Back River Restoration Committe Summer of 2023 Intern Experiance

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Throughout 2023, Back River Restoration Committee (BRRC) has yet again given me an extraordinary experience with environmental restoration, conservation, and preservation. Being able to be hands-on on the boom, helping set up and attend events, and doing my due diligence in protecting the environment, which we all use and enjoy, has shown me a lot on a personal level and in the professional world as a recent Bachelors of Arts in Environmental Studies college graduate from St. Mary’s College of Maryland, BRRC has given me the hands-on aspect as to what helping our beloved environment looks like. Not only this, but BRRC has gone further while helping me achieve my professional goals.

Restoration, Conservation, and Preservation. Over the summer months, I have dove into the deep end. Interning at the BRRC boom site is hard work, and I stepped up to the par. A typical day involves removing large tree limbs, floating bottles, cans, and whatever you can think of. Without BRRC’s booms in place, all the trash we collect would be floating down Back River and into the Chesapeake Bay. Literal tons of trash, wood, and other debris were collected from our site weekly. It is not as easy work, but nothing is easy when restoring and preserving such a large tributary to the country’s largest estuary. BRRC is equipped with the right tools, such as boats, heavy machinery, and all-terrain vehicles, to do the job.

Aside from hard-working days at the boom site, BRRC hosted multiple fundraising, awareness, and volunteer events during the summer of 2023 that helped us spread the word about environmental conservation. Taking care of a significant environmental concern is one thing, but getting help is another. Through our annual clean-ups, golf, and rockfish tournaments, we have spread the word and received help from 100’s of volunteers and county workers who help us get the job done and show people the more significant issues in our ecosystems. Not to mention the help we receive in funding from our events that help us continue the journey to a healthy and safe local environment. It truly does take a team, and since BRRC is a smaller non-profit, all the help we can get goes a long way.

As far as my interests go, BRRC has taught me the ins and outs of hands-on work and has taught me more than you can read about helping the local environments in which we live. BRRC has also shown me the aspect of working with the community and building relationships with like-minded people. I am eternally grateful that BRRC has helped me with my academic and professional goals. Given the time and experience I have endured with BRRC, it goes hand in hand with environmental education. As a recent graduate in Environmental studies, I saw the intersections in which books and the natural world co-exist. I have placed the knowledge of work into a more prominent focus. The more significant issue - is awareness of environmental issues and how to deal with them. I now know what it takes from levels of community, organizational, and state-wide help to restore environments. I was able to transform this knowledge into my professional path and now work for the State of Maryland, where I can share my insight and use the things I have learned to restore, protect, and maintain these various environmental issues.

Sincerley,

Christopher Kvech