

SHORELINES

A Newsletter of the Chesapeake Conservancy
Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places

Summer 2013

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OSPREY CAM A SUCCESS!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY: IAN PLANT

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Mission

The Chesapeake Conservancy's mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the watershed, conserve the landscapes and special places that sustain the Chesapeake's unique natural and cultural resources, and encourage the exploration and celebration of the Chesapeake as a national treasure.

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Note from the Executive Director

Protecting our large and pleasant navigable rivers

One of my favorite natural resource conservation concepts comes from Aldo Leopold - that conservation is a state of harmony between people and the land. Leopold developed an ecologically-based land ethic and wrote "a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community." The Chesapeake Conservancy's vision is rooted in the land ethic, and we are working today to connect the public with their natural environment and create a network of conserved landscapes and special places.



Interestingly, Leopold also noted that historical events can be interpreted as biotic interactions between people and the land. Let's take Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay landscape in 1608. Smith wrote that the Chesapeake "is a country that may have the prerogative over the most pleasant places known, for large and pleasant navigable rivers, heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation." Smith's experience on the Chesapeake gave him an appreciation for our amazing ecosystem, particularly our great rivers.

These rivers and Smith's Trail now form our framework for conservation in the region. Our Nanticoke River Conservation Corridor project is a great example of our work. The Nanticoke River is located on the Eastern Shore and is home to hundreds of rare, threatened, and endangered species. The Nanticoke provides some of the few places you can find these globally rare plant and animal species, including Harper's beakrush, Parker's pipewort, and box huckleberry. It also harbors unique plant communities such as Atlantic white cedar, non-tidal wetlands, and xeric sand ridge forests.

This is one of the few places you can go to see the world as John Smith saw it 400 years ago, providing some of the last strongholds for these rare species and plant communities. Years of conservation efforts have protected thousands of acres along the river corridor, but gaps in protection threaten the corridor's integrity. The Conservancy is working with partners to create an unbroken, scenic river corridor from Seaford, DE to Vienna, MD - preserving this haven of wildlife, plants, and history for generations to come.

We are using creative partnerships, community-based engagement, and innovative technology to advance our work across the watershed. We hope you will join our adventure and support our work.



JOEL DUNN, *Executive Director*

Werowocomoco Protected

The Chesapeake Conservancy recently supported the conservation of Werowocomoco, Paramount Chief Powhatan's Seat of Power in 1607. Conserving this area protects the histories of all Virginia Indians, and helps us to better understand the history of the Chesapeake from long before the English settled Jamestown.

Stephen R. Adkins, Chief of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and a founding board member of the Conservancy said, "the preservation and conservation of this historic land for generations to come is perfectly aligned with my values, and the values of the Chesapeake Conservancy. We honor the polity, social order, economic enterprise, religious customs, agricultural prowess, engineering feats and craftsmanship of our ancestors who thrived in this area thousands of years before settlers landed."



Envisioning the Chesapeake, One River at a Time

The Chesapeake Conservancy uses the Chesapeake Bay's great rivers as the framework for conservation programs. Partnering with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, the Conservancy engages communities and builds on previous conservation successes to develop new, river-wide initiatives, shaped by the unique character and history of each individual river.

One of the Conservancy's most exciting corridor initiatives is the Nanticoke River Conservation Corridor. It provides habitat for more than 180 rare plants, including six that are considered globally rare, and 78 rare animals, including four globally rare species. This rich habitat creates an opportunity for the modern adventurer to explore a landscape evocative of the 17th century when Captain John Smith first explored the Chesapeake Bay.

Partnering with the States of Maryland and Delaware, and with private funders, the Conservancy's initiative also aims to enhance public access and foster environmental education and stewardship.

This important initiative grew out of the Nanticoke Partnership Agreement developed by the Conservancy in 2008. The agreement is signed by the states of Delaware and Maryland, the National Park Service, and the Chesapeake Conservancy, and it commits all parties to work together to identify and implement best practices for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the Nanticoke watershed's natural, historic, and cultural resources. Visit the Conservancy's website to learn more about this agreement, the Nanticoke River Conservation Corridor, and ways you can enjoy the Nanticoke.

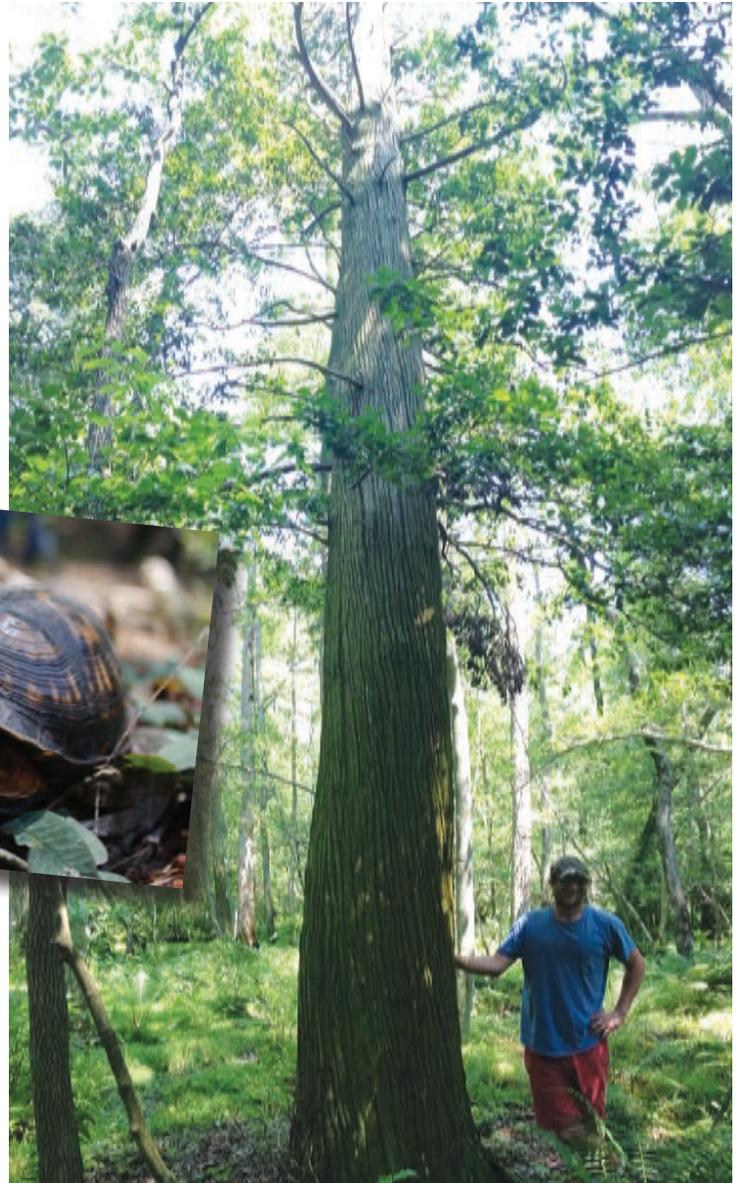
Continuing River Corridor Efforts

Along the James River, the Conservancy is championing an innovative community-based process, Envision the James, with lead partners the James River Association and National Geographic Maps, made possible through funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MeadWestvaco Foundation and NewMarket Corporation.

Collaborating with communities and practitioners, the initiative has identified a river-wide vision for the future of the James. To learn more about this community-designed vision and implementation plan, go to the Conservancy's website at www.chesapeakeconservancy.org today.

Using Envision the James as a model, the Conservancy is working with partners throughout the Susquehanna River corridor to develop a similar community-driven initiative. This visioning process will explore opportunities to value and enhance habitat conservation and restoration, cultural heritage preservation and education, recreational access, and economic development throughout the entire Susquehanna River corridor.

In a similar vein, the Conservancy continues to serve as the



National Park Service's primary partner in implementing the Capt. John Smith Trail by working with the Service and local organizations to develop segment plans for each portion of the Trail. The team is now developing a plan for the tidal Potomac River and has held several stakeholder focus group meetings throughout the region to generate public interest and participation. The team will use focus group results and additional site visits to identify the best opportunities for enhancing the visitor experience along the river.

The Conservancy is also working along the Rappahannock River to create an access corridor that will bring the public closer to this historically, culturally and ecologically important river. The Conservancy is working on improved access at Old Mill Park and at the town of Port Royal, and we expect to begin work at some additional sites. Within this river corridor, the Fones Cliffs project has become a focal point for the team, working to ensure the long-term protection and conservation of this important cultural and historical landmark.

Osprey Cam Huge Success



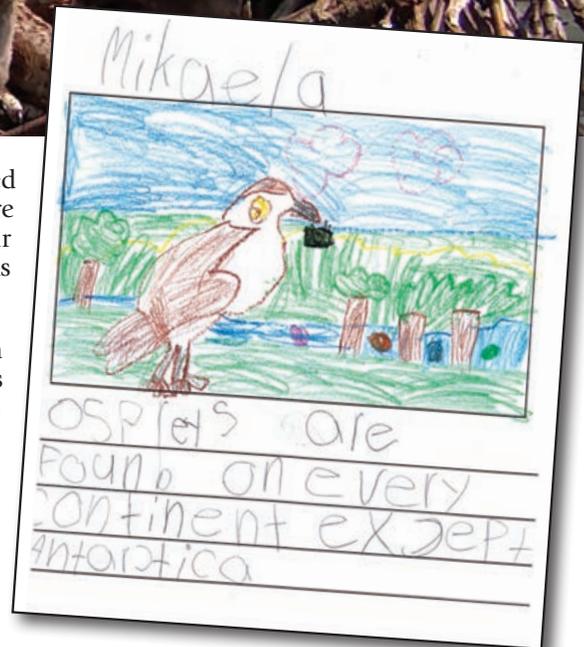
The Chesapeake Conservancy is partnering with Earth Security, the Shared Earth Foundation, and a private landowner to bring an Eastern Shore osprey family to a computer near you. Parents Tom and Audrey and their three chicks, Chester, Essie, and Ozzie, have attracted more than 300,000 visits to the Conservancy's website from all 50 states and 100 countries.

Launched in March, the Osprey Cam (ospreycamera.org) brings attention to the Conservancy's wildlife and habitat conservation programs and helps engage the public in this work. Through this effort, we have also added a wildlife library, videos, and guide to the website, to provide visitors with more information on the Chesapeake's wildlife species.

Visitors to the website have delighted in watching the osprey family grow from eggs to newly hatched chicks to, most recently, adolescents learning to fly. A blog, with over 40,000 visits of its own, complements the website with behind-the-scenes accounts and pictures from the property owners and osprey biologist Dr. Paul Spitzer.

The Osprey Cam is also finding its way into the classroom. The grand prize winner of an osprey coloring contest held at Kent Island, MD's Matapeake Elementary School recently visited the osprey family at the nest's secret location. Further away in Michigan, a kindergarten class used the Osprey Cam to learn about science and develop writing skills.

The camera has been a tremendous success, capturing the attention of local newspapers, radio and television stations. Executive Director Joel Dunn had the opportunity to promote habitat conservation for the Bay's wildlife during interviews with NBC, FOX, Maryland Public Television, NPR, and WRNR as well as several local newspapers.



Dramatic Rescue

We have all heard of the dangers to wildlife from trash left in the Bay, but this issue became very real to osprey followers recently when one of the osprey chicks, Ozzie, became entangled in fishing line brought into the nest quite innocently by one of the osprey parents.

We watched and waited, but it appeared that Ozzie was not going to be able to get free from the fishing line, which could have easily entangled the rest of the osprey family. The Conservancy worked with the landowners to remove the fishing line, without injury to the osprey. To learn more about this dramatic rescue, go to the Conservancy's website and see the video – it's been watched by animal lovers from around the world!

Conservancy staff member Jeff Allenby, Director of Conservation Innovation, holds the ladder for the Crazy Osprey Man, who freed Ozzie from the fishing line.

Public Access

Protecting the Chesapeake's State and Federal Support

One vital aspect of the Conservancy's work places staff in front of those individuals responsible for ensuring that programs like Program Open Space continue to receive funding to support Chesapeake Bay restoration, conservation, and protection efforts. Already this year, we have worked to stop a \$50 million cut planned to Maryland's Program Open Space, and succeeded in restoring \$8 million to Delaware's Open Space Programs. Additionally, we helped to generate \$1 million for the National Park Service to acquire lands along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and secured \$2 million for the Gateways Network for public access areas.

New access sites help people get to know the Chesapeake's great rivers

The Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries have over 11,600 miles of shoreline, yet only about two percent of it is open to the public. With more than 17 million people calling the watershed home, that math equals a lot of people with no way to get to, or into, the water.

To remedy this, the Conservancy is actively working to fill the gaps and reconnect people to the Bay and its rivers.

In Charles City County, VA, at the Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park, the Conservancy and partners completed a boat launch on the James River, filling a 36-mile access gap along the Capt. John Smith Trail.



Conservancy staff member Joanna Ogburn, Director of Programs (fourth from right) joins local leaders to celebrate the grand opening of the Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park boat launch in May.

In Fredericksburg, VA, the Conservancy partnered with the City and Friends of the Rappahannock to establish a soft launch at Old Mill Park on the Rappahannock River. With only a few small improvements left, the site will be completed this fall.

In Port Royal, VA, the Conservancy teamed up with the town government, Friends of the Rappahannock, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop a fishing pier and a canoe and kayak launch on the Rappahannock River. The site will be the only public access point in Caroline County, providing access to the Capt. John Smith Trail and the adjacent National Wildlife Refuge. Construction begins this fall.

In Sussex County, DE, the Conservancy worked with project advisor Dave Morine to help the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control purchase the Webb Property to provide access to the Upper Nanticoke River section of the Capt. John Smith Trail. Unimproved public access is available now, but the State of Delaware has plans for infrastructure improvements.

Expeditionary Education

Launch of Capt. John Smith Trail Expeditions

The Capt. John Smith Trail Sea Kayaking Expedition has gotten off to a great start with four trips already completed this spring and summer. Developed through a partnership with Outward Bound Baltimore Chesapeake Bay, this sea kayak adventure has quickly become Outward Bound's most popular offering with schools from all over the watershed requesting more trips be added to the schedule.

Outward Bound and Conservancy staff have continued to improve the course after each trip, incorporating Bay history, ecology lessons, and leadership development into the curriculum. After the first expedition was forced to end early after three days of heavy wind, Outward Bound reversed the expedition's itinerary to better accommodate the potential for bad weather.

The three subsequent trips have gone without any issues and have allowed watershed students to explore the Chesapeake along the same route that Capt. John Smith followed 400 years ago. More than forty students from Baltimore's SEED School, and City Neighbors Charter High School, George Washington University Online High School, and Norfolk Academy have completed the course.

"Independent and public schools from the head to the foot of the Chesapeake Bay are finding out about our John Smith Trail Sea Kayak Leadership Expeditions and want to offer their students this amazing experience" said Liz Millhollen, Outward Bound's Program Coordinator. "We are already looking forward to summer 2014 so we can build leadership skills within more of the future stewards of The Chesapeake Bay."



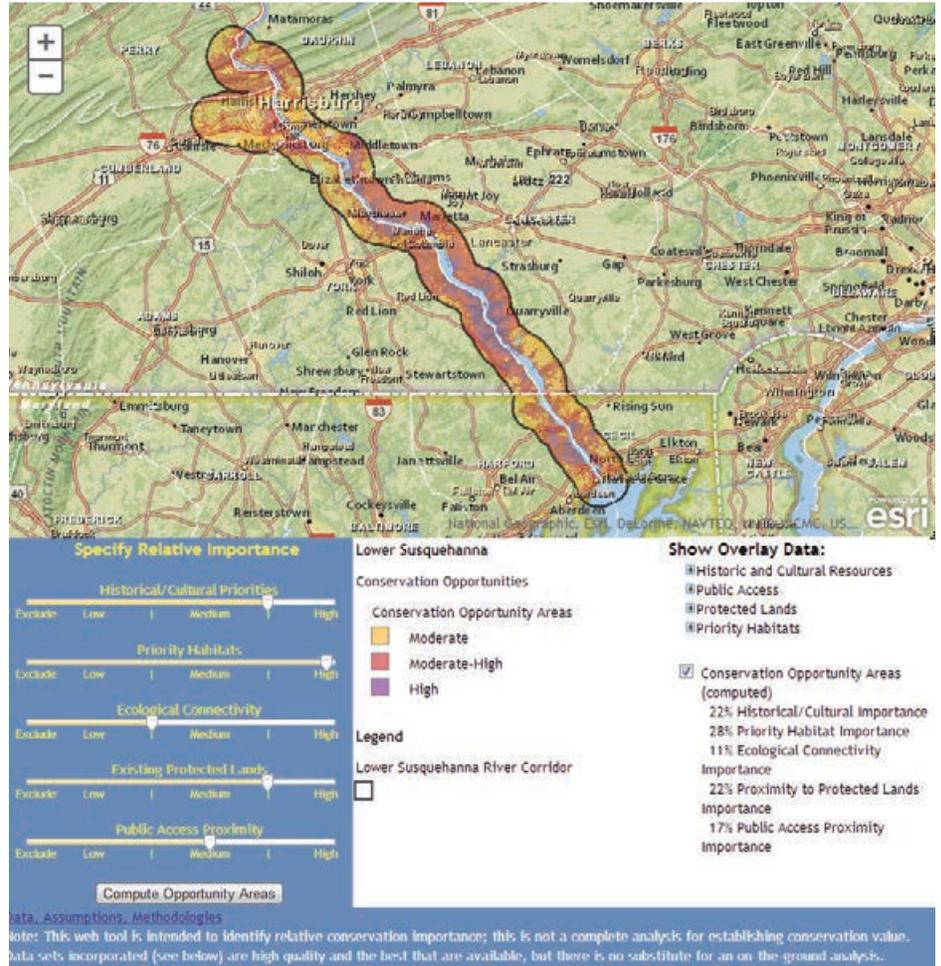
The Susquehanna Slider

Chesapeake Conservancy staff have created an innovative new tool to help communities and local partners identify priority landscapes along the lower Susquehanna River. Called the Lower Susquehanna River Conservation Prioritization Tool, this “slider” allows users to explore data layers and identify landscapes that have a high conservation value based on their level of interest in five categories: Historical and Cultural Resources, Priority Habitats, Ecological Connectivity, Relationship to Existing Protected Lands, and Proximity to Existing Public Access Points.

The Conservation Prioritization Tool represents one of the only tools, if not the first, in the watershed that allows users to conduct a personally-driven analysis of the conservation potential of the land based on cultural, historical, and ecological significance. It is important for the public to be able to visualize and interact with regional datasets, and this tool elevates the capabilities of visitors to the site by allowing them to not only look at the data but also interact with it and understand how regional priorities change based on their input.

As a result, our partners along the lower Susquehanna River should see a greater amount of engagement by the community in public meetings and find that participants are better informed when discussing their priorities and the justifications behind them.

The Conservancy will expand the use of this technology to the rest of the Susquehanna River as well as to other river corridors along which we are working. To try the Conservation Prioritization Tool for yourself, visit: www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/slider.



Conservation Innovation Roundtable

Chesapeake Conservancy staff partnered with the Aspen Institute and Intel Corporation to host a revolutionary Conservation Innovation Roundtable that brought together 35 of the top experts in the fields of conservation targeting, remote sensing, environmental finance, and communications as well as representatives from NOAA, USFWS, and a number of non-profits.

Over a day and a half of meetings, this diverse group deliberated the challenges currently facing conservation organizations across the Chesapeake, evaluated promising technologies and techniques that could help bridge some of these gaps, examined the future of conservation innovation, and unveiled the Conservancy’s plans for a virtual Conservation Innovation Center.

The Innovation Roundtable represents an important step towards achieving the Conservancy’s goal of using innovation to direct the development of ground-breaking programs that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of conservation work throughout the watershed.

Just as innovations like conservation easements and large-scale planning frameworks advanced the amount of land protected throughout the Chesapeake’s watershed, the Conservancy’s Conservation Innovation Center will develop new ways of prioritizing the highest functioning landscapes, engaging the public, and creating public access to conserve the Bay’s natural and cultural resources.

This virtual Center is being developed as a vital central location for Conservancy partners to learn about cutting edge techniques that could be employed throughout the watershed and beyond. The Center’s development, as well as the Innovation Roundtable, is being funded by a generous grant from the Intel Corporation.

The Conservancy and Aspen Institute have released a report detailing the roundtable findings, available at www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/reports.

Danowitz and Harper join Board of Directors

Jane Danowitz, Senior Officer, Environment for The Pew Charitable Trust, and Stephen F. Harper, Global Director of Environment and Energy Policy for Intel Corporation, recently joined the Chesapeake Conservancy's Board of Directors.

Ms. Danowitz has more than three decades of experience in public interest education and advocacy at the federal level. Before joining Pew, she served as director for the Heritage Forests Campaign, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, and the Women's Campaign Fund. Ms. Danowitz holds a B.A. in American History from Cornell University and a J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America.

Mr. Harper has chaired many high tech industry environmental groups and coalitions, and is Chairman of the International Climate Change Partnership. Prior to joining Intel, he was Senior Policy Analyst for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Vice President for the environmental policy consulting firm ICF Consulting. Mr. Harper's career includes time with the California Coastal Conservancy and the American Farmland Trust.



Welcome to New Staff and Thanks to our Interns!

Emily Myron has moved from Fellow to full time Project Coordinator. In this new role, Emily coordinates and facilitates landscape-scale projects and collaborative partnerships with federal, state, and non-profit partners across the Chesapeake watershed. She has a strong background in conservation, community-based environmental management, and geospatial analysis. As a native Marylander, she is excited to be tackling conservation issues near and dear to her heart. Emily has a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and a Bachelors in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Interns JonSidney Apfelbaum, Will Dominguez, Sara Decker, Julia Harrison and Christine Antonsen joined the team this summer to provide support for government relations, outreach and wildlife education programs, and communications.

We wish all our interns a great semester ahead, and thank them for their service to the Conservancy over the summer – we'll miss them all! If you are or know a college student interested in an internship with the Chesapeake Conservancy, contact the Conservancy office at 443.321.3610 to learn more.

LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY TO EXPLORE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?

Visit Tripsandtips.org

To find interesting, unusual and off the beaten path events taking place from the Susquehanna to the mouth of the Bay and everywhere in between.

WWW.IANPLANT.COM



Join the NEW Osprey Donor Club!

To aid the Chesapeake Conservancy in our efforts to protect habitats for the Bay's wildlife, we have launched a new donor club – the Osprey Club. For an annual contribution of \$100 or more, you can join others in saving the habitats of osprey, blue heron, and other Chesapeake Bay species. Your donation is fully tax-deductible, and entitles you to exclusive Osprey Club benefits, including:

- A limited-edition Osprey Club Window Decal
- An invitation to our Annual Open House Event
- A Souvenir Photo of the Osprey Nest
- Osprey Club Membership Card

To join today, please go to our website and make your contribution of \$100 or more – your membership will automatically be activated in the Osprey Club, and you will receive your member package in the mail shortly.

Or simply send your contribution by mail to: 716 Giddings Avenue, Suite 42, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Thank you for your support!



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The Chesapeake Conservancy relies on our many friends to protect and conserve the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places. Your tax-deductible contribution of any amount is truly appreciated.