

Jennings Randolph Lake & the Maryland Conservation Corps

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Photo Top: Vernal pool along the Jennings Randolph Lake Songbird Trail. Photo Middle: Maryland Conservation Crew joined by Deep Creek Lake State Park, and Park Ranger Tony Shillingburg. Photo Bottom: Park Ranger Tony Shillingburg and an MCC crew member armor a portion of the Songbird Trail.

The Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) is an award-winning AmeriCorps program that engages young adults in extensive natural resource management and park conservation projects. The mission of the program is to provide both skills training and opportunities for young adults to serve Maryland's conservation needs. There are seven crews in various areas around the state of Maryland.

In January, staff from Jennings Randolph Lake were joined by five MCC members, a crew leader from Deep Creek Lake State Park, and the son of former Jennings Park Ranger Norm Dennis to assist in an exciting project. Over the course of two days, this determined crew completed three tasks on the project's Songbird Trail which included clearing and rock armoring a small section of the trail and conserving an existing vernal pool. Vernal pools are small wetland areas that fill with winter snow melt and rains during the spring; providing great habitat for amphibians. Spring peepers, spotted salamanders,

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

PART II LOCAL EVENTS AND AWARENESS MAY 16-23, 2020

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Part II) is scheduled for May 16-23, 2020!

Hold an event to raise awareness and identify

solutions to invasive species issues at local,

state, tribal, regional, and national scales. The NISAW website provides a toolkit to help with your planning needs!

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Photo Below: Hydrilla at Millwood Lake. Photo courtesy of Cherrie-Lee Phillip,



green frogs, tree frogs, wood frogs, marbled salamanders, numerous insects and wetland grasses can all be found in the vernal pool along the Songbird Trail. In Maryland, many vernal pools are at risk due to over development, pollution and run-off from agriculture. Numerous species require a wetland vernal pool area for reproduction and the completion fo their life cycle. Therefore, it was imperative that the vitality of the vernal pool was protected. This particular vernal pool had a tree uproot which redirected the flow of water away from the vernal pool. The Conservation Corps crew assisted with redirecting water flow back to the vernal pool, while ensuring that the wetland was not disturbed.

