**BRRC Experience Summer 2023**

**I’d first like to thank everyone involved in this organization as well as Desiree Greaver for giving me the opportunity to work for such an amazing organization I never knew there were groups out there like this because sadly you always see trash no matter how much you clean. I never realized the bizarre things that can come down the river through the boom. Items like shoes, needles, rafts, baby toys, bottles, plastic, etc. The only way this river and all of the Chesapeake Bay will ever become unpolluted is by spreading awareness about what littering is really doing to our water and animals.**

**This past summer, I spent most mornings in waders picking up endless piles of trash that consisted of sticks, leaves, bottles, shoes, and many other things that get carried downriver. I also spent many mornings operating our bobcat which is a huge help in transporting enormous trees and thousands of pounds of trash. Now picking up trash isn't the most exciting job but in order to save Back River and the Chesapeake Bay area we have to start somewhere, which has been a group effort for 14 years. Being able to see how much trash you really removed is very rewarding knowing you're making a difference each and every day. I loved taking before and after pictures of all the trash and logs we have moved it really puts into perspective how much effort it takes to keep the river clean. But at the same time, it’s very sad seeing how many people don't care about the river or the health of our earth.**

**Most days once the trash was removed from the bottom of our boom we would hop on one of our pontoon boats and drive upriver. This was easily one of my favorite parts being able to operate the pontoon along with my fellow workers. Almost every time we came to discover the work wasn't over and that there was plenty more where that came from. However, one pleasant site was being able to see the fish still jumping and the beautiful flowers blooming.**

**There were various trash hot spots that even though you cleaned up the day before would again pile high with mountains of trash. Oh, and don't let me forget those summer storms kept us with what felt like endless cleaning to do. Our booms do a great job holding and pulling the trash but sometimes the trash just needs a little extra push or blow from our awesome 90HP mercury outboard. If it wasn't for the awesome organization we would have mountains of trash floating in the back river, which would be enough trash to walk across the water on. So without the effort and dedication of this organization and the people who run it, we would be in trouble.**

**I started working at BRRC because I heard a fellow intern Chris talking about how great the organization is, and how can not work for an organization that is all about helping the environment when my birthday is on Earth Day aka April 22nd. This was my first summer at Back River and I started back in December 2022. Ultimately I have a love for nature and I would love to one day see our waters be as clear as some of the prettiest waters outside of the US. I believe every employee and intern is unique in their own way but we all have one mission and that is to SAVE BACK RIVER and the CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA.**

**Thank you,**

**Trevor Lintz**