motto is "change from every angle", and since 2016 they have been effecting change in the Little Falls watershed by partnering with us on habitat restoration work days. The company has participated in seven non-native weed removals engaging 164 volunteers who put in close to 500 hours. In total they have cleared over one acre of land and freed dozens of trees from strangling vines and smothering bushes.