



## Stormwater BMP Maintenance Newsletter

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### Build It and They Will Come (Like It Or Not)



Stormwater management (SWM) ponds so closely mimic natural habitats, even the natives (and not-so-natives) want to move in and use them! Canada Geese that used to visit then migrate, have decided to become permanent residents due to the favorable conditions our urban landscapes now provide.

Geese and other waterfowl can devastate submerged aquatic vegetation and their waste product exacerbates algae issues.

To decrease the chances of geese utilizing your pond, plant native emergent plants in the water and native riparian plants around the water's edge.

Additional planting tips coming soon in a new publication "Montgomery County Owner's Guide to Adding Plantings Around Stormwater Ponds." In the meantime, please [click here](#) to learn much more from the County's collection of informative pamphlets and check back often for new info!

Many pond owners have found aeration (via fountains) helpful in reducing algal blooms in ponds. There are many sources on the web regarding aeration.



## Fall Maintenance Tips



- Think twice before a heavy fall herbaceous pruning. Leaving seed heads and leaves late into the fall and winter provides food and habitat for native insects (like the Monarch caterpillar at left) and birds. Leaving vegetation also slows the flow during fall rainstorms, reducing the potential of erosion in bioretention bottoms. Plan full cutback pruning in early winter.
- When blowing leaves, avoid blowing them into storm drains and stormwater facilities (to include bioretention areas). Leaves can clog inlets and media and block the flow of stormwater into the facility.

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities

### Annual Contractor MAINTENANCE Training: October 21, 2014

A company that performs maintenance on a stormwater management facility in Montgomery County **must hold a certificate of attendance** and re-certify every 3 years. Please contact DEP at [MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MC.Stormwater@montgomerycountymd.gov) for more information. The free DEP training will be held at the Upcounty Regional Services Center.

### RainScapes Training: October 27, 2014

RainScapes is offering a free site assessment and design charette targeted at professionals providing services in Montgomery County, MD who are likely to be asked to site and design rain gardens and other Environmental Site Design (ESD). Enrollment is limited. [Click here](#) for more info and to sign up.

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## Resources and Additional Info

### Pond Planting Resources

**Native Plants:** [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)

**Invasive plants (what not to plant):** [Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, 4th ed.](#)

### More Info From DEP

The quarterly (and sometimes more) e-newsletter of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Facilities Maintenance Program has useful information and seasonal tips for Property Managers, contractors, and HOAs to assist you with your stormwater facility maintenance needs.

Montgomery County, MD has thousands of stormwater facilities including ponds, wet ponds, underground structures, bioretention facilities, and much more. DEP ensures that they are all regularly maintained and functioning as-designed to protect our local streams.

To view previous editions of the newsletter, [visit our website](#). Past editions are at the bottom of the landing page.