

## Educational Tours - Wednesday, August 31, 2011

### **Blue Tour: Sustainable Agriculture and Managing Stormwater in a New Era**

#### **Distance:**

Hotel to Ann Arundel County Offices: 30 miles

Annapolis to Clagett Farms: 25 miles

Annapolis to Hotel: 31 miles

#### **Itinerary:** August 31, 2011

13:00 Depart Hotel (box lunches provided)  
14:00 Ann Arundel County Government Offices  
15:30 Depart Ann Arundel County Government Offices  
16:00 Arrive Chesapeake Bay Foundation Clagett Farms  
17:30 Depart Clagett Farms for Annapolis  
18:30 Depart Annapolis  
19:00 Arrive Hotel

#### **Description:**

Stormwater systems have traditionally been designed to move water off of impervious surfaces quickly to reduce the chance of flooding. However, stormwater carries many pollutants including nutrients and heavy metals (from cars) and the more disconnected these systems are to the land the more they carry pollutants to the water. Nutrient loads from urban stormwater systems are one of the sectors of the Bay restoration efforts that continue to increase.

Anne Arundel County has built a several different types of innovative stormwater systems in the parking lot of their County Government Offices and at other facilities. Researchers are monitoring these systems closely to determine which system is most effective in terms of capturing water, reducing pollutants, and general maintenance. The County also recognizes the relationship between stormwater and stream health and has done a series of restoration projects to restore the normal flow regime to a number of local waterways. In addition, they have been actively educating the citizens on the use of rain barrels and rain gardens.

Agricultural lands make up approximately 30% of the land use within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farming practices are diverse and include production of grains (corn, wheat, soybeans), meat (chicken, pork, and beef), dairy, and vegetables. To reduce nutrient loading in the Bay, agricultural best management practices are a critical element to farm management and include cover crops, riparian buffers, stream fencing, stormwater management, etc.

The goal at Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clagett Farm is to use farming methods that are truly sustainable—both economically and environmentally. The farm is not certified organic, but they follow organic standards to protect the watershed, consumers and workers. They encourage everyone to visit the farm and inquire more about our crop rotations, tillage methods, fertility, and pest control. While the farm is not perfectly sustainable, this struggle inspires us to continue improving our farm. At the farm you will not only learn about these sustainable farming methods but also about consumer supported agriculture (CSA), native tree nursery, educational field programs, as well as agricultural policy.



#### **Recommended Clothing:**

Casual – long pants are recommended for the storm water area, otherwise shorts are acceptable

#### **Food provided:**

Box Lunch, water and snacks

*Tours includes transportation to the tour site, a boxed lunch, snacks for the bus and any applicable admission fees. Any shopping or additional meal activities offered are on your own. Pre-registration is required.*

#### **For Questions about the Tour, Contact:**

##### ***David Nemazie***

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##### **On Site:**

##### ***Ginger Ellis***

Anne Arundel County  
Watershed Ecosystem and Restoration Services  
2662 Riva Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: (410) 222-7500

##### ***Michael Heller***

Clagett Farms, 11904 Old Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

##### **Websites:**

Anne Arundel County:  
<http://www.aacounty.org/DPW/Watershed/index.cfm>

Clagett Farm: <http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=398>