
Smoke Signals - June/July 2026

MOYAONE ASSOCIATION <news@moyaone.org>
To: kenthibben@gmail.com

Tue, Jun 23, 2026 at 11:30 AM



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

MOYAONE RESERVE @ PISCATAWAY PARK
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

June/July 2026

President's Message

Greetings neighbors!

As your new President, I'm looking forward to serving the community in the coming year. For those who don't know me, I've lived in the Moyaone since 2008 with my husband Alex and son Axel who was born during Snowmageddan in the Winter of 2009-2010. That was a while back and many adventures and memories later we've benefited from this community in many ways.

I encourage everyone to get involved in the Moyaone community, and if you're involved reach out to others who may be newer to the neighborhood and community. This summer is an exciting time with events including World Cup watch parties at the Wagner Center, swim meets and swim team spirit nights on Thursdays, and Vegan dinner parties. The Fundraising committee has an event July 11. Other ways to get involved include helping clean up or weed whack the commons, splitting wood for the pizza oven, or helping revamp our web site. We're reinvigorating the Welcome & Membership Committee as part of this effort and others are welcome to join. What ways do you want to get involved? I'd love to hear from you!

Upcoming Events

June 5-July 12

Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC) in Smallwood State Park juried show

June 26, 9am

AFF Summer Adventure Camp new camper registration closes

June 27, Noon to 2 pm

Botanical Table Plant-based Potluck (details below)

June 28

[AF Rivers and Roots Festival](#)

June 28, 12-2pm

[Clothing Swap](#) @ the Wagner Center (details below)

July 3, 8pm

[CCYO Independence Day/Alumni Reunion Concert](#)

@Alice Ferguson Foundation

July 1, 8, 15, 22

AF Storytime (details below)

July 11, 7pm

[Fundraising committee's Cocktails by the Pool](#) (details below)

July 12, 12-130pm

AF shoreline cleanup (details below)

July 18-19 and July 25-26

[CCYO Chamber Music Festival](#)

July & August 2026

AFF Summer Adventure Camp (registration open, details below)

August 1

AAA "No Rules, Just Paint (and Sip!)" workshop

September

"Land as Muse" art exhibit that is part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation

"Maryland 250" celebration on September 19, 20, 25, and 26.

Cocktails by the Pool

Join the Moyaone Fundraising Committee for a Red, White, & Barbeque July 11, from 7 to 10:30 pm.

Enjoy sliders and sides from Rocklands Barbeque, with plant-based options, as well as drinks and live music! Get your tickets in advance here: <https://moyaone-association-fundraising-committee.square.site>

See the attached [flyer](#) for more information.

Community Clothing Swap

@ WAGNER COMMUNITY CENTER
[2311 Bryan Point Road](#)
[Accokeek, MD 20607](#)

SUNDAY JUNE 28 TH
12 – 3PM

bring good condition clothing that you would give a friend

Drop off clothing, shoes, accessories, (childrens, womens, mens, all ages, all sizes) to the Wagner Community Center Saturday 6/27 from noon-2pm or arrange with Nora in advance (617.291.7240 or noratobin@gmail.com)

“Shop” for free on Sunday, 6/28!

Light refreshments will be provided. Feel free to contribute a snack / beverage.

Consider wearing clothing that you can easily try on clothing over.

Looking for volunteers to help with sorting clothes Sat 6/27 from noon-2pm at the Wagner center and for help with clean up Sun 6/28 from 3-4pm.

leftover items will be donated

The Botanical Table

Saturday, June 27, Noon to 2 pm

is the next family-friendly

Botanical Table Plant-based Potluck

Hosted by Fred Rischmiller

6850 Steamboat Landing

Theme: Latin American Cuisine

Send any questions/concerns to MoyaoneVeg@gmail.com

It should be *delicioso*! Hope to see you there!



Jet Fuel Leak Updates

The Maryland Department of the Environment has detailed information regarding the Joint Base Andrews jet fuel leak that has impacted Piscataway Creek and the communities, including Moyaone, that live along the creek:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/OilControl/Pages/andrews.aspx>

Beyond Your Front Door

While there is nothing to report on the on-going planning process for either the Morton Farm project (TCP102925-0030) or on the Signature Club East project (TCT1-052097-03; CSP-23002), on June 10th, the Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration (MDOT/SHA) held a public meeting at the Harmony Hall Regional Center. The focus of the meeting was to show their proposed plans for MD Highway 210 (Indian Head Highway) interchanges at Old Fort Road and at Livingston and Palmer Roads. In each interchange, the MDOT/SHA engineers were there to answer questions and show their proposed changes on large traffic maps. The proposed plans show that MDOT/SHA has focused solely on the movement of vehicular traffic along MD 210, and did not consider the localized problems their proposed "changes" will have on traffic below MD 210 on Livingston Road, or on the proposed new hospital Adventist HealthCare is planning to build below the Old Fort Road / MD 210 interchange or how pedestrians will be able to cross MD 210 from Palmer and Livingston Roads.

The problems on the MD 210 interchange at Old Fort Road is further complicated by their proposed traffic circle at the Old Fort / Oxon Hill / Livingston Road interchange. Here are the issues and facts that MDOT/SHA did not consider in their planning effort: At the Old Fort Road/MD 210 interchange will be raised roadbed so traffic on MD 210 is unimpeded without a traffic light. All traffic from MD 210 to Old Fort Road will use a raised roadbed and then go down a ramp that will end near the entrance to the Livingston Square shopping center past the existing McDonalds. This will necessitate taking some land from the Kaydot Property -- the vacant land across from the McDonalds and where Adventist HealthCare is planning to build their new hospital.

Making matters worse is that as one gets off the down ramp, it runs into a new traffic circle. At this point, no emergency vehicles will be able to make a quick right turn into the new hospital due to vehicles coming around the circle heading for MD 210. MDOT/SHA also did not plan for the eventual truck warehouse to be built that has already been approved by the County Planning Commission some 2 years ago. This truck warehouse is to be built behind the Harley Davidson store on Livingston Road. According to the Planning hearing on this truck warehouse, some 75 to 150 tractor trailers are being planned to visit this site daily. These trucks will be coming from the Beltway, north of this site. These trucks upon leaving the site will be forced to go towards and around the new

traffic circle to get to MD 210 north. The Old Fort/Oxon Hill/Livingston Roads intersection is busy now, but will be made into a maddening situation as you add the volume of tractor trailers into the mix.

I know what you are thinking....why don't the trucks simply go back up Livingston Road to travel north on MD 210? Because the proposed plan by MDOT/SHA will not allow vehicles to go up Livingston Road to either go north on MD 210 or to even go straight across to Palmer Road. This intersection will only allow vehicles to turn into Livingston Road from MD 210 or to turn south onto MD 210 from Livingston Road up by Sunny Brook Tavern. On Palmer Road, cars heading towards MD 210 will only be able to turn in the northbound MD 210 traffic. No vehicles will be able to go across to Livingston Road. To go on MD 210 south, one will have to go along a service road to the MD 210/Old Fort Road intersection. As for all the pedestrians to cross at the Palmer/Livingston Roads interchanges with MD 210, that will not be possible nor was it ever considered by the engineers of MDOT/SHA.

The MDOT/SHA engineers did not know much about the proposed truck warehouse, and did not believe the Adventist HealthCare was planning to build its new hospital on the Kaydot Property. The only consideration they had was to make vehicles go along MD 210 without traffic lights. They were not in any way concerned with economic development, such as what a new hospital would bring to the area, or the sub-level local traffic issues their proposal would cause, or how the large residential population above MD 210 on Palmer Road would ever get to their local grocery store at Livingston Square.

What to do about this mess? Write to MDOT/SHA about how idiotic their proposals are for these two intersections along MD 210. Ask them to hold another public meeting and bring new designs that better reflect how these intersections could work beyond moving traffic on MD 210. Ask them to bring pencils with erasers to create and mark up the maps and not just magic markers.

Michael Leventhal

Pulse of the Pool

Meet your lifeguards!

Kyla Amelechkin, Pool Manager:



This is Kyla's sixth summer working with the Moyaone Pool. She started out at age sixteen as a lifeguard, then spent a summer as a licensed pool operator before becoming Assistant Manager in 2023. She climbed to Manager the following year, where she continues to proudly oversee the amazing lifeguard staff, monitor the facilities, and run the daily happenings at the pool. Kyla was also part of the Moyaone's very own Accokeek Swim Team for twelve years, and she currently carries on her passion for swimming by coaching the next generation of Gators. When she isn't at the pool, Kyla spends time reading novels or watching Jeopardy! marathons with her family and two cats. During the off-season, Kyla takes her passion for sports & public health to George Washington University, where she studies Exercise Science with the goal of one day becoming a physical therapist.

Charlene Drennen, Assistant Pool Manager (Charlene has requested not to include a photo of herself in the newsletter):

Charlene has been a lifeguard at the Moyaone Pool for four years, and this is her first year as Assistant Manager. While she has been swimming since she was 4 years old, she joined the Accokeek Gators in 2020, where she swam for six years. She is a junior in college studying nursing, but is still deciding what specialty she will pursue. Her favorite thing about the Moyaone Pool is creating a safe and clean environment for the community to make memories that will last a lifetime.

Maya Civil, Lifeguard/Pool Operator:



Maya has been a lifeguard at the Moyaone Pool for over three years. Prior to that, she joined Accokeek Swim Team when she was five years old and swam until she was 18. Outside of lifeguarding and swimming, Maya is a rising senior at Syracuse University double majoring in public health and public policy. She is spending her summer interning in DC in addition to life guarding and teaching swim lessons.

Mateo Gutierrez, Lifeguard/Pool Operator:



Mateo is well known in the Moyaone community through his involvement in local homeschool groups and the Accokeek Stroke Technique Swim Team (ASTS). He has been a competitive swimmer since he was five, is also a member of the AST swim team, and is now in his second year as a lifeguard. At sixteen, he earned his Pool Operator's license and has continued expanding his skills in pool management and aquatic safety with the goal of becoming a pool manager in the future. Mateo plans to join his older brother at the University of Maryland after high school. When he's not working or training, he enjoys lifting at the gym and spending time in the pool community he loves.

Aydan Amelechkin, Lifeguard:

Aydan is a first-year lifeguard at the Moyaone Pool. He has played multiple sports including being on Accokeek Swim Team for 8 years. Outside of his swim duties, he enjoys his passion for music creation. Aydan is excited to assist at the pool this summer.

Brell Bennett, Lifeguard:

Brell is a newly certified lifeguard and is in her first year working at the Moyaone Pool. She has been on Accokeek Swim Team for six years and has been swimming year-round competitively for four years. Brell enjoys teaching swimming basics & skills to younger children on the swim team. She is going into her junior year of high school this fall and wants to continue to study American Sign Language.

Jude Bennett, Lifeguard:



Jude has been a lifeguard at the Moyaone Pool for three years. He spent several years as a Gator on AST, and likes lifeguarding because it's a great way to meet new people and learn life skills. Jude plans to one day become a Lego designer in Denmark. His passions also include filmmaking and storytelling.

Luke Doyal, Lifeguard (Luke has requested not to include a photo of himself in the newsletter):

This is Luke's second year as a lifeguard at the Moyaone Pool, alongside his twin brother, Micah. Luke is a recent graduate of Gwynn Park High School, where he swam for the swim team as well as engaged in other sports. Besides lifeguarding, Luke also teaches swim lessons at the pool. In the fall, Luke is attending Prince George's Community College with the goal of majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Micah Doyal, Lifeguard:



Micah joins his twin brother, Luke, for their second year lifeguarding at the Moyaone Pool. Micah is a recent high school graduate with an interest in software development and hands-on coding projects. As former captain of his

varsity lacrosse team, he learned to lead under pressure, communicate clearly, and motivate teammates toward shared goals. He brings that same discipline to the pool, where he diligently maintains patron safety & facility upkeep. Micah will attend College of Southern Maryland in the fall, majoring in cybersecurity.

Ben Garcia, Lifeguard:



Ben Garcia is a first-year lifeguard with a background in competitive swimming. He has spent eight years swimming for AST and the past three years competing in year-round swim. His experience in the water has helped develop discipline, teamwork, and strong water safety skills. Ben plans to continue his future in aquatic service by pursuing a career in the United States Coast Guard.

Ashley Gruwell, Lifeguard:

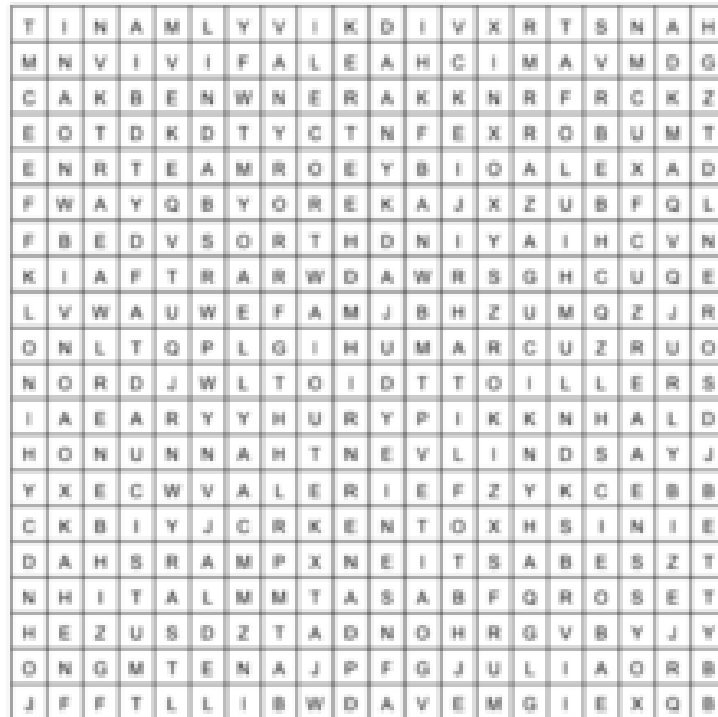


Ashley has been a lifeguard for a little over a year and is beginning her second summer working at the Moyaone pool. She enjoys swimming year-round and has been competing with the Accokeek Gators since she was six years old. Ashley is excited to be part of the Moyaone Pool lifeguard team this summer.

Thanks to our volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who lent a hand to get us to opening day! Can you find all their names below?

Word Search Puzzle



Find these words:

Alex, Amity, Becky, Ben, Betty, Bill, Chia-Yin, Cory, Crystal, Dan, Dave, Deborah, Elliott, Hans, Hsini, Jake, Janet, Joe, John, Jill, Judy, Julia, Karen, Kent, Kim, Laura, Linda, Lindsey, Marc, Marshad, Matt, Michael, Nancy, Rhonda, Rob, Roger, Rose, Sebastian, Soren, Thann, Tina, Tom, Valerie, Warren

The Moyaone Commons: *What is it? When was it formed? Will it survive?*

By Kay Powell

Only a few of us remain that have lived in the Moyaone for more than fifty years. My husband Tom and I donated a scenic easement to establish Piscataway Park in 1968. The same year we built and moved into our house in the Auburn area of the reserve. I've seen lots of change in the Moyaone Commons.

What is a “commons?”

When we moved here, our gathering place was the swimming pool and community building. We didn't use the term, “commons.” That's a recent way to

talk about the land we share.

Recently I read an article about “commons” on Substack. [What is the Commons - And Why Does It Matter Today](#). The author Michel Rauchs **is the co-founder of the Commons Lab**, a non-profit organization that helps communities build and sustain viable commons projects. The goal is to explore how to build resilient, community-centric areas that meet our shared needs while preserving our precious natural, social, and cultural capital

A “commons” is a little understood way to share the land. Commons have existed as long as humans have walked the earth. Early versions were places where families could graze sheep, celebrate things and meet on neutral ground. Because they were created before governments were formed, a “commons” had a set of rules and norms developed and enforced by that community to ensure fair access, responsible use and long-term stewardship. Today shared land, like parks are often managed by laws set by local, state and federal governments. Piscataway Park is federal land managed by the National Park Service and it struggles to maintain our park.

When was the Moyaone Commons created?

The Fergusons’ country home, Hard Bargain was the primary gathering place for the first residents. The gatherings resulted in the creation and preservation of this community. Their country home, Hard Bargain was a private property so it doesn’t fit that definition of a commons. But the Fergusons definitely fostered the idea, hosting weekends for those who shared their vision and wanted to have social time together. The early residents were their friends who enjoyed Hard Bargain in many ways. They gathered for cocktails, volleyball and sledding in the winter. The Fergusons’ purchased farmland and sold it in 5-acre parcels to build the Moyaone community. It’s a fascinating story that’s been told in several publications.

Hard Bargain, owned and operated by the Alice Ferguson Foundation is no longer part of the commons for security reasons. I experienced that when I was Executive Director of the Foundation. The farm’s hilly terrain, limited staff and increased concern for the safety of school children makes it difficult to guarantee the safety of visitors.

In the 1950’s, Henry Ferguson gave a part of his land to the Moyaone Association for a swimming pool and community building. That was the beginning of our “commons.” The pool opened in 1959. I’ve wondered if there should be a plaque acknowledging Henry Ferguson’s donation.

Will our commons survive?

In 1968, Garrett Hardin wrote an essay titled [The Tragedy of the Commons](#). He argued that individuals with open access to a shared resource would overuse

and destroy it. After his essay many commons were purchased and fenced by private individuals or put under government management.

This viewpoint changed in 1990, when political scientist Elinor Ostrom published Governing the Commons. Drawing on decades of fieldwork, she documented how communities around the world had long governed natural resources using self-made rules, peer monitoring and institutions of their own design. She showed that the commons were not only possible but more sustainable than the alternatives of government or private ownership.

A primary reason for the loss of these shared lands is failure to take responsibility for its maintenance. The verb “commoning” is defined as an ongoing process of collective care and co-creation. It is based on active participation, mutual commitment and trust. No two commons look alike because each one is shaped by its community. Our commons has kept our community together. I developed close friendships with my neighbors at the swimming pool and holiday picnics. Now I've added the community garden as a favorite place to meet my neighbors.

I've watched the Moyaone Commons expand and it now includes the swimming pool, community building, picnic area, ball fields, playground and community garden. Earlier in my life, I spent many days helping open the pool, assisting with the July 4th and Labor Day parties. I formed deep friendships working alongside my neighbors during those times. I'm handicapped now and unable to do this work any longer but I'm thankful for the amazing volunteers who do so much of the work to maintain our commons. But I worry that our commons has outgrown our ability to sustain it. There are fewer volunteers helping open the pool and sharing routine maintenance. At Moyaone meetings you get to know these key volunteers. Our gathering place has grown. Now we need to expand our volunteer force. I propose that we examine needs of our “commons” and then come together to co-create a system that preserves it for the future.

Kay Powell is the author of After Alice, Building a Foundation to Preserve the Land available on Amazon. It's a memoir about her experiences being Executive Director of the Alice Ferguson Foundation from 1979 – 1999.



The recently completed Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) art show at Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC) in Smallwood State Park was a great success! Thanks to everyone that visited for the incredible show of community support! Many AAA members will also have work in the June 5 – July 12 MCAC juried show so a return trip is encouraged.

On June 13th AAA members met up to tour the Workhouse, a former prison, now Art Center, in Lorton, VA. We have scheduled an additional workshop, "No Rules, Just Paint (and Sip!)" for August 1. This should be great fun, with no experience or your own supplies required. In September the AAA has a key role in putting on the "Land as Muse" art exhibit that is part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation "Maryland 250" celebration on September 19, 20, 25, and 26. Local artists can enter up to 5 works for consideration that they feel fit the theme. The entry deadline is July 15th. Submit works for "Land as Muse", register for workshops, join or find out more about us all on the website at accokeekartistsalliance.com



Last Call: Summer Adventure Camp - Limited spaces available

Final weeks to register! New camper registration for Summer Adventure Camp at Hard Bargain Farm closes Friday, June 26 at 9 AM.

For decades, families have made unforgettable summer memories at the farm through outdoor exploration, hands-on nature activities, time with farm animals,

and adventures that build confidence outdoors.

One experience families won't want to miss is our Jr. Ranger Angler experience at Overnight Camp — a unique adventure where campers spend their days fishing, exploring the waterways that supply the Potomac River by kayak, enjoying campfire evenings, learning outdoor skills, and making lasting memories with new friends.

Many camp sessions are already nearing capacity, so now's the time to reserve your child or grandchild's spot before registration closes. [Register here!](#)

Celebrate Maryland 250 with the Alice Ferguson Foundation

This September, join us for Maryland 250: Land as Muse — a multi-weekend series celebrating the powerful connection between land, art, history, and community.

From inspiring artwork and storytelling to immersive experiences along the Potomac River, each event invites you to explore how the landscape around us has shaped creativity across generations — and continues to inspire the next.

What to expect:

- Art Exhibit & Sale in partnership with the Accokeek Artists Alliance
- Documentary Screening of Lenore + Q&A with Susan Gervasi, Producer
- Meet the Artists Opening Reception featuring Cynthia Rudzis, who will unveil four newly commissioned stained glass panels, and Nicole Bourgea's newly completed mural on the Pavilion wall.
- Celebration on the Potomac - Discover the stories behind the farm's signature buildings while enjoying local food, beverages, and the beauty of the property.
- Maryland 250 Historical Exhibit - Explore the people, landscapes, and traditions that have shaped this property across generations.

This milestone series is part of America's 250th anniversary celebration and every ticket helps support environmental education programs for children across our region.

Secure your tickets and join us as we celebrate the past, present, and future of this special place.

[Learn more and buy tickets here!](#)



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park

Save the Date: June 28 *River and*

Roots Festival

Save the date for the Accokeek Foundation's Saturday, June 28th festival, a FREE celebration of shared history and heritage in Piscataway Park! Bring the family to enjoy food, fun, and the beauty of this landscape while hearing stories of the past. This America 250 event is funded in part by the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. <https://www.accokeek.org/event-details/river-roots>

SEEKING EVENT VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for volunteers to help out during the Foundation's upcoming summer event, [River & Roots](#). Rooted along the Potomac River, this gathering honors more than 250 years of cultural exchange, resilience, and connection to the land. River & Roots brings together neighbors, families, and partners for a day filled with storytelling, music, hands-on experiences, and shared traditions that reflect the rich and layered history of this place. The event will be held in Piscataway Park on Sunday, June 28 from 11 am to 3 pm. We need volunteers to assist with parking, activity stations, demonstrations, set-up, and clean-up. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out for this event by

replying to charlow@accokeek.org.

Weekend Public Tours of Piscataway Park

Join one of the Accokeek Foundation's educators to learn about the land, the people, and the history of Piscataway Park. Starting in April, public tours will be offered on Fridays at 2pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 11am and 2pm. Tours will meet inside the Visitor Center. Please dress for the weather and purchase your ticket here:

<https://www.accokeek.org/event-list >;

July Storytime

Join our librarian, Ms. Kate, for storytime this summer! We'll read stories, move our bodies and sing songs that encourage us all to understand and take care of the world around us. Program designed for ages 2-5, though both older and younger children will enjoy too! Hope to see you there! July 1, 8, 15, 22 in the Education Building.

Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

Visitor Center

Love history, nature, and connecting with people? Join the Accokeek Foundation as a Visitor Center volunteer and help create meaningful experiences for visitors to beautiful Piscataway Park.

We are currently seeking volunteers to serve as welcoming ambassadors in our Visitor Center, with a particular need for individuals 18 or older who are available one or two Saturdays each month. Contact Casey or express interest at charlow@accokeek.org.

Gardens

Do you enjoy working in the garden or have you always wanted to learn? Our new Garden Program Coordinator is looking for volunteers to help with everything from pulling weeds, planting, and pruning to propagation and compost management. Over the next few weeks we will be starting seeds for fall planting, taking softwood cuttings of our native shrubs, and other basic maintenance in the gardens. These spaces tell the story of the land and our community. We would love to have you be a part of the team tending to these stories. You can sign up to volunteer here:

https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer/#/join_party?k=62zh75lsswp9uu

July shoreline clean-up

Would you enjoy volunteering with friends and family? Our shoreline clean-ups are a wonderful way to spend quality time together while caring for the community. Join us on Sunday, July 12th, 12-1:30. If you'd like to sign up, please do so [here: https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer/#/join-party?k=njcr5ytl2frkg8](https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer/#/join-party?k=njcr5ytl2frkg8);

Water Quality Monitoring

We are excited to introduce a new volunteer opportunity! The Accokeek Foundation and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network are partnering to bring water quality monitoring to Piscataway Park! We hope that this will yield valuable data to park residents, fishermen, and visitors on the state of park

waters.

As a volunteer you will be collecting weekly samples at our site and taking them to the Sea Dog floating lab at the National Harbor. You are also invited to hang around to help analyze the samples if it interests you!

If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, **please email Evan Quinter at evan@prknetwork.org letting him know that you want to volunteer for the Accokeek Foundation site.**

Prince George's County Climate Stewardship Academy

Applications for the Prince George's County Climate Stewards Academy fall 2026 cohort are open! This education and stewardship training program will support local climate preparedness while building the capacity of communities. The goal is to identify, train, and empower climate stewards to serve as community climate champions and lead local climate adaptation and resilience efforts. All Prince George's County residents are encouraged to apply regardless of preexisting climate knowledge.

[Apply here](#) by July 20.

Submitting to Smokes

Want to submit an article or event for Smoke Signals? Send it to news@moyaone.org. If you have images you'd like to include, please send them as their own attachments.

Smokes generally goes out the first week of every month, but feel free to send items for the next issue any time. (However, I'm not able to monitor the email every day, so please be patient if you don't get a confirmation right away!) If you have something more pressing that you want to share to the community, please reach out to Kent Hibben, our Public Affairs Committee Chair, at publicaffairs@moyaone.org.

Julia Paajanen
Editor