

# TIDELINES

News & Notes From the Hampton Roads Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

JULY 2018

## Assessing the Blueprint's Progress

Earlier this spring, CBF released its midpoint assessment of the Bay states' progress on meeting the Clean Water Blueprint's goal of a restored Bay by 2025. The assessment documents success but also finds troubling trends. While Maryland and Virginia are largely on track to meet pollution-reduction goals, Pennsylvania continues to fall far short of the mark.

The Blueprint, implemented in 2010, is unlike past plans that sought to clean up the Bay. It includes pollution limits, state-specific plans to achieve those limits, two-year milestones to evaluate progress, and consequences for failure. In it, the states also committed to implement 60 percent of the practices necessary for Bay restoration by 2017 and to finishing the job by 2025. CBF's midpoint assessment examines whether the states achieved the 60 percent goal.

Virginia has achieved its overall 2017 goals for nitrogen and phosphorus reductions, but not for sediment. Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from urban and suburban areas, and nitrogen pollution from septic systems continue to increase. Nitrogen reductions from agriculture are also off track. This is

why it is so important that state legislators recently passed a two-year budget that includes funding for the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program and Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (see Christy Everett's column for more details on this achievement).

On the positive side, Virginia has exceeded its pollution-reduction goals for wastewater and remains on track for its phosphorus pollution goal for agriculture.

This year, local governments will also have an important opportunity to weigh in on local clean-water plans being developed to reduce pollution in waterways in our own backyards. Communities are encouraged to be part of the effort to develop these Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans.

The Bay's water quality is improving. Scientists have documented record Bay grass acreage again this year and the Bay's oyster population is increasing. But the recovery is fragile. The midpoint assessment was designed so that course corrections can be made. CBF will continue to work to ensure the commitments are met.

From the Desk of  
**Christy Everett**  
HAMPTON ROADS  
DIRECTOR



At the very end of May, the Virginia General Assembly finally passed a budget for the next two fiscal years. What was in it for water-quality improvements? It turns out, quite a bit.

Approximately \$40 million was included for Virginia's agricultural cost-share program, which helps farmers use conservation practices, such as fencing cattle out of streams, streamside buffers, and better pasture management.

Legislators also included \$20 million for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which provides matching grants to localities to help better manage polluted runoff. In addition to helping restore water quality, projects supported by the fund provide other values such as flood prevention, economic benefits, and human health improvements.

Lastly, the budget allocated \$5.75 million for oyster replenishment and restoration efforts to ensure that Virginia's oysters and its oyster industry continue to thrive.

CBF commends Virginia's legislators for their strong investment in programs that restore our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. We also thank our members and other clean-water supporters for their advocacy efforts during this prolonged legislative session.

*Christy Everett*

## Celebrating the Summer Solstice in Style

CBF and our friends celebrated this year's summer solstice with a party! The Summer Solstice Sunset Party allowed participants to enjoy happy hour on the Bay with the best view in Virginia Beach—from the deck of the Brock Center. Attendees were treated to beer, wine, oysters, and other snacks, while chatting with like-minded Bay supporters.

Ticket holders received a complimentary one-year membership to CBF, which includes reduced rates for Bay Discovery trips, discounts at our online store, and our exclusive *Save the Bay* magazine. You can register for our upcoming sunset happy hours and become a member, too, by visiting [cbf.org/sunsetparty](http://cbf.org/sunsetparty).



CBF Board Chair Harry Lester and Vice Chair Jane Batten enjoy the Summer Solstice Sunset Party this June.



**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**  
Saving a National Treasure

## Clean the Bay Day

On June 2, volunteers across Virginia took part in the 30th annual Clean the Bay Day. In just three hours, approximately 6,000 volunteers at more than 250 sites across the state removed a reported 128,817 pounds of debris from an estimated 312 miles of shoreline.

As usual, the most common items found during the cleanup were plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bags, and cigarette butts. But participants also recovered many strange items, including an ultrasound picture, shopping carts, washing machines, and a headless mannequin.

Among the thousands of volunteers were elected officials and leaders, including Governor Ralph Northam, Virginia First Lady Pam Northam, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler, Representative Rob Wittman, Senator Lynwood Lewis, and Delegates Kelly Convors-Fowler, Cliff Hayes,



Governor Ralph Northam (right) gets assistance from little helpers at a Clean the Bay Day site on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Rip Sullivan, and Cheryl Turpin. Major corporate sponsors for Clean the Bay Day include REI, Northrop Grumman, Port of Virginia, River Network/Anheuser-Busch, and CSX.

Since 1989, Clean the Bay Day has engaged approximately 158,000 volunteers who have removed more than 6.6 million pounds of debris from more than 7,600 miles of shoreline.

## Sailors, Students, and Saving the Bay

Volunteers have been assisting CBF at the Brock Environmental Center this spring and summer. For instance, sailors from USS *George H. W. Bush* recently lent a hand in honor of President Bush's birthday.

The volunteers installed pathways in a pollinator garden and helped transport recycled oyster shells for a living shoreline that CBF partner Elizabeth River Project is building on the Indian River in Chesapeake.

Other volunteers have also been assisting with oyster restoration efforts, including employees from Canon Virginia who helped construct oyster growing cages for CBF's oyster gardening program.

The oyster gardening program is in the middle of another successful season, engaging hundreds of volunteers to grow oysters from their docks. At workshops held throughout the state—from the Eastern Shore, to the Middle Peninsula, to the

Hampton Roads region—citizens are provided with cages and baby oysters. After a year of nurturing, gardeners return their oysters to CBF to be planted on protected reefs where they continue to thrive.

City of Hampton Public Schools' students released their mature oysters onto a sanctuary reef in Elizabeth Lake Estates. Through this program, the students learn about the importance of local water quality—and what they can do to support it. The students also marked shells with their individual wishes—many of them for healthy water—before releasing them onto the reef.



A Hampton student gets ready to place an oyster shell—and his wish—onto a reef near Elizabeth Lake Estates this spring.

## CBF in the Community

### RESTORATION

#### Oyster Gardening

**Saturday, August 11, 9:00–11:00 a.m.**  
**Brock Environmental Center**  
3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach  
Anyone with access to salty water can volunteer to grow an oyster garden. If you missed the other seminars in June, this is your last opportunity to become a gardener for the year. To register, visit [cbf.org/vaoystergardening](http://cbf.org/vaoystergardening).

### COMMUNITY

#### Sunset Happy Hours

**Thursday, July 19, 6:00–8:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday, August 23, 6:00–8:30 p.m.**  
**Brock Environmental Center**  
3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach  
Join CBF and other Bay lovers for a relaxing evening on the deck of the Brock Center. Marvel at the sunset while enjoying beer, wine, oysters, and other hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$45 and include one signature cocktail, all you can eat and drink (beer and wine), plus an annual CBF membership for new members. Register by visiting [cbf.org/sunsetparty](http://cbf.org/sunsetparty).

#### Brock Environmental Center Building Tours

Come explore CBF's Brock Environmental Center and learn about one of the most energy efficient and environmentally smart buildings in the world. Standing tours are open to the community at set dates and times. Reservations for standing tours are strongly recommended but not required; they can be made by sending an email to [BrockCenterGreenTours@cbf.org](mailto:BrockCenterGreenTours@cbf.org).

#### Currently Scheduled Tours:

Saturday, July 7, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, July 14, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, July 17, 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, July 27, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, August 4, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Friday, August 10, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, August 18, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Friday, August 24, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Paddle for the Bay

**Saturday, August 4, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Sarah Constant Beach**  
300 West Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk  
This annual benefit for CBF draws novice and advanced paddlers for a Mid-Atlantic Paddlers Association-certified competition. To compete, register at [paddleguru.com/races/PaddlefortheBay2018](http://paddleguru.com/races/PaddlefortheBay2018). To volunteer on the day of the event, contact Tanner Council at [tcouncil@cbf.org](mailto:tcouncil@cbf.org).



**CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION**

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**CBF.ORG**

**HAMPTON ROADS**  
Brock Environmental Center  
3663 Marlin Bay Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
757-622-1964  
[hamptonroads@cbf.org](mailto:hamptonroads@cbf.org)

**VIRGINIA**  
Capitol Place  
1108 East Main Street  
Suite 1600  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-780-1392

**CBF HEADQUARTERS**  
Philip Merrill Environmental Center  
6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403  
410-268-8816  
Membership information: 888-SAVE-BAY