

CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY 2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Shorelines

Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places



Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail and the centennial of NPS!
PHOTO BY: JODY COUSER

Celebrate the Victories, but Continue the Fight

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 restore landscapes, rivers, and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay region.

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This year we celebrate important milestones for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the National Park Service, as described in this *Shorelines*. In February, we received news of another reason to celebrate. For a second year in a row President Obama's budget includes significant funding for land conservation in the Chesapeake region.

Last December, the House and Senate approved the Fiscal Year 2016 federal budget with nearly \$11 million for land conservation in the Chesapeake and \$2 million for supporting a range of public access and conservation efforts along the John Smith Chesapeake Trail. The President's proposed budget for FY2017 includes another \$29 million to fund land conservation in the Chesapeake. The proposed budget would provide funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to protect significant wildlife habitat and historic sites in Maryland and Virginia.

This unprecedented federal funding for specific federal land conservation priorities and public access is a victory for partners in the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative and represents several years of effort. The Chesapeake Conservancy has served as a lead nonprofit partner in developing the LWCF proposal, working closely with the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and American Indian tribes and nations. We have worked hard to garner the bipartisan support of U.S. representatives and Senators and state governors. We believe the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal was a significant driver for the Chesapeake's listing in the President's budget.



The Conservancy and partners have much to celebrate in 2016.
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL DUNN

It is now up to the Congress to ensure that funds to support conservation in the Chesapeake are appropriated. Our work is not done. Our voices in support of this funding need to be heard.

Land conservation and public access are critical components of the Bay restoration and protection strategy. And every one of us who loves the Chesapeake has a stake in the outcome. What we do now affects the future of the Chesapeake for generations to come.

This hits home for me every day as I watch my soon-to-be-one-year-old grow and discover the world around her. The choices we make today will determine what her Chesapeake becomes.

We must act, vote, donate, volunteer, and, most importantly, commit to protecting our great rivers and special places now. We must let our legislators know how crucial their support is in this collaborative effort to protect and restore the precious Chesapeake for our children and our children's children.

JOEL DUNN, *President and CEO*

Mallows Bay–Potomac River Update

Following the announcement of intent to establish Mallows Bay–Potomac River as the first National Marine Sanctuary designated in more than 20 years (see *Shorelines* summer and winter 2015 issues), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hosted two public meetings with more than 50 people in attendance, including members of congress, federal agencies, and more than 45 organizations and 9 businesses. Support for the designation of Mallows Bay–Potomac River has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to everyone who contributed their input! Visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-bay/> to learn more.

Conservancy Has an App for You

Would you like to take a virtual tour of Mallows Bay? See if you are within walking distance of a park in Baltimore? Learn about conservation opportunities on the Nanticoke River? The Chesapeake Conservancy offers more than 20 smartphone and web-based applications for accessing information about the Chesapeake watershed.

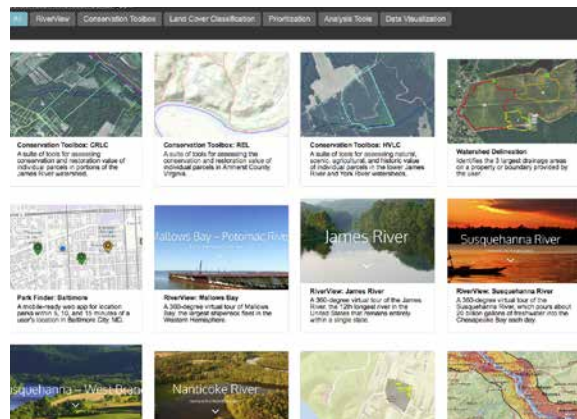
The Conservation Innovation Center (CIC) Apps page helps users explore the diversity of web applications for both partners and the wider public. Highlights include a series of virtual riverview tours down the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, a mobile-ready app for finding parks in Baltimore, and several tools used by conservation organizations to prioritize lands desirable for protection.

Riverview is one of several applications intended to connect the public to nature in unconventional and innovative ways. Teaming with Richmond-based Terrain360, the Conservancy deployed a one-of-a-kind boat to take 360-degree images every 50 feet along sections of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail. (See

winter 2015 *Shorelines*.) Each section has an accompanying web-viewer, all of which are available on the CIC Apps page.

Park Finder: Baltimore, launched in October 2015, is designed to make it easier for Baltimore's residents and visitors to find parks near them. Using advanced mapping software that distinguishes accessible streets from non-accessible streets, the app displays the parks within a 5-, 10-, or 15-minute walk from a given location in the city. Each entry also includes information about facilities and amenities at each location, provided by the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks.

CIC staff is also hard at work developing analytical tools for conservation organizations looking to incorporate high-powered computing and the latest datasets into their work. For example, the Conservation Toolbox offers a web-based platform for assessing properties based on how well they meet certain conservation criteria, such as



A computer screen shot of the many apps offered by the Chesapeake Conservancy

forested land area, average slope, and historical significance. The toolbox helps conservation organizations be more effective in identifying and prioritizing opportunities as well as applying scientific data when making the case for land protection.

Visit the CIC Apps pages at: www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/apps and www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/smartphone-apps

Bucknell Symposium Focuses on Susquehanna

In November, Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, hosted its 10th Susquehanna River Symposium. The annual event provides a forum for students, academics, watershed managers, consulting scientists and engineers, and the public to discuss ongoing scientific research and innovative projects to increase awareness of environmental issues facing the Susquehanna region.

Chesapeake Conservancy President and CEO Joel Dunn was among the speakers. In his presentation, "Large

Landscape Conservation: Connecting the Susquehanna River to the Chesapeake Bay," Dunn talked about the vital role the Susquehanna River plays in the health of the Chesapeake. He described the efforts of the Conservancy and the *Envision the Susquehanna* (ETS) core team to conserve, restore, and celebrate this great river, which supplies 50 percent of the Bay's fresh water.

Dunn spoke about the importance of achieving collective impact in the ETS initiative through community input and partnership. "That's the idea behind *Envision the Susquehanna*—to unite the efforts of folks working throughout the watershed," Dunn said. "Whether it's by sharing data, identifying common priorities, or tapping into the diversity of strengths of the Susquehanna's conservation community, working together, we can achieve results that are far greater than any one organization could achieve alone."

Keynote speaker James N. Levitt, director of Harvard

University's Harvard Forest Program on Conservation Innovation and a fellow with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, said in his address: "The Chesapeake watershed is positioned to be a hub of innovation, a center for precision conservation."

Dunn applauded Levitt's statement by speaking about the Conservancy's use of high-resolution data to practice precision conservation. Our Conservation Innovation Center is focused on getting the right practices, in the right place, at the right scale, to add value to the conservation community through new datasets and user-friendly, web-based tools. These tools help users who have limited GIS capacity and experience to harness the power of all of these datasets and prioritize conservation and restoration opportunities.

"We're developing new datasets and tools that identify at a landscape scale where the regional priority areas are in terms of protecting or restoring natural, cultural, and historic resources, and then at a parcel scale, how to design and implement projects that will have the greatest effect on the ecological integrity of the Susquehanna, and therefore, of the Chesapeake Bay," Dunn said.



Carly Dean, project manager, at the Susquehanna River Symposium PHOTO BY: JENN AIOSA

National Park Service and Smith Trail: Two Reasons to Celebrate in 2016

By Paula Degen



Before the NPS was established in 1916, national parks were administered by the U.S. Army or other government agencies, with no consistent oversight or standards. This rare photo of Sequoia National Park c.1912 shows a U.S. Cavalry captain flanked by two park rangers—all in different uniforms. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

What do the years 1606, 2006, and 1916 have in common? These are milestones in the histories of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the National Park Service that we honor in 2016.

The trail's 10th anniversary is December 19, the date in 2006 when President George W. Bush signed legislation that established the first national historical water



Logo of the Conservancy's predecessor 2006–2010

trail—exactly 400 years from when the trail's namesake departed England on one of three ships bringing colonists to the shores of the Chesapeake. The National Park Service marks its 100th birthday on August 25, the day in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act creating a separate bureau in the Department of the Interior to care for America's national parks.

The events whose anniversaries we celebrate this year have some similarities and Chesapeake connections. And,

at least in the story of the trail, the Chesapeake Conservancy has "bragging rights."

Origins of the Trail

Establishing new parks or trails can take 12 years or more. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was established in just under 22 months! The story of how that happened will be told in a future issue of *Shorelines*, closer to the anniversary date.

The seeds were planted by prominent figures in what would become the Chesapeake Conservancy. According to people on the scene, the idea for the trail originated with Patrick Noonan, chairman emeritus of The Conservation Fund and—among other credits—a member of National Geographic's board of trustees. Noonan broached the subject with Gilbert M. Grosvenor, then president of the National Geographic Society, and with Will Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. They founded the Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, the group that was instrumental in building the partner support necessary to persuade Congress to establish the trail.

The Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Trail was the nucleus of today's Chesapeake Conservancy. In a real sense, the Chesapeake Conservancy can claim credit for the existence of the trail. Several of the Conservancy's board members were integral to its creation, including current members Stephen Adkins and Patrick Noonan and honorary board members Gilbert Grosvenor, Charles Stek, and retired U.S. Senators Paul Sarbanes and John Warner.

One name among them, Gilbert Grosvenor, also has connections to the origins of the National Park Service—the other anniversary we celebrate this year. As noted, Gilbert M. Grosvenor was a founding member of Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. He was head of National Geographic, the fifth generation of his family to lead that organization. Like Patrick Noonan, he had grown up on the Chesapeake, and his passion for the Bay was deep. Grosvenor added the prestige and support of National Geographic to the movement to create the trail. Among other trail-related projects, he was responsible for the special publication that was distributed to members and friends to garner support for the proposed trail—not unlike how his grandfather, Gilbert H. Grosvenor, influenced the creation of the National Park Service.

Origins of the National Park Service

Two men are most prominently associated with the origins of the National Park Service: Stephen T. Mather and Horace M. Albright, the first and second directors respectively. Mather was a wealthy middle-aged retired businessman in January 1915 when he was asked to serve as assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. Albright was his young assistant. They set out to generate support for a bill to create a federal bureau to administer the nation's parks. Beginning with Yellowstone in 1872, there were 13 existing national parks and 18 areas designated as national monuments at the time. The federal departments of agriculture, interior, and war each had some responsibility for these public lands, but there was no coordinated oversight.

Mather's personal interest in the parks had begun a few years earlier when, in 1912, he and his family made a pack trip into the wilderness backcountry of the Sierra Nevada, starting in Sequoia National Park. The stunning scenery deeply impressed him, but the primitive visitor facilities and external threats to the park made an impression, too.



as soon as he returned from the trip, Grosvenor went to work on a special issue of *National Geographic* magazine about the national parks, and copies were placed on the desks of every senator and representative before the crucial vote.

Decades later, Horace Albright credited the Mather Mountain Party of 1915 as being the final catalyst in passage of the Organic Act. "Above everything else, I think everyone of us who... experienced the camaraderie of those two weeks provided a bond of friendship... that turned dreams into reality in the future."

Finding himself now in a position to influence change, Mather considered how he had become so passionate about parks, and he recalled that 1912 trip with his family. He hatched the idea of replicating that trip with a hand-picked group of powerful people, among them congressmen, railroad officials, journalists, scientists, educators—and the then director of National Geographic, Gilbert H. Grosvenor.

Nineteen men participated in the two-week Mather Mountain Party in the summer of 1915. Upon return, each played a role in rallying support for the bill that a year later won congressional approval—the legislation known as the Organic Act that created the National Park Service.

For his part, Gilbert H. Grosvenor gave Mather the national audience needed to get congressional attention. Almost

Common Threads

The stories about the National Park Service and the John Smith Chesapeake Trail have similarities beyond a family connection. They show how park and park-like experiences—whether growing up on the shores of the Chesapeake or venturing into unfamiliar wilderness—can be transformative. They also show how a few determined people with passion and commitment can achieve great things. There are stories of such people behind the creation of each of



Volunteers at Sultana Projects in Chestertown, MD, constructed a replica of the shallow used by Captain John Smith to explore the Chesapeake region. The replica was instrumental in inaugurating and promoting the national historic trail. PHOTO COURTESY OF SULTANA PROJECTS, INC.

the more than 400 places in the National Park System today.

The National Park Service wants all of us to explore the parks and make our own personal connections. To take part in commemorating these anniversaries, "Find Your Park," by visiting the NPS website FindYourPark.com. Here in the Chesapeake, find and share experiences along the John Smith Chesapeake Trail starting at FindYourChesapeake.com, or by using the handy Chesapeake Explorer app.

Paula Degen recently retired from the Chesapeake Conservancy and National Park Service as an interpretive specialist for the John Smith Chesapeake Trail.

Authors Collaborate on Eagle Book and a New Osprey Book Featuring Tom and Audrey

The heartwarming story of the web's celebrity osprey family, Tom, Audrey, Maine, and Montana, as well as their extended nest guest "E.T.," will be chronicled in a book by Teena Ruark

Gorrow and Craig A. Koppie, which is due to be released by Schiffer Publishing later this year. Members of our Osprey and Eagle clubs will be able to special order an autographed copy through the Conservancy.

pturcik@chesapeakeconservancy.org or 443-261-2379.

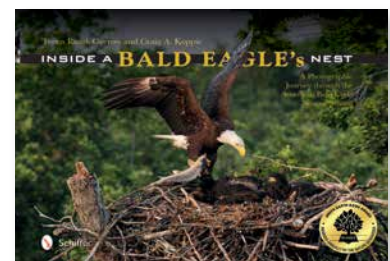
Inside a Bald Eagle's Nest, winner of the 2014 Green Earth Book Award, takes a photographic journey of American bald eagles during nesting season. Gorrow and Koppie will be selling copies of the book at the Welcome Back Osprey party.

We will provide information about how you can obtain a copy of their upcoming osprey book as it becomes available.



Teena Ruark Gorrow and Craig A. Koppie sharing their eagle book with 4th and 5th graders at Patterson Elementary School in Washington, DC PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE GORROW

You can meet both authors and hear about the Chesapeake's majestic eagles and ospreys during the Chesapeake Conservancy's Welcome Back Osprey Party on April 19, 2016. For more information about the party, please contact Peter Turcik at





Attendees at the second annual Champions of the Chesapeake awards dinner gather for a preliminary reception at Governor Calvert House, Annapolis, MD
PHOTO BY: TONY J PHOTOGRAPHY

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

In December, the Chesapeake Conservancy honored Dr. Mamie Parker, the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri), and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis as the 2015 Champions of the Chesapeake. Their passion, dedication, and leadership reinforce our belief in the ability to save the Chesapeake's wildlife, culture, and history. Nearly 200 people joined us to celebrate their inspiring accomplishments.



Dr. Mamie Parker (center) received the Conservancy's 2015 Individual Champion of the Chesapeake award. Also pictured, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe (right) and Conservancy President and CEO Joel Dunn (left). PHOTO BY: PETER TURCIK



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Donor Spotlight:



For more than 35 years, peregrine falcons have nested on the 33rd floor of 100 Light Street in downtown Baltimore. Transamerica embraced these majestic birds after moving into Maryland's tallest building in 2011. Transamerica is now headquartered in Baltimore and is part of the Aegon group of companies based in the Netherlands—one of the world's leading financial services groups providing insurance and asset management services.

In 2015 the Chesapeake Conservancy teamed up with Transamerica to install the live-streaming webcam, which shows the daily lives of the falcons we call "Boh" and "Barb."

"This partnership offers a unique opportunity to showcase these beautiful



PHOTO BY: SCOTT MCDANIEL

birds, representing one of the greatest conservation success stories. Like the osprey, peregrine populations declined dramatically from the 1950s to 1970s due to pesticide poisoning from DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane), resulting in brittle egg shells too weak to produce healthy chicks. With the ban of DDT and the work of many very dedicated conservationists, both species have made a comeback," said Joel Dunn, president and CEO of the Chesapeake Conservancy.

The nest is located outside of a conference room. The proximity caused both humans and birds to interrupt each other's normal daily routines, so management went to great lengths to accommodate the peregrines by building a false wall in the conference room. While the falcons were still there, employees could not very easily see them at their nest. Today, thanks to the webcam, the employees of Transamerica feel more connected to their unusual officemates just beyond the wall.

"Our colleagues around the world are watching the cam. Given that Transamerica is part of Aegon, we have colleagues in the Netherlands and many other parts of Europe and even

Peregrine Falcon Webcam

- Since its debut in March 2015, the peregrine falcon webcam has had more than 1 million visits from around the world.
- There is plenty of food for Boh and Barb in downtown Baltimore, such as pigeons, other small birds, and rodents, so they do not typically migrate like other peregrines. This means the falcon webcam has no "off season!"
- Watch the live stream at www.chesapeakeconservancy.org or "Like" our Facebook page for the latest news on Boh and Barb!

Asia who are keeping an eye on Boh and Barb," said Gregory Tucker, senior vice president of Americas Corporate Communications for Transamerica. "Transamerica is excited to not only show these birds to the world, but also to support efforts to raise awareness for the conservation of peregrines and the Chesapeake."

We sincerely thank Transamerica for their support and partnership. "Our wildlife webcams do more than provide entertainment," adds Dunn. "They connect people to nature. We believe when people feel connected to nature, they will work to take care of it."

Board & Staff News

Douglas Wheeler has been appointed chairman of the Board of Directors.

Wheeler previously served as the Board's vice chairman and is a partner in the environmental practice of Hogan Lovells US, LLP, in Washington, DC. He succeeds former chairman, Paul Hagen, who will continue to serve on the Conservancy Board.

"The entire Board and I are truly grateful for the leadership and dedication Paul has shown while serving as chair," Wheeler said. "With Paul at the helm,

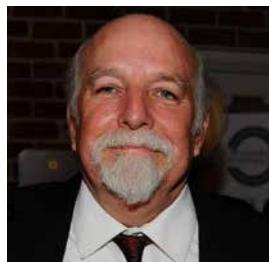


DOUGLAS WHEELER
PHOTO COURTESY OF HOGAN LOVELLS US, LLP

the Chesapeake Conservancy underwent tremendous growth and really became known for using cutting-edge technology to advance conservation and public access along the great rivers of the Chesapeake and the John Smith Chesapeake Trail."

The Conservancy welcomes five new Board members: **Holly Evans, Barbara Jackson, Ed McMahon, John Neely, and Richard Scobey.** We bid a fond farewell to **Dr. Mamie Parker, Page Hayhurst, and Ann Loomis,** who have recently rotated off the Conservancy's Board.

Joe McCauley joins the Conservancy staff as a Chesapeake Fellow after retiring his position as regional chief, Division of



JOE MCCAULEY
PHOTO BY: PETER TURCIK

Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region. Joe brings to the Conservancy vast conservation experience, both at the policy level and in the field. He will serve as a mentor to the Conservancy staff and enhance the organization's conservation efforts in Virginia.

Sarah Elder, director of operations, recently completed an executive certificate in nonprofit leadership from Duke University.



SARAH ELDER
PHOTO BY: PETER TURCIK

Peter Turcik has transitioned from the position of grant writer to media specialist with the communications team.



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Please consider making a special gift to the Chesapeake Conservancy by naming the Conservancy in your will or by designating the Conservancy as a beneficiary of your bank account, 401(k) or other retirement account, or life insurance policy.

**For more information:
call 443.321.3610**

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and land conservation programs.*

PHOTO BY: JONATHAN HUDSON