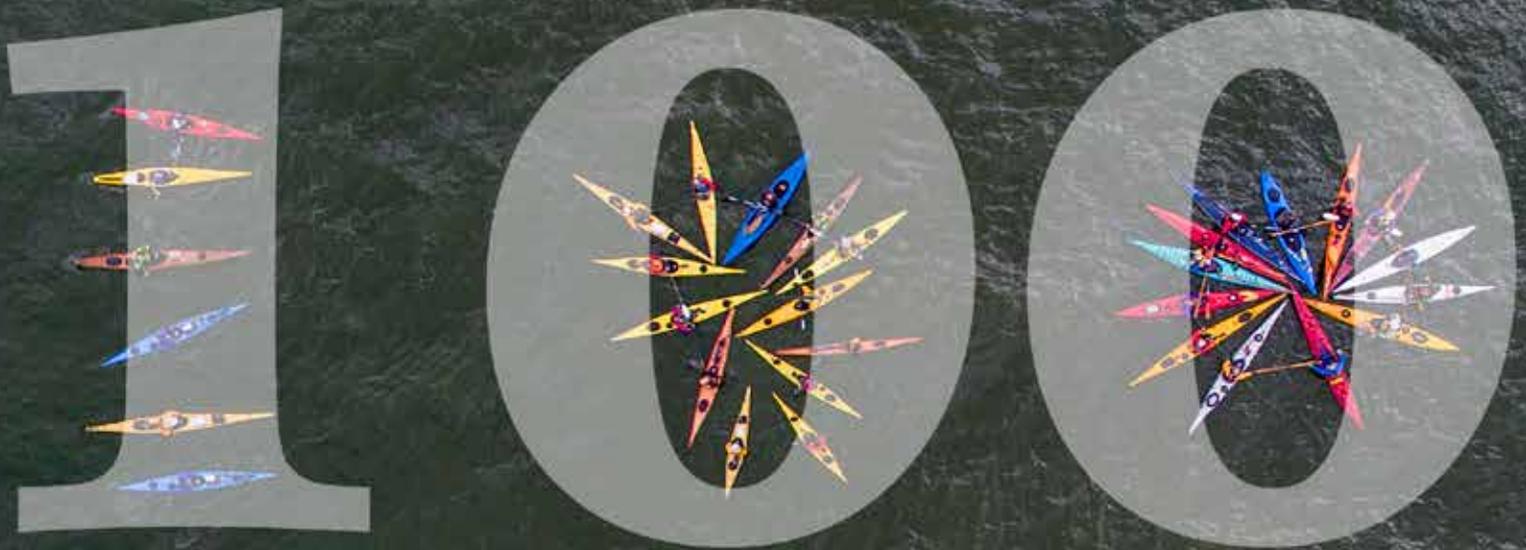


CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY 2016 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Shorelines

Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places



The Celebration Continues

Photo by Mid-Atlantic Aerial Photography

Members of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association and the Chesapeake Conservancy created this formation to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service on the John Smith Chesapeake Trail at Sandy Point State Park in Maryland.

All Oars in the Water

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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It's a big year for the beautiful Chesapeake Bay and its great rivers. This year marks both the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and the 10th anniversary of the John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the nation's first all-water national historic trail. I'd like to thank the Chesapeake Paddlers Association for joining us to celebrate, as seen on the cover of this edition of *Shorelines*.

Congress established the John Smith Chesapeake Trail in 2006 based on Captain Smith's map and written accounts. Stretching over 3,000 miles, the trail provides amazing outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and serves as both an inspiration and framework for our large landscape conservation.

The actions of our federal, state, and local governments go a long way toward whether or not we have places to explore incredible natural landscapes like those found in the Chesapeake. When Congress created the John Smith Chesapeake Trail, it created opportunities for federal funding and conservation efforts in our region, which is home to nearly 18 million people and losing tens of thousands of acres of open space each year.

Strong collective impact for conservation is achieved when federal funds, such as the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, are complemented with funding from the state, such as Maryland's Program Open Space, and from private organizations such as the Chesapeake Conservancy.

Recently, Maryland's General Assembly passed and Governor Hogan signed legislation that was a top priority for the Chesapeake Conservancy and the Partners for Open Space coalition. The much-needed legislation curbs a decade-long trend of decisions by Maryland's leaders to use Program Open Space's dedicated funds for other purposes, which started

as small diversions before growing to a total of more than \$1 billion dollars.

Maryland's leaders are wise to show their commitment to open space in a state where

outdoor recreation generates \$9.5 billion in consumer spending, 85,000 direct Maryland jobs, \$2.8 billion in wages and salaries, and \$686 million in state and local revenue annually, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

As we enjoy the summer months, I urge everyone to take full advantage of the fabulous outdoor opportunities throughout the Chesapeake watershed. Go fish from the newly opened pier at Port Royal, Virginia. Paddle among the shipwrecks of the ghost fleet at Mallows Bay-Potomac. Get a glimpse of the past by viewing the Bald Friar Petroglyphs at Susquehanna State Park.

Not sure about where to go? Take one of our virtual tours and see the great rivers from your computer screen. Not sure where to launch your boat? Find a launch on our new mobile *Boater's Guide* for the John Smith Chesapeake Trail. Experience the Chesapeake; you will fall in love with it as I have, and want to protect it as I do.



Chesapeake Conservancy President & CEO
 Joel Dunn
 PHOTO BY MARK HAMILTON

JOEL DUNN, *President and CEO*



Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and the legislative leadership deliver on their promise to restore funding to Program Open Space, April 2016
 PHOTO COURTESY OF CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

Mobile-Friendly Boater's Guide Brings John Smith Chesapeake Trail to Your Phone

Where is the best place to visit on the Chester or Pamunkey or James River? How do I get there? What is the water like? Where can I go with my type of boat? These are just some of the many questions asked when planning a boating trip. In 2011, the Chesapeake Conservancy partnered with the National Park Service and author John Page Williams, senior naturalist for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to produce *A Boater's Guide to the John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail*.

The online guide was innovative for its time, with hyperlinks to GIS data, NOAA charts, and contact information.



A computer screenshot of the Boater's Guide app

It provided boaters with practical information and trip itineraries along nine key rivers, the main stem, and head of the Chesapeake Bay explored by Captain John Smith in 1607–1609.

Until now, it was the only comprehensive water-trail guide to the national historic trail. But the original online version was not mobile friendly, and the printed version lacked the hyperlink features.

Now, through a grant from the BoatUS Foundation, the Conservancy has taken the information and itineraries from the paper publication of the *Boater's Guide* and used Story Map technology from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) to create an interactive series of maps that enables users to plan trips along the Chesapeake Trail from their computer, smartphone, or tablet.

“Thanks to the BoatUS Foundation and the public who voted for us to win and receive this grant, the Chesapeake Conservancy is using technology to connect the past with the future. The new mobile *Boater's Guide* provides people with the most up-to-date information for planning their adventures and making the most of this national treasure,” Chesapeake Conservancy President and CEO Joel Dunn said.

The guide has background information on the waterways, including geography, history, wildlife, and the best type of craft for boating excursions based on the depth and size of the water body.

“The original *Boater's Guide* is a wonderful source of information to plan a trip along the John Smith Chesapeake Trail,” Chesapeake Conservancy Director of Conservation Technology Jeffrey Allenby said. “We have taken that abundant information and presented some of it in a more technologically advanced format. The mobile *Boater's Guide* allows users to access the information anywhere—even in a kayak in the middle of the Rappahannock River. We hope to add more trip itineraries as we develop that content.”

Check out the mobile boater's app at: <http://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/apps/BoatersGuide/>



Tornado Impacts Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

By Joseph McCauley, Chesapeake Fellow

Among the hundreds of twisted and uprooted trees—many over 100 years old—lay a wiffle ball, a child's stuffed toy, a woman's blouse still on its hanger, and other evidence of lives torn apart by a category EF-3 tornado that ripped through Virginia's Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck on February 24. The tornado cut a path 28 miles long, and directly hit the Hutchinson Tract of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, located on U.S. Route 17, just north of the Town of Tappahannock.

As communities pulled together to clean up the debris and help families put their lives back on track, friends, volunteers, and nearby refuge staff worked to help the Rappahannock refuge recover as well.

Through massive cleanup efforts, the Hutchinson Tract reopened to host

the annual Go Wild event on May 15, sponsored by the Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the refuge's establishment on May 28, 1996.

Why work on recreational trails when there is so much to do to help people recover? While national wildlife refuges are for wildlife first and foremost, they are for people, too. In times of turbulence and strife, people need places like the Hutchinson Tract as a natural retreat, a place to reflect on nature, with its beauty and harsh reality. For years to come, visitors will see how wildlife species respond to natural disasters. The hope is that people will take solace and find

optimism when surrounded by nature rebounding from catastrophe. Plants and animals have an uncanny ability to recover from natural disasters, and on the Hutchinson Tract, they will show us traits to emulate as we carry on with our lives.



Cleaning up tornado damage on the Hutchinson Tract, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

PHOTO BY JOSEPH MCCAULEY



Proponents of the trail also garnered support for an innovative trail marking system, developed by NOAA. The first of the interpretive buoys was deployed in the James River, in view of Historic Jamestowne.
PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS

Celebrating a History Trail to the Future

by Paula Degen

It would be hard to miss the celebratory mood at the Chesapeake Conservancy this year as anniversaries of the National Park Service and the John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail converge. An article in the spring issue of *Shorelines*, focused on the centennial of the National Park Service founding, August 25. The spotlight now turns to the trail's story and the 10th anniversary of its designation, December 19, 2006. The date that President George W. Bush signed legislation to establish the national historic trail was a milestone, but it was neither the beginning nor the end of the trail's evolution.

The formative steps happened with remarkable speed. The process of establishing new national trails usually takes many years. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was established in just under 22 months!

Leading the effort was founder and chairman emeritus of The Conservation Fund, Patrick Noonan. Noonan wrote that "the impetus for the trail grew from conversations with my colleagues Gilbert Grosvenor and William Baker.... Together we formed the Friends of the John Smith Trail. Others enthusiastically joined us." Grosvenor, president of National Geographic at the time, and Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, both credit Noonan with the original concept of a national historic trail to encourage modern-day Chesapeake explorers.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative advisory commission, reported that its involvement was "sparked at its January 2005 meeting by

Patrick Noonan...who raised the idea of a national water trail to memorialize John Smith." The idea immediately took hold as representing "the Commission's comprehensive approach to Bay restoration, balancing water quality and habitat protection with culture, education, and access." CBC's 2006 annual report noted: "Without the leadership of The Conservation Fund, particularly Pat Noonan, the establishment of this water trail would simply have been impossible."

Led by Ann Swanson, the Chesapeake Bay Commission persuaded its partners on the Chesapeake Executive Commission—the governing body of the Chesapeake Bay Program—to urge U.S. Senators Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and John Warner (R-Va.) to sponsor legislation authorizing the National Park Service to study feasibility of the proposed trail. Congress passed bi-partisan legislation for the feasibility study in July 2005. The Executive Council formally adopted a resolution urging the National Park Service to expedite the study so Congress would have time to act before the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, approaching in May 2007.

Gathering Support

Meanwhile, The Conservation Fund, National Geographic Society, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Commission, Chesapeake Bay Program, state legislators, county commissioners, mayors, tourism offices, tribal leaders, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and many others were working to build public support for the trail. The Chesapeake Bay

Foundation reported that thousands of its members signed on to letters to Congress. The fledgling Friends of the Captain John Smith Trail, founded in 2005, was growing along with the trail's support. Noonan assembled an enthusiastic group of talented people at The Conservation Fund to staff the Friends organization and work on the trail project.

The NPS completed the feasibility study in record time, noting "exceptionally high" public interest and support for the trail. The study concluded that the routes of Smith's voyages met all the criteria for designation as a national historic trail.

Senators Sarbanes and Warner were joined by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) in introducing a bill to authorize the trail. Congresswoman JoAnn Davis (R-Va.) and 24 co-sponsors introduced companion legislation in the House. H.R. 5466 passed the House on December 5, 2006; S.2568 passed the Senate on December 7; and on December 19, President Bush signed the legislation (P.L. 109-418) establishing the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as the 25th addition to the National Trails System. The date was exactly 400 years from when the trail's namesake departed England on one of three ships bringing colonists to the Chesapeake.

Concurrent with efforts to create the trail, many of the same partners were working to persuade Congress to appropriate funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop a "smart buoy" system that would mark and interpret the trail. The innovative Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) would not only provide real-time data on scientific measures, but also transmit recorded vignettes—accessible to schools and the public by cell phone and Internet—describing what the early explorers might have seen 400 years ago.

The partners barely had time to enjoy their victories in Congress at the end of 2006. Much work remained to prepare for deploying the first of the buoys and officially inaugurating the new national historic trail. Both would happen in five months, during the anniversary weekend May 11-13, 2007—400 years from when the adventurers who had left England in December disembarked to establish a settlement at Jamestown. Add to the mix, a relatively new partner: the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Office, charged with managing the new national historic trail.



Stephen Adkins (right), chief of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and a Board member of the Chesapeake Conservancy, has been an essential voice for American Indians in the designation and evolution of the trail. Here, Adkins greets Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, also a proponent of the trail, in May 2006.

PHOTO BY TAMI HEILMANN, DOI

Reflecting on the successful push to create the trail and what might lie ahead, Pat Noonan wrote in 2007: "Historic National Trails typically have a citizen group that supports them with stewardship, advocacy, and outreach. The trail's current support group, called Friends of the Captain John Smith Trail...will likely provide a nucleus for whatever association comes next."

That is, indeed, what occurred. With strong support from The Conservation Fund and other partners, the Friends began building capacity and a robust relationship with the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office. In 2010, the Friends of the Captain John Smith Trail formally merged with the Friends of Chesapeake Gateways—also a nonprofit organization working with the NPS—to form a new organization: the Chesapeake Conservancy.

The Conservancy had an even grander vision for the Chesapeake Bay, and, true to its roots, embraced the John Smith Chesapeake Trail as the inspiration and framework for its work to advance conservation and restoration on a large landscape scale. The Conservancy worked closely with the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office on a comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the trail, completed in 2011. Through the involvement of the public and trail advisors, it became clear that the potential for the trail could be much greater than was evident in 2006.

Broadening the Vision

The trail we celebrate today is different from the trail that was designated a decade ago in at least two ways:

First, we no longer think of the trail as an all-water trail. The actual language of P.L. 109-418 states: "The John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, a series of water routes extending approximately 3,000 miles along the

Chesapeake Bay and the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay in the States of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, and in the District of Columbia, that traces the 1607-1609 voyages of Captain John Smith to chart the land and waterways of the Chesapeake Bay."

While "water trail" is not part of the official name, proponents of the trail touted its uniqueness as an all-water trail that followed Smith's explorations by boat. However, the CMP process reflected public support for the trail to encompass landscapes as well as a water route, and visitors should have the opportunity for land-based, as well as water-based, visitor experiences. We still think of the trail as the first primarily water-based national historic trail, but we no longer think of it as an all-water trail.

The second important difference also reflects a broader vision. The official map attached to the legislation showed the routes of Smith's explorations were limited to where he could travel by boat. Pennsylvania was not in the original legislation.

A broader vision of the trail includes not just the travels of Captain John Smith and the Jamestown colonists, but also the lands and rivers populated by Indians throughout the Chesapeake watershed at the time. This became reality in 2012 with the designation of four rivers in five states—Susquehanna in Pennsylvania and New York, Upper Nanticoke in Delaware and Maryland, Chester in Maryland, and the Upper James in Virginia. These rivers, which added 841 miles to the roughly 3,000 miles of Smith's voyage routes, expanded opportunities for public access, recreation, and tourism, and for telling a larger story of American Indian towns and cultures.

The Chesapeake Conservancy was the prime mover for expanding the trail,

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www.chesapeakeconservancy.org



first by funding the study to determine the potential for historic connecting components and then building the coalition of water trail groups, state agencies, tribal communities, governors, and others to support the additions. Many of the same people who led the movement to designate the national historic trail were also at the forefront of the expansion. And some of the young staff who worked behind the scenes to help their mentors create the trail are now leaders in the Chesapeake Bay conservation movement. Notably, Joel Dunn, who worked for The Conservation Fund to establish the trail, now leads the Chesapeake Conservancy.

In this 10th anniversary year, we celebrate more than the designation of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. We celebrate the vision and the visionaries who created the trail and who continue to shape its story.

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

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www.rei.com/united-outside



Donor Spotlight: Tack Richardson

Corporate matching programs double the benefit of your gift

V.B. “Tack” Richardson has supported the Chesapeake Conservancy in a number of capacities that predate the organization’s inception. Since 2011, he has donated to the Conservancy through IBM’s matching gifts program; and before, Tack worked on energy and environmental legislation for not one, but two founding board members of the Chesapeake Conservancy—U.S. Sen. John Warner and his chief of staff and legislative director, Ann Loomis. Sen. Warner and his staff were instrumental in working with The Conservation Fund, as well as future Conservancy president and CEO, Joel Dunn, to promote conservation and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

“Tack has been a tremendous supporter of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail from the very beginning. It was a pleasure to work with him in the early days of the trail, and we are grateful for his efforts with Sen. Warner as well as the contributions he has made through the IBM matching program. Our celebration of the 10th anniversary of the trail this year is evidence that his dedication has helped shape the Chesapeake Conservancy into the organization it is today,” Joel Dunn said.

Through his time on the senator’s staff, Tack had the opportunity to personally witness the establishment and growth of the Chesapeake Conservancy, from the organization’s beginnings as the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail to its current role in conservation.

“It has been wonderful to watch. The Conservancy is an organization that I truly believe in. I personally connect to the dual focus of the organization’s mission, which is using innovation, data, and technology to leverage conservation of the Bay and also to get people more access to the Bay. My view is the more the Chesapeake sells itself and the more people learn about the Chesapeake through seeing and using its resources, the more they advocate for it,” Tack said.

Tack’s love for the Chesapeake and desire for its conservation has spanned his entire life. His parents and grandparents instilled a passion for the Chesapeake at an early age. During his time growing up in Alexandria, Virginia, and visits to Virginia’s northern neck, Tack learned to swim, sail, fish, as well as watch his dad windsurf on the Potomac River.

When his high school required all seniors to participate in an internship before they could graduate, most of his friends chose law firms and office buildings to fulfill their 40-hour commitments. However, Tack spent his time with watermen working on boats on Carter’s Creek, getting even closer to the culture and natural beauty of the region he loves. His love for the Chesapeake Bay environment took him to Johns Hopkins University, where he studied politics and the environment before joining Sen. Warner’s staff.

“It was a real honor to work on all things related to the Chesapeake Bay, whether it was the John Smith Chesapeake Trail, oyster restoration funding, land conservation, or blue crab fisheries disaster assistance,” Tack said.

For the last five years, Tack has worked for IBM on the company’s Smarter Planet initiative, which uses innovation, data, and analytics to make organizations more sustainable, efficient, and effective.

One benefit IBM offers to its employees is a matching gifts program, which matches donations of up to \$5,000. “It’s nice that IBM has a matching program that allows us to amplify our giving to an organization that my wife and I care about,” Tack said. “It helps us fulfill the old saying that, ‘to whom much is given, much is expected.’ It’s nice to be able to give back and demonstrate our commitment in that way. It’s free money to donate to causes that we care about.”

Tack explained that IBM’s program requires a single form that he and the organizations to which he is donating need to fill out to verify the donation.

“We are so thrilled that Tack has chosen to double his matching gift through IBM’s corporate matching giving

program. Matching gifts are wonderful tools to help our donors make their gifts grow in value, to help corporations nurture employee charitable giving, and to make a real difference for a better planet,” Conservancy Director of Development Melissa Ehrenreich said. “We encourage all donors to follow Tack’s lead and investigate their matching gift programs at work to maximize their giving to the Chesapeake Conservancy. What a creative way to give even more and support our mission.”

If you work for a corporation, ask your human resources department if they have a matching gift program and double the impact of your gift today.



TACK RICHARDSON AND SON
PHOTO COURTESY OF TACK RICHARDSON

An Exciting Season for Our Wildlife Webcams

Spring marked the return of the Chesapeake's celebrity bird couples and new seasons of the Chesapeake Conservancy's wildlife webcams. Peregrine falcons, Boh and Barb, remained in Baltimore throughout the winter, as they normally do. As of this publication, the peregrine couple has three eyasses in the nest atop the Transamerica Building.

Meanwhile celebrity osprey couple, Tom and Audrey, came back to Kent Island early in March. Tom and Audrey had three eggs, from which two chicks hatched. Sadly, a predator bird took one of the chicks. In May, Nat Geo Wild's *United States of Animals* aired a wonderful segment about Tom and Audrey, which reached 57 million homes across the United States.

Joining the Conservancy's webcams this season is the new Great Blue Heron cam, featuring nests in a heron rookery on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Featured couple, Rell and Eddie, got their names from deceased surfers Rell Sunn and Eddie Aiku. They have a very crowded

nest with three chicks. This new webcam was funded by a very generous donation from our partner, Waterfowl Chesapeake, and through a GoFundMe campaign, where fans generously donated to the project. Thank you to everyone who gave to make this webcam possible.

Check out what all three families are up to by visiting <http://chesapeakeconservancy.org/wildlife-webcams>



Baby Heron
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON ROOKERY



Baby Falcons
PHOTO BY PETER TURCIK



Baby Osprey
PHOTO SCREENSHOT FROM THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY OSPREY WEBCAM

Conservancy Staff News

Melissa Ehrenreich joins Chesapeake Conservancy as director of development to oversee fundraising and development efforts. Most recently, Ehrenreich served as the executive director of the D.C. Social Innovation Project and has served in numerous roles with the Ocean Conservancy from 2006 to 2013.



Melissa Ehrenreich
PHOTO BY GRETCHEN SCHOCK

High school student **Chris Barry** is working with the communications team to help with public relations and outreach concerning our wildlife webcams.

Kate Grumbles has undertaken a communications internship with the Conservancy to hone her communication skills and educate the public about the Chesapeake Bay. She is a rising junior at the University of Virginia.

Mikayla Meyers joins the Conservancy for the summer from Susquehanna University as an intern for *Envision the Susquehanna*.

Joe Walderman will spend the summer working on development of wildlife habitat metrics for *Envision the James* at the University of Richmond.

Lesley Webb, a Lynchburg University student, will be interning with the programs team and assisting with the FY18 Land and Water Conservation Fund proposal and National Park Service partnership work.

Megan McSwain joins both the Conservancy and the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office as a communications and partnership assistant to integrate communications tools, strategies, and messaging as the two organizations develop and formalize our partnership.



Megan McSwain
PHOTO BY PETER TURCIK

Former Program Coordinator **Lacey Hankin** has left the Conservancy to pursue a graduate degree from the University of Montana.

Before heading to graduate school, Conservation Analyst **Conor Phelan** and Executive Assistant **Kyle Smith** are on a 700-mile kayak expedition in Alaska's West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness.

President and CEO **Joel Dunn** celebrated his 5th year working at the Conservancy.

Director of Programs **Jenn Aiosa** participated in the American Express Leadership Academy, to better understand how leadership strengths can be used to address the challenges of managing nonprofit processes.

The Chesapeake Conservancy was awarded Esri's first-ever *See, Find, Share* award at the company's International User Conference in San Diego, California. **Jeff Allenby**, director of conservation technology, **Cassandra Pallai**, geospatial project manager, and **Colin Stief**, solutions engineer, presented at the June conference.



Jeff Allenby, Cassandra Pallai and Colin Stief
PHOTO BY PETER TURCIK



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SAVE THE DATE! 3rd Annual Champions of the Chesapeake

Please join us to celebrate this year's honorees:

Public Servant Champions

The Honorable John Warner, former U.S. Senator of Virginia, and the Honorable Paul Sarbanes, former U.S. Senator of Maryland

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Mt. Cuba Center, accepted by Ann C. Rose, president

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Next Generation Champion

Kimerly Hernandez

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For sponsorship or other information, please visit our website at www.chesapeakeconservancy.org or call Melissa Ehrenreich at 443.482.9083.

PHOTO BY TONY LEWIS