Chesapeake Stormwater Network
2013: A Year in Review

Although CSN is tiny in stature, it exerts a major impact throughout the stormwater sector of the Bay watershed. Just look at some of the important accomplishments of the two person CSN staff, its great partners and its effective board of directors:

- The CSN network grew from 3,600 to **4,900** stormwater professionals last year

- Surveys revealed that CSN is now regarded as the top organization you rely on to keep on top of stormwater issues in the Chesapeake Bay.

- To date, CSN and its partners in the Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Training Partnership delivered more than **54,000** person hours of free, quality training at **114** workshops, webcasts and master stormwater professional training events -- and created **17** different new training modules on how to design and maintain better stormwater practices.

- More than **5,000** visitors access the CSN website each month which now features "The College of Stormwater Knowledge" that contains hundreds of practical tools, resources and teaching aids to improve your stormwater IQ (www.chesapeakestormwater.net).

CSN Products 2013

In addition to these notable accomplishments, CSN produced the following tools and resources in 2013:

Inspection and Maintenance Resources
CSN produced a number of resources that provide guidance for inspecting and maintaining LID practices. Including:

Stormwater BMP & LID Maintenance

Production of a 3-part instructional video series on Low Impact Development construction, installation and maintenance of LID practices. Two of the videos (maintenance and construction) were also produced in Spanish.
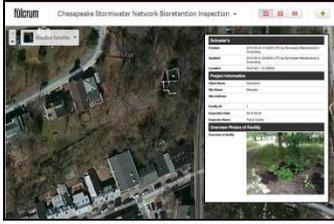

Production of Technical Bulletin #10: "Bioretention Illustrated!" a visual guide for constructing, inspecting, maintaining and verifying the bioretention practice. CSN also created a training course based on the Visual Indicator approach which was debuted to 53 stormwater professionals in Richmond, VA and will be offered again in 2014.

CSN worked with partner's to develop a bioretention illustrated "app" which guides the user step by step through the visual indicators for a bioretention practice and produces a pdf report of the inspection. This tool is currently in beta mode as we make refinements to it but will soon be freely available to all on our website.

Residential Stewardship Resources

CSN produced a number of resources furthering the homeowner BMP initiative in the Bay watershed. Including:

CSN produced guidance for homeowners seeking to make their property "Bay-friendly". This guide presents a step by step approach to assessing a property, selection of the appropriate residential stewardship practice, guidance for design and construction of the practice(s) along with tips for planting, maintenance and trouble-shooting.

CSN's Executive Director Tom Schueler, starred in his very own TED talk where he discusses the role of homeowner stewardship in restoring our streams and the Bay.

Collaboration and Recognition

Finally, in addition to all of the fine products produced in 2013, CSN worked to foster innovation in the effectiveness and delivery of urban practices across the watershed. CSN accomplished this in the following ways

Along with partners hosted the 5th annual Bay-wide stormwater retreat in June, 2013 which gathered more than **100** stormwater leaders from the public and private sector to tackle the critical implementation issues involved in stormwater technology and policy

Launched the Best Urban BMP in the Bay Awards (i. e., the BUBBAs), a juried awards program to recognize the most effective and innovative stormwater practices actually installed in the watershed.

Helped develop new state stormwater compliance spreadsheets in nearly every Bay state, and created new methods and visual indicators to enable more rapid and effective inspection of LID practices.

Bay-wide Urban BMP Guidance

CSN has worked on your behalf at the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program as their stormwater technical coordinator to develop the "rules of the road" for meeting the Bay pollution diet. In this role, CSN has:

- Guided **four** expert panels to consensus to define the qualifying conditions and pollutant removal protocols for urban stormwater retrofits, mew state stormwater performance standards, urban nutrient management and urban stream restoration.

- Launched **four** new panels in 2013 on the practices of Enhanced Erosion and Sediment Control, Inappropriate Discharge Elimination, Floating Treatment Wetlands and Street Dirt and Detritus Management.

- Worked to refine the principles and protocols for reporting, tracking and verifying urban BMPs that will used by the Bay states to track progress in meeting future stormwater pollutant reduction targets.

- Drafted an approach for receiving credit for Residential Stewardship Projects (i.e., "Homeowner BMPs") in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. CSN has been working to navigate the approach through the approval process at the Chesapeake Bay Program and will continue into 2014.

Support CSN

CSN is a lean and mean nonprofit machine -- last year more than **95%** of the revenues it received were directly expended on programs and services to support Network members.

CSN relies on federal and foundation grants to keep the lights on, but these revenues are notoriously uncertain. If you value the network and want to expand it further across the Bay, please show your support by making a tax-deductible donation to CSN. Your financial support will enable us to provide even more services to the network in 2014.