



**Back Bay Restoration Foundation  
State of the Bay Conference  
FY2011**

**Prepared by: Mary Tilton, Executive Director  
Back Bay Restoration Foundation**

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**Product #1 Title: Forum Agenda/Registration Form and Name Tags 15% Deliverables**  
**Back Bay Forum Agenda**  
**March 15, 2012 at the Advanced Technology Center in Virginia Beach**

Time

8:00 a.m. Registration and coffee

8:45 a.m. Welcome and Forum Overview, BBRF Board President, Todd Barnes

8:50 a.m. Barbara Henley, Introduction, City Councilwoman

9:15 a.m. Jennifer Howell, VA DEQ, TMDL regulations and the implications for Back Bay

9:45 a.m. Chad Boyce, VDGIF, Update on Back Bay Fishery

10:15 a.m. Gary Costanzo, VDGIF, Back Bay Waterfowl Surveys and Duck Blind Construction

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. John Gallegos, USFWS, Biological Update for Back Bay NWR

11:20 a.m. Phil West, VDGIF, VDGIF Update on Activities at Princess Anne WMA

11:40 a.m. Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch, Sea Level Rise Increases Urgency for Conservation Corridors

12:30 – 1 p.m. Lunch and table displays

1 p.m. Rachel Noble, UNC-Chapel Hill, Fecal Source Tracking

1:30 p.m. Will Smith, USFWS, Lake Tecumseh Weir Project

2:00 p.m. Katie Sanford, VA Dare SWCD, Agricultural Best Management Practices and Implications for the health of the Back Bay watershed

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. David Bishop, USFWS, Back Bay Invasive Species

3:15 p.m. Karen Duhring, VIMS, Tracking the Effectiveness and Popularity of Living Shorelines for Erosion Protection

3:45 p.m. Clay Bernick, City of V.B., The City of VB Sustainability Plan and Implications for Back Bay

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks, Mary Tilton, BBRF Director

Back Bay Forum Name Tag  
**2012 Back Bay Forum**



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**Barbara**  
**Henley**  
Virginia Beach City Council

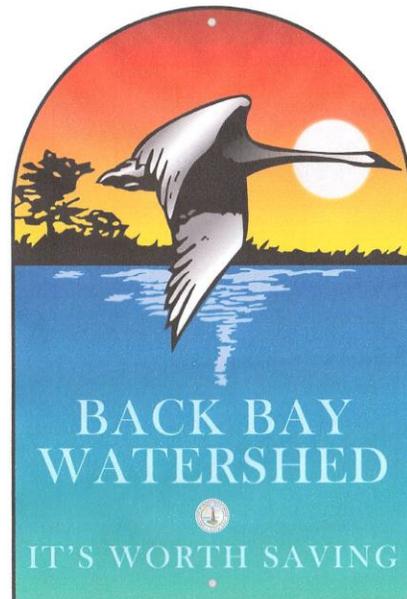


**Back Bay Forum Program**



[www.bbrf.org](http://www.bbrf.org)

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Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
(757) 619-6429  
[information@bbrf.org](mailto:information@bbrf.org)



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With additional support by:



City of Virginia Beach, Environment and  
Sustainability Office

TCC, Advanced Technology Center



**Back Bay Forum**

**March 15, 2012**

**Tidewater Community College**



## 2012 AGENDA

8:00 a.m.	Registration and Coffee	1 p.m.	Fecal Source Tracking Rachel Noble, UNC-Chapel Hill <i>rtnoble@email.unc.edu</i>
8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Forum Overview BBRF Board President, Todd Barnes	1:30 p.m.	Lake Tecumseh Weir Project Will Smith, US Fish and Wildlife Service <i>Willard_Smith@fws.gov</i>
8:50 a.m.	Introduction Barbara Henley, City Councilwoman	2:00 p.m.	Agricultural Best Management Practices & Implications for the Health of the Back Bay Watershed Katie Sanford, VA Dare SWCD <i>KSanford@vbgov.com</i>
9:15 a.m.	TMDL regulations and the implications for Back Bay Jennifer Howell, VA DEQ <i>Jennifer.Howell@deq.virginia.gov</i>	2:30 p.m.	Break
9:45 a.m.	Update on Back Bay Fishery Chad Boyce, VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries <i>Chad.Boyce@vdgjf.virginia.gov</i>	2:45 p.m.	Back Bay Invasive Species David Bishop, US Fish and Wildlife Service <i>David_Bishop@fws.gov</i>
10:15 a.m.	Back Bay Waterfowl Surveys & Duck Blind Construction Gary Costanzo, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries <i>Gary.Costanzo@vdgjf.virginia.gov</i>	3:15 p.m.	Tracking the Effectiveness and Popularity of Living Shorelines for Erosion Protection Karen Duhring, Virginia Institute of Marine Science <i>karend@vims.edu</i>
10:45 a.m.	Break	3:45 p.m.	The City of VB Sustainability Plan and Implications for Back Bay Clay Bernick, City of Virginia Beach, Environment and Sustainability Office <i>cbernick@vbgov.com</i>
10:55 a.m.	Biological Update for Back Bay NWR John Gallegos, US Fish and Wildlife Service <i>John_Gallegos@fws.gov</i>	4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks Mary Tilton, Back Bay Restoration Foundation <i>Mary.tilton@bbrf.org</i>
11:20 a.m.	VDGIF Update on Activities at Princess Anne WMA Phil West, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries <i>Phil.West@vdgjf.virginia.gov</i>		
11:40 a.m.	Sea Level Rise Increases Urgency for Conservation Corridors Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch		
12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Table Displays		

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### **Product #2 Title: CD of the 2012 Back Bay Forum Presentations 15% Deliverables**

Two copies of CDs with all presentations at the 2012 Back Bay Forum are included within the Final Deliverables package.

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### **Product #3 Title: Action Plan 55% Deliverables**

#### **Back Bay Restoration Foundation Action Plan** (Follow up actions to the Back Bay Forum 2012)

The Action Plan for the restoration and protection of the Back Bay watershed focuses upon items gleaned from comment forms provided by Forum attendees and through discussion with BBRF Board of Directors after the Forum. Specific Action Items include the following:

1. **Encourage networking with related interest groups**
  - a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to coordinate efforts with local watershed and wildlife groups as well as local, state and federal government entities in an effort to share contacts and resources, ensure

coordination of projects and proposals, garner support for efforts, and facilitate the widest dissemination of information relating to pertinent environmental initiatives.

- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to provide and solicit speakers on relevant topics, particularly on topics of interest as identified in the Forum Feedback Forms, for future forums and bi-monthly membership meetings.
- c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will staff informational booths at local events (Farmer's Markets, the City of Virginia Beach's Earth Day Event, Master Gardener Festival, Lynnhaven River NOW's Fall Festival, as examples), in addition to our future Forums. This effort provides an additional outlet for distribution of information and the opportunity to advertise/present BBRF's mission to a varied subset of individuals.
- d. BBRF will continue to offer informational table space for other non-profit organizations and local, state, and federal government agencies, at future Back Bay Forums. Positive participant feedback (4.3 out of 5) suggests that participants enjoyed a diversity of interests represented at the BBRF Forum.
- e. BBRF will invite groups as suggested on the Feedback Form such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and Old Dominion University to have a presence at future Forums, either with an informational table or as a presenter.

## **2. *Become involved in restoration activities***

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation plans to resume and expand restoration activities, such as riparian plantings, native plantings, and rain garden creation. The City of Virginia Beach has expressed an interest to support these efforts. BBRF will coordinate with the City via attendance at the monthly Clean Water Task Force meetings and other meetings with the City's Environment and Sustainability Office
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will work closely with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, False Cape State Park, and Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area to identify restoration activities that will further our mission to improve Back Bay. BBRF will work with these groups when practical and possible.

## **3. *Continue and expand pollution prevention programs***

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation staff, members and volunteers will continue efforts to clean our watershed with the guidance of the City of Virginia Beach Clean Community Coalition. This effort will specifically include expansion of existing roadway and waterway cleanups efforts.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will collaborate with other groups such as Lynnhaven River NOW, Back Bay Wildlife Refuge, False Cape State Park, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the City of Virginia Beach, Clean Virginia Waterways, and others, to engage volunteers in cleanups that directly improve the health of the Back Bay, and neighboring, watersheds.



91 participants (speakers, volunteers, and attendees) provided with Survey and Comment form. 40 surveys returned complete. A sample survey form and the compiled information follow below.

## **2012 Back Bay Forum Feedback**

*Please leave this form on the registration table as you leave or mail it to  
BBRF, 3022 New Bridge Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456*

Rate overall **effectiveness** of these aspects of the Forum on a scale from 1-5 (1 lowest and 5 highest). Please use the extra space to add an additional item, if needed.

Length of the Forum	1	2	3	4	5
Number of presentations	1	2	3	4	5
Content and relevance of the presentations	1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge of the presenters	1	2	3	4	5
Format of the Forum	1	2	3	4	5
Number, type and quality of table displays	1	2	3	4	5
Catering services	1	2	3	4	5
Venue	1	2	3	4	5
Registration fee	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

1. If you ranked any of the above aspects of the Forum a 1 or a 2, please describe why and/or how we can improve.
2. Are there other topics you would like to see covered in future Forums?
3. Did this Forum affect or change you understanding and appreciation of Back Bay and its watershed?
4. What new initiatives would you suggest that would have a direct and positive impact on the health of Back Bay and its watershed?
5. Are there any changes would you like to see in future Back Bay Forums? *(Use reverse side for additional comments)*

Please provide the following information (*optional*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2012 Back Bay Forum Evaluation: Results and Feedback

Criteria	Average (out of 5, n=40)
Length of Forum	4.4
Number of presentations	4.3
Content and relevance of presentations	4.6
Knowledge of presenters	4.8
Format of Forum	4.6
Number, type, and quality of table displays	4.3
Catering	4.5
Venue	4.7
Registration fee	4.8

### Other topics covered in future Forums?

- National Refuge role and activities
- Land protection activities and efforts (history of how we got from there to here)
- HRSO efforts
- History and accomplishments of BBRF
- How the public views the area or some public input from user surveys
- More info on SLR (sea level rise) vulnerabilities and habitat shifts that will affect the Bay and land uses and associated adaptation options
- More on native plants in Back Bay
- Involve the ACOE since much of the work they do have impacts that affect this region
- Along with invasive plants, include talk about native species
- Clean boating
- VMRC
- More about how weather has affected Back Bay's sands and movement of the bottom that could affect SAV
- Research done on cottonmouths in Back Bay by ODU
- Best management practices that are being done around Back Bay and the results, if any are documented
- Land use change and effects on Back Bay
- Are any universities doing research in Back Bay?

### Did this Forum affect or change your understanding of Back Bay?

- Yes, especially biological updates and restoration efforts
- Increased my knowledge of SAV trends and abundance
- Increased my awareness of main issues in the area

- Yes, increased my desire to learn more about it
- It had a good mix of general interest and science-based talks
- My appreciation for Back Bay has been thoroughly piqued!
- Enjoyed hearing about SAV and duck population correlation

### **What new initiatives would you suggest that would have a direct and positive impact on Back Bay?**

- Protection and restoration of headwaters and direct watershed runoff areas (creeks)
- Stop nearby development and marinas
- Something to help increase non-consumptive uses and monetary investment
- Water quality coalition – coordination of Bay monitoring and identification of gaps in needed management
- The James River Association has two “RiverWatchers.” Maybe a Back Bay watch group could map/inventory the shoreline and bay?
- Study of organic gardening practices and the effects of herbicides
- Education of landowners regarding pollutants, sediment, and nutrient runoff

### **Are there changes you’d like to see in future Forums?**

- Broader participation
- Media coverage
- Position determination if inlet opens – how does that change the game and what we will do in response
- Parking is an issue
- Broader diversity in audience - more outreach or different targets for outreach to bring in more folks who aren’t already “in the loop”
- More breaks
- Possibly cut a speaker or two
- Encourage agencies involved to have information tables so attendees are able to see how Back Bay fits into their mission and the “big picture” for this region
- Reduce presentations to 20 minutes
- Show the grasses in the Bay, one time you had samples of the grasses
- Maybe two day functions with longer course sessions, but same number of classes
- I’d like a presentation to remind us what BBRF does

### **Miscellaneous comments**

- BMP presentation was not as applicable to all audiences as it could have been
- Too cold!
- Can anything be done about parking?
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum I’ve attended – good presentations overall, the Weir project and BMP talks were too long and thin on information or redundant
- Thank you for doing the Forum, it’s always informative
- If you desire greater attendance, you could gear some presentations that would pull in concerned waterfront homeowners, master gardeners, college students
- On a whole, this Forum is the most interesting I have attended!