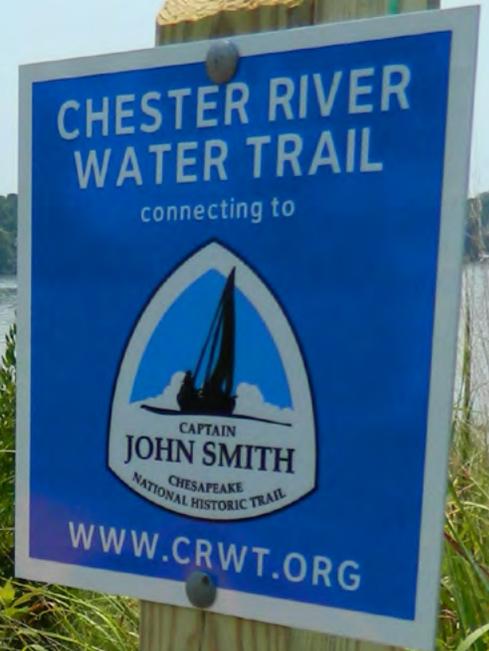


SHORELINES

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

Fall 2012



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Chesapeake Conservancy

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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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Cover Photo: Sarah Elder

A note from the Executive Director

To achieve our mission of connecting people to the Chesapeake, conserving our landscapes, and celebrating the Bay as a national treasure, we need to be very creative. In an era of fewer public conservation dollars and emerging ecosystem services markets, we need to break down traditional barriers and think differently.

Conservation innovation is a conscious effort to create new opportunities to advance our mission. Those opportunities can be technological or financial and can come from the thinking of conservation leaders in the public, private, nonprofit and academic sectors.

Technology, particularly the internet, has had a revolutionary impact on our lives. Transformative technological innovations provide us with a tremendous opportunity to improve our effectiveness as conservationists and help ensure our future prosperity.

Coupling high-resolution satellite imagery, geographic information systems, and the internet, we can pool and analyze an unprecedented wealth of data and perform community-based conservation at a landscape scale. The result is a much greater



capacity to identify and conserve wildlife and cultural resources that merit protection and to target improved public access at new parks, refuges, and trails where they are most needed.

In this issue you can read about how technology has inspired people to **explore** our National Wildlife Refuges, **connect** people with the Chesapeake through increased public access, and **conserve** our great rivers and special places.

Please join the adventure today!

Sincerely,

Explore – Connect – Click!



Photo Credit: Gail Bounds

The Chesapeake Conservancy is looking for great photos of the Chesapeake Bay, its rivers, and special places, showing people connecting with the Bay. We want to feature the region's best photos on our website and in upcoming issues of *Shorelines!*

Visit chesapeakeconservancy.org/photo.html to enter our **Chesapeake Connections Photo Contest**. If selected, your photo will appear in an upcoming issue of our newsletter, will be featured on our website, and could also be included in our *Chesapeake Trips and Tips* e-newsletter. One first place winner will receive a copy of Tom Horton and Ian Plant's "Chesapeake: Bay of Light" and a runner up will receive a Chesapeake Conservancy baseball hat! Contest ends December 31, 2012.



Photo Credit: Outward Bound Baltimore

Conservancy Plans John Smith Trail Expedition

The Chesapeake Conservancy and Outward Bound Baltimore Chesapeake Bay have partnered to develop an expeditionary learning experience to teach local high school students about environmental stewardship and leadership as the group paddles along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail in the upper Chesapeake Bay.

The trip is part of the Conservancy's effort to connect people to the Chesapeake and its great rivers. The Conservancy believes that connecting people to the Bay is vital to ensuring the long-term preservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Scheduled to take place late next spring, the trip will begin at Susquehanna State Park, just south of Conowingo Dam, move down the Susquehanna River to Perryville, then across the top of the Bay to the Sassafras River, ending in Georgetown.

Along the way the group will stop at Garrett Island, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property midway between Susquehanna State Park and Perryville. There students will work on a service project, such as trail development or habitat restoration

The itinerary follows the course of Smith's exploratory voyage of the upper Bay and his meeting with the Tockwogh and Susquehannock Indians. Instruction in outdoor and leadership skills will be mixed with lessons about the region's history.

"We are planning a great adventure that will celebrate the Chesapeake Bay and its history," said Jeff Allenby, who is developing the program for the Conservancy. "The students will have an amazing opportunity to develop stewardship and leadership skills as well as to gain a deeper appreciation for the Bay." To register or get more information, visit: outwardboundbaltimore.org/courses/chesapeake-bay-sea-kayaking/.

New Access Projects Enhance Capt. Smith Trail

The Chesapeake Conservancy works to create public access points along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail in order to make the trail easy to explore and to engage the public's interest in the trail and landscape scale conservation.

A new public canoe and kayak launch site will be constructed this fall at **Old Mill Park** on the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, Va., thanks to the work of the Chesapeake Conservancy and initial funding from Dominion Resources. The Conservancy has worked with the City of Fredericksburg and with the Friends of the Rappahannock to develop the project. The project will stabilize the river's bank and install a tiered launch that will allow users to easily launch kayaks and canoes.

At **Port Royal, Va.**, also on the Rappahannock River, the Conservancy is working with town officials and interested residents to develop another launch site. Currently, there are no nearby public access

sites suited to small boats such as canoes and kayaks. The Conservancy is working with the Friends of the Rappahannock and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Meanwhile, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a similar soft-launch site on one of its nearby properties.

The two sites are within paddling distance of one another and when installed would provide an opportunity for day trips between them.

Still farther down the Rappahannock, on **Cat Point Creek**, the National Park Service announced it will fund two launches as part of its Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network grant program.

On the James River, work will begin later this fall on an access site at the **Lawrence Lewis Jr. Park** in Charles City County, Va. Initial funding for this project also came from Dominion Resources. The launch will provide the first public access to a 36 mile stretch of the river.



Photo Credit: Chip Rice

A new canoe and kayak launch is under construction at Old Mill Park in Fredericksburg, VA. This project is part of a coordinated effort to create a series of public access points at strategic locations along the Rappahannock River and the Capt. John Smith Trail.



Check your mail for your very own Chesapeake Conservancy bumper sticker! Display it proudly and encourage others to **Explore, Connect, and Conserve** the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you for your past and continuing support of the Chesapeake Conservancy.

Large-Landscape Conservation in the Chesapeake Watershed

Over the last year, the Chesapeake Conservancy has helped convene the Chesapeake Great Rivers Landscape Collaborative, a partnership of public and private interests dedicated to large-landscape conservation in the watershed and creating a network of conservation corridors formed around the Chesapeake's rivers and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

The collaborative is designed to ensure that thousands of acres along portions of four Bay tributaries remain protected from development and provide a haven for wildlife and humans alike.

The cooperation and planning involved in the development of this model has advanced regional and interagency cooperation in conservation and embraced the concept of conservation corridors to protect large landscapes.

The Chesapeake Conservancy has been working for more than two years with federal agencies, the watershed's six state governments, local governments, river groups, and conservation groups to develop this collaborative effort. The Conservancy contributed background studies and helped with bringing non-profit and community partners to the table, advocating for the concept and eliciting letters of support from American Indian tribes, land conservation groups, and river organizations.

One goal of collaboration is to identify large areas where the resources of multiple agencies – state, federal, local and private – can be used to achieve multiple shared objectives. The work involved in planning and developing background information has greatly advanced this concept.

Creating conservation corridors would protect much needed migratory bird habitat, spawning sites for economically important fish and shellfish, and historic landscapes, including many significant American Indian sites. Because undeveloped lands generally stop polluted runoff before it reaches the water, protected landscapes aid states in their efforts to restore the Chesapeake's water quality and living resources. In some places they also provide a buffer against sea level rise. In nearly all cases they create new opportunities for recreation and access to the rivers and the bay.

Initial conservation efforts would target four

priority areas along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail:

- The lower James River, including the Chickahominy River and areas near the mouth of the York River;
- The tidal Rappahannock River, mostly in and around the Rappahannock Valley National Wildlife Refuge;
- The middle Potomac River, roughly from the District of Columbia to Douglas Point at Nanjemoy Creek; and,
- The tidal Nanticoke River reaching into Delaware.

The collaborative leaves open the possibility of protecting lands along the

lower Susquehanna River when funding is available.

As part of the collaborative effort, specific lands considered the highest priority are selected for conservation when they accomplish multiple objectives, such as protecting vistas, water quality, wildlife habitat or important American Indian sites, while also improving public access to rivers.

The Conservancy uses community-based conservation planning to direct and develop collaborative efforts, providing an engaged group committed to change, creating a positive outcome not only for the conserved landscapes, but also for the entire watershed.

Chesapeake Conservancy Co-Hosts Landscape Conservation Conference



In August, more than fifty conservation leaders from around the Chesapeake Bay watershed gathered at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV to discuss the future of large-landscape conservation in the region. Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, state agencies from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, and local and regional conservation organizations spent two days learning about existing efforts, identifying priority areas where collaborative conservation efforts could occur, and discussing new ways to advance conservation in the Chesapeake.

“It is going to take us all, working together, to conserve priority landscapes at a scale large enough to protect significant ecological, historic, and cultural assets and achieve the conservation goals for the Chesapeake,” said Joel Dunn, the Conservancy's executive director. “We will need to identify our principals and objectives and develop a coalition that maximizes the resources from multiple programs if we are going to succeed.”

The meeting was organized by the Chesapeake Conservancy and the National Park Service. A report detailing the recommendations from the meeting will be released in 2013.

Saving Special Places

The Chesapeake Bay is the central most important natural, cultural, and historical resource this region enjoys, including the Bay's many tributaries and special places.

What is a special place? The Conservancy defines "special places" as areas within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that have cultural and natural resources, and provide public access for recreational enjoyment.

Across the region, deep connections between the land, water, plants, and wildlife shape our culture and our communities. The Conservancy believes that conserving the diversity and beauty of our region's landscapes will also preserve this incredible natural resource for future generations. The task is urgent – and the time is right now.

Today we stand at a crossroads, watching deforestation, rapid conversion of open space, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and dangerously poor water quality threaten the very existence of the Bay. We know that to make a difference, the Bay's special places must be protected and preserved for the future of the watershed - for all our future.

A special fund has been set up to preserve these "special places" throughout the watershed. Your donation today will be leveraged with other public and private dollars to conserve the Chesapeake Conservancy's top priorities – properties with high cultural, natural, historical, and recreational value. We've designed the **Special Places Fund** to stretch your donation as far as possible.

Please join us in safeguarding the Chesapeake Bay's natural and cultural legacy for future generations. Contribute today – go to our website to make your tax-deductible gift now, or call 443-321-3610 to learn more about setting up a personal Special Places Fund named for you or your loved ones.



Photo Credit: Jeff Allenby



Photo Credit: Joel Dunn

Deowongo Island in Canadarago Lake, one of the headwaters of the Susquehanna River and the northernmost part of the Chesapeake Bay's watershed, was recently acquired by the Otsego Land Trust with the help of the Chesapeake Conservancy and a private donor.

Gateway Grants Cap Successful Advocacy Cycle

The National Park Service announced in early September that it has awarded \$1.36 million to 24 Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network organizations to develop access, education, and youth job training programs. The Chesapeake Conservancy has successfully advocated for funds to support this valuable program for several years.

Of the 24 projects selected to receive grants, a dozen will support new access points along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the nation's first all-water National Historic Trail, with four projects in Virginia, five in Maryland, two in Pennsylvania, and one in New York. Access grant recipients include Mount Harmon Plantation in Maryland, the Menokin Foundation in Virginia, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition in New York.

"Connecting people to our great rivers and the Bay creates a stronger understanding of the importance of the restoration of our natural systems and the conservation of our landscapes, particularly those that have contributed so much to our nation's history," said the Conservancy's executive director Joel Dunn.

The Chesapeake Conservancy believes that connecting people to the Bay is vital to

ensuring the long-term preservation of the Bay, and is dedicated to advancing citizen engagement and promoting the development and interpretation of the Captain John Smith Trail and other programs designed to sustain the Bay's natural, cultural, and historic resources. The Gateways Network plays a key role by providing these opportunities for residents to connect to the Chesapeake Bay.

"The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network program supports 172 organizations throughout the Bay's watershed, each of which provides access, education, and programs to engage the public," noted Dunn. "We have been and will continue to be a strong advocate for funding for this program and we appreciate the Congress' continued support."

Dunn noted that several other grants support the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, which, like the Capt. John Smith Trail, is administered by the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Park Service. The trails are among 19 National Historic Trails.

Trail development and the new access points help achieve the public access goal set in the federal response to President Obama's Executive Order 13508, *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, which calls for 300 new sites for hiking, paddling, enjoying a picnic, or fishing.

New Technologies Advance Conservation Efforts in the Chesapeake

The Chesapeake Conservancy heralds conservation innovation as the next logical step in protecting and preserving the Bay for future generations. It lives in our partnership smart buoy system with NOAA and thrives in the geotrails we have developed. Technology can connect people to the watershed in new and personally relevant ways and it demonstrates the future of conservation through online engagement tools, sophisticated mapping systems, data sharing, and in emerging ecosystem services markets.

“Innovation and technology can help people explore the splendor of the Chesapeake’s great outdoors, engage them in landscape-scale conservation, and provide decision makers with the information they need to identify the landscapes most worthy of conservation,” said Joel Dunn, executive director of the Chesapeake Conservancy.

Envision the James

One example of Conservancy innovation is found in public engagement work being done on the James River in Virginia. The goal of the work is to shape a common

agenda for the river’s future and promote regional collaboration efforts that support the public’s ability to enjoy, conserve, and enhance the river’s natural resources, cultural heritage, and sense of place for current and future generations.

The project is a partnership between the Conservancy, the James River Association, and National Geographic Maps, with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Environmental Endowment, and MeadWestvaco. Citizen engagement tools are organized at www.EnvisionTheJames.org, which provides information about the river’s history, health, plants and animals, suggests places to visit and explore, and asks visitors to share their vision for the river’s future through a comprehensive survey.

“A geo-polling tool, developed by National Geographic Maps, allows us to get a more specific understanding of the interests people are expressing. We’ll have a much better understanding of where people want to see things like access, camp sites, or conserved landscapes along the river,” said David Burke, a senior adviser to the



Conservancy who has helped develop the project.

While the engagement tools gather the vision of a region’s residents, Burke guides other GIS-based assessment work to provide decision makers with information that can help them identify the lands that meet the needs the public has identified, as well as the needs identified by wildlife and resource conservation planners. For example, map-based information systems help planners identify areas that have the best habitat for plant and animal species and are threatened by expanding rural and urban development. These systems also help identify areas that provide valuable eco-services such as reductions in nutrient and sediment pollution, aquifer recharge or flood protection.

Chesapeake Trips and Tips Gets a Redesign

Chesapeake Trips and Tips, the Conservancy’s popular weekly e-newsletter about things to do and places to go in the Chesapeake, has recently been given an online redesign.

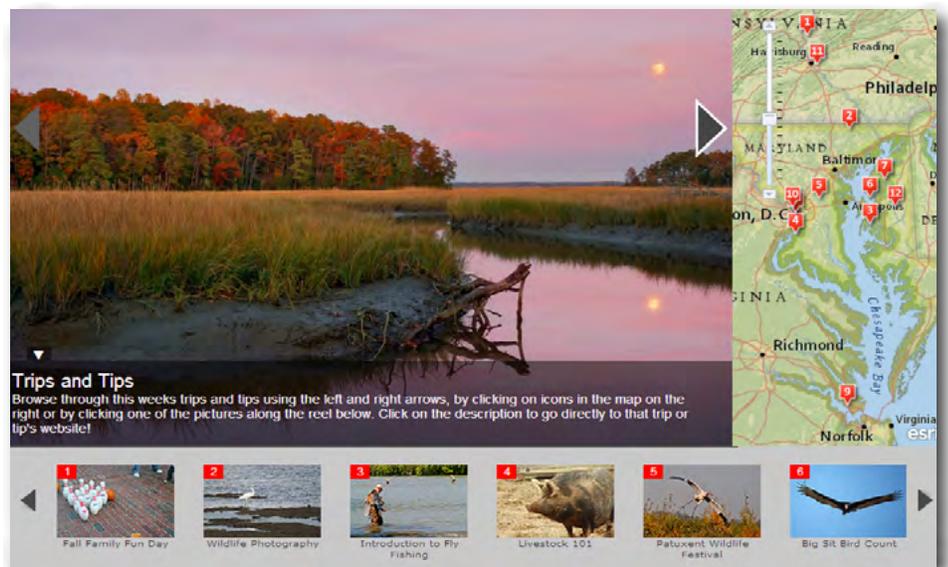
An updated webpage provides a new way to connect to the *Trips and Tips* newsletter. The site, found at www.TripsandTips.org, enhances the newsletter’s accessibility with images that draw readers into each event’s description. An interactive map also shows how close these events are to local cities.

“Our hope with the new website is to motivate readers of *Chesapeake Trips and Tips* to learn more about the sites we feature each week and for them to realize that events are happening close by, even if they are not familiar with the name of the town featured,” said Joanna Ogburn, the Conservancy’s Program Director.

Eventually, all 172 Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network sites, from upstate New York to southwest Virginia

and the Eastern Shore, will be featured on the website along with other ways to get outside, such as bike or kayak rentals, so people can “make a day” of visiting one or more featured events and staying in the area to visit other nearby sites.

Chesapeake Trips and Tips features events and opportunities for outdoor fun at Gateways Network sites, state parks, and other public access points throughout the watershed. Sign up to receive the latest *Chesapeake Trips and Tips* e-newsletter every week at www.TripsandTips.org.



New iPhone App Highlights Chesapeake Refuges

Technology can be fun too, and that's one of the goals of a new, free app created for the iPhone through a partnership initiated by the Chesapeake Conservancy. The app, *National Wildlife Refuges: Chesapeake Bay*, makes it possible for people of all ages to find and explore National Fish and Wildlife Refuges located in the Bay region.

In addition to providing detailed information about the refuges – location, directions, hours of operation, reservations, and other details – it mobilizes a new generation of nature explorers. Via smartphones, these explorers can capture photos of plants and animals they observe and upload them to a

database that all can see. This crowd-sourced information helps scientists to track wildlife migrations or the bloom time of plants.

The app serves as field guide, map, and a way to share information with friends and with the community at large.

The app was developed by the Chesapeake Conservancy and National Geographic and is powered by Project Noah. The project was supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The app is available from iTunes.



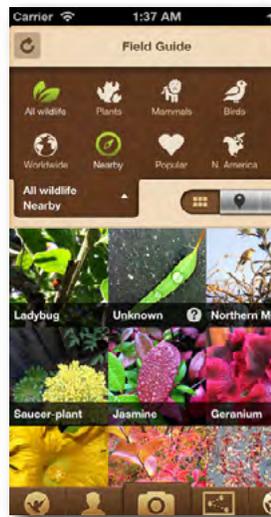
Conservancy Working to Establish Tubman National Monument

The Chesapeake Conservancy has been steadily working to get Harriet Tubman the recognition she deserves as an heroic conductor on the Underground Railroad and early leader for women's rights.

The Conservancy has helped garner support for the creation of a Harriet Tubman National Monument from organizations and legislators including Governor Martin O'Malley, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski, and Congressman Andy Harris. The proposed national monument would complement Maryland's plans to create a Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Dorchester County.

The proposed national monument and state park would create a place to explore Tubman's life, and conserve the landscape in southern Dorchester County where her story began. Together with Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, the monument would also help protect one of the nation's premier waterfowl habitats and bird watching destinations.

A Harriet Tubman National Monument is seen as an interim measure to protect sites in time to honor the 100th anniversary of Tubman's death in March 2013. The President, under the authority of the Antiquities Act, will hopefully designate the National Monument this fall, which we hope will propel Congressional approval of legislation creating a Harriet Tubman National Historic Park.



The new *National Wildlife Refuges: Chesapeake Bay* app gives users a chance to explore and interact with the Chesapeake Bay's natural side. The app includes facts about the Chesapeake's watershed, visitor information for the National Wildlife Refuges, and a field guide where users can upload pictures and learn interesting facts about what they are seeing. Users can also receive "badges" for accomplishing goals and visiting the refuges.

New Chesapeake Fellow Joins Conservancy



Emily Myron is the Conservancy's latest Chesapeake Fellow. Emily recently graduated from Duke University with a Master of

Environmental Management degree. She has a strong background in conservation, community-based environmental management, and geospatial analysis. As a native Marylander and a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, she is excited to be back in the area tackling conservation issues in the Chesapeake.

Emily is working with both the Conservancy and the National Park Service on projects that facilitate landscape-scale conservation partnerships within the Bay watershed. This includes enhancing data sharing, fostering open communication between organizations, and analyzing current and potential partnerships within key Bay landscapes.

The Chesapeake Fellowship program provides work experience in conservation to new professionals and provides the Conservancy with bright, talented individuals who bring a fresh perspective, helping the Conservancy achieve its goals.

There is still time to make a tax-deductible gift to the Chesapeake Conservancy in 2012.

Your support makes it possible for us to strengthen the connections between people and the Bay, conserve the landscapes and special places that sustain the watershed's natural and cultural resources, and encourage the exploration and celebration of this national treasure. Please be as generous as you are able - your contribution of any amount is important to keep this vital work moving forward.

You can donate online at www.chesapeakeconservancy.org, or send your gift to 410 Severn Avenue / Suite 405, Annapolis, MD 21403.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Chesapeake Conservancy

SAVING THE CHESAPEAKE'S
GREAT RIVERS AND SPECIAL PLACES

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From its headwaters in western Virginia to the tidal wetlands at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, the Chesapeake Conservancy is working with the James River Association and National Geographic Maps to ask residents along the James River to identify areas that need enhanced protection for natural and historical landscapes as well as improved public access that will provide a number of recreational opportunities including boating, swimming, birding, hunting, and fishing. **Read more about *Envision the James* on Page 6**