VERNAL POOL CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Anacostia Watershed Society/ Vernal Pool Partners

Wednesday October 28th, 2026 | Mount Rainier Nature Center (PG Parks) 4701 31st Pl, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

About This Workshop

This one-day workshop will bring together land managers, naturalists, herpetologists, agency staff, and conservation practitioners to share knowledge about vernal pool conservation. The workshop will include the following topics: vernal pool conservation, restoration techniques, inventories & monitoring; and community science. The presentations will emphasize conservation efforts across the Mid-Atlantic region, particularly in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and DC. The speakers will include experts from government agencies, academia, non-profit organizations and private companies.

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / AFFILIATION
OPENING		
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome & Land Acknowledgment/ Workshop Goals and Housekeeping	*Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) team and Mount Rainier Nature Center team*
SESSION 1 — Vernal Pool Conservation		
9:10 – 9:35	Vernal Pool Advocacy in Maryland: Jack Cover Vernal Pools Act of 2026 and beyond	*Mark Southerland | Vernal Pool Partners*
9:35 – 10:00	Vernal Pool Conservation in Maryland's 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan	*Mimi Sanford and Gwenda Brewer | Maryland Department of Natural Resources*
10:00 – 10:25	Into the Woods: Discovering Vernal Pools Through Community Science	*Diane Devers | Patapsco Heritage Greenway*
10:25 – 10:35	*Morning Break*	
SESSION 2 — Restoration Techniques		
10:35 – 11:00	Herpetofaunal Use of Constructed Vernal Pools at Stream Restoration Sites in Fairfax County, Virginia.	*Emily Benoit & David Neely | Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services & Tetra Tech*

11:00 – 11:25	Radical Intervention: Restoring & Conserving Vernal Pools	*Michael Hayslett | Virginia Vernal Pools, LLC*
SESSION 3 — Inventories, Monitoring & Community Science		
11:25 – 11:50	Vernal Pool Monitoring at Corcoran Woods Experimental Forest – Anatomy of a Long-term, Student-led Research Project	*Susan Lamont | Anne Arundel Community College*
11:50 – 01:00	*Lunch Break — Networking & Brainstorming Session*	
1:00 – 1:25	Let's Go Vernal Pooling! Science, Socializing, and Salamanders at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary	*Jeanette Kazmierczak/ Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary*
1:25 – 1:50	All Features Great and Small: Documenting Ephemeral Wetlands in Montgomery Parks	*Rachel Gauza | Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC*
1:50 – 2:15	Vernal Pool Inventorying and Surveys in the District of Columbia	*Michelle Campbell | District Department of Energy and the Environment*
2:15 – 2:25	*Afternoon Break*	
SESSION 4 — Inventories, Monitoring & Community Science		
2:25 – 2:50	Predicting Vernal Pools from the Landscape Up: Terrain, Pattern, and Occurrence	*Taylor Blackman | Juniata College*
2:50 – 3:15	Vernal Pool Mapping in the Anacostia River Watershed	*Jorge Bogantes Montero | Anacostia Watershed Society*
CLOSING		
3:15 – 3:30	Closing Remarks, Next Steps & Evaluation Distribution and Networking	*AWS Team*