



Chesapeake Watershed CESU
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science
www.chwacesu.org



Dr. Dan Filer Co-Director & Research Coordinator (NPS)



Rhonda Schwinabart Outreach Coordinator (UMCES-AL)



Katie Kline Website / Database development (UMCES-AL)



Dr. Matt Fitzpatrick Director & Professor (UMCES-AL)

Dr. Dan Filer – CESU Co-Director & Research Coordinator (NPS)
Rhonda Schwinabart – Outreach Coordinator (UMCES-AL)
Katie Kline – Website / Database Development (UMCES-AL)
Dr. Matt Fitzpatrick – CESU Host Director (UMCES-AL)



Chesapeake Headwaters | Source: MCF

Chesapeake Watershed CESU Student Award

- Launched Chesapeake Watershed CESU Student Award in 2023 thanks to funding from NPS NCR
- Up to 3 awards annually of \$1500 each, contingent upon funding
- Criteria: Graduate student; involved in CHWA CESU facilitated project; for “exemplary efforts beyond a project’s standard outlined expectations”
- Timeline: Nominations open February/March; Selection Committee reviews in late April; Presented at the June/July meeting



Chesapeake Watershed CESU Student Award

The Chesapeake Watershed (CHWA) CESU Student Award recognizes students who make outstanding contributions to a CHWA CESU facilitated research project. Up to 3 awards of \$1500 will be given annually, as funding allows.

Nominations must be emailed to Rhonda Schwinabart (rschwinabart@umces.edu) by Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Eligibility: Any graduate student (Masters or Ph.D.) of a CHWA CESU higher education partner institution involved in a CHWA CESU funded project. The student must have been enrolled at the institution at the time the CHWA CESU funded project took place and must be an actively enrolled student at the time of the nomination deadline.

Criteria: Students receiving the CHWA Student Award are recognized for exemplary efforts beyond a project’s standard outlined expectations. Evidence of outstanding contributions could include, but are not limited to:

- A significant direct contribution to the management of a natural or cultural resource from a federal manager’s perspective.
- A significant direct contribution to public engagement with a natural or cultural resource.
- A significant academic product such as a published journal article* or a technical report of exceptional note.

* academic publications will be weighted in the committee review of application materials.

Required nomination materials:

- Nomination form (PDF)
- Nomination letter from either the research institution or the federal agency detailing the exceptional contribution(s) of the student and explaining why it is an outstanding contribution.
- Endorsement letter from the alternate project partner (e.g., if a federal agency nominates the student, the student’s home research institution must write an endorsement letter, or vice versa). Nominations without endorsement will not be reviewed.

Recommended additional nomination materials:

While not required, nominators are strongly encouraged to include supporting materials. Examples could include the following:

- ◊ Copies of publications– journal articles, technical reports
- ◊ Media– news articles, television or radio interview recordings
- ◊ Links to recordings of seminars or workshops led by student
- ◊ Photos
- ◊ Graphic, audio/visual, or computer-generated materials created by student as part of project.

Selection Process: A committee of CHWA CESU partners will review nominations and select recipients. The nomination period will be open for 45 days from mid-February each year to late-March. Selection will take place in April and students will receive awards at the annual CHWA CESU meeting in June or July.

Questions? Contact Rhonda Schwinabart at rschwinabart@umces.edu.





Chandler Berry
Old Dominion University

For his contributions to analysis of online information and news on rock climbing management issues at HAFE, support of a 3-park climbing management research project for Harpers Ferry, C&O Canal, and Great Falls, and his assistance with field data collection at ROCR and WOTR for visitor use reporting.

Leah Rudge
University of Delaware

For her contributions to interpreting results of a grassland bird study at Harper's Ferry for park management use and for her public outreach and communication efforts related to that study. She also held a workshop for park staff to observe bird mist-netting and banding and presented a talk on the topic at the Mid-Atlantic Ecological Society of America conference, and a poster at the Association of Field Ornithologists meeting.



Megan Massa
*University of Maryland Center for Environmental
Science*



For her work on grassland bird responses to habitat management in NPS battlefield parks. She analyzed a long-term NCR Inventory & Monitoring Network (NCRN I&M) grassland bird dataset, to document the value of NPS battlefield parks to grassland bird conservation and to demonstrate how land managers can augment or adjust open-space management to benefit this imperiled suite of species. She presented on this research to the 2022 American Ornithological Society conference, and in NPS forums (including meetings for the NCR Science Forum and the NCR Natural Resource Advisory Group).



Morgan Crump
The Pennsylvania State University
(Honorable Mention)

Honorable mention for her contributions to a project evaluating human perceptions of anthropogenic light sources in protected areas. Over several years, Morgan led a team of undergraduate students who assisted volunteers through an approximately one-mile trail system offering different rotating lighting conditions at night. Morgan demonstrated poise and professionalism in all her interactions with stakeholders.