



CBF STAFF

## Volunteers make it all work.

- A network of 705 volunteers donated time and energy to help restore the oyster population in 2017.
- CBF volunteers logged a collective 14,143 hours working as oyster gardeners, reef-ball builders, and spat-on-shell growers in 2017.
- In 2017, 150 new gardeners joined CBF's growing Maryland Oyster Restoration Program.



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## Partners and donors make our work possible.

The Abell Foundation; Charles T. Bauer Foundation; Coastal Conservation Association; Devils Backbone Brewing Company; France-Merrick Foundation; Kahler Foundation; Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Environmental Service; Maryland Saltwater Sport Fishing Association; Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; The Orvis Company, Inc.; Oyster Recovery Partnership; The Palmer Foundation; Ken Paynter Lab; Restore America's Estuaries; South River Federation; Stevenson University; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; The G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation; The Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore.

## The Maryland Oyster Restoration Team



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Back row: Allison Colden, Victoria Powers, Pat Beall, Nora Jackson, Anna Mudd, Dan Johannes, Bill Goldsborough, Kevin Green  
 2nd Row: Jamie Attanasio, Courtney Meadows  
 Front row: Karl Willey, James Wohlgenuth



**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**  
*Saving a National Treasure*

**CBF.ORG/OYSTERS**



# Oyster Restoration in Maryland

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**Save the Bay**  
 CELEBRATING  
 50 YEARS

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## 2017 Oyster Highlights

### CBF's Maryland Oyster Restoration

#### Program had another outstanding year.

Participation in oyster gardening was higher than ever and shell recycling continued to expand throughout the state. The growth of these programs, in conjunction with spat-on-shell and reef balls, affords us a unique opportunity to raise and plant multiple year classes of oysters using a variety of substrate.

This allows us to recreate the more dynamic reef structures once prevalent throughout the Bay. All of these programs are volunteer-driven and the work we do would not be possible without the generous support we receive each year. Thank you all!

**Spat Produced:** CBF produced and planted **27.7 million spat** (or baby oysters). We grew all the spat at our Oyster Restoration Center in Shady Side, Maryland, and planted them on sanctuary reefs using CBF's Oyster Restoration Vessel Patricia Campbell.

**Oyster Gardening:** CBF oyster gardeners grew **more than 632,000 adult oysters** and planted them on reefs from Baltimore to the southern Eastern Shore.

**Shell Recycling:** This year, CBF recycled **over 1,000 bushels** of oyster shells. Our robust network of volunteer drivers and partner restaurants, marinas, schools, and neighborhoods make this program successful.

**Reef Balls:** CBF built **209 new reef balls**. Through the help of our partners and volunteers, a total of **313** were deployed in Virginia and 144 in Maryland.



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## Oyster Gardening

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has been restoring oysters throughout the waters of the Chesapeake Bay for nearly two decades.

Currently, CBF has Oyster Restoration Centers in both Maryland and Virginia and has planted oysters in nearly every suitable body of water in the Chesapeake. Current restoration efforts focus primarily on targeted tributaries, chosen specifically for their high potential of successful reproduction once new reefs are established. This helps to maximize the effectiveness of the limited resource of oysters and shell.

Throughout the last two decades, CBF's Oyster Restoration Program in Maryland has achieved significant advancements. From a state-of-the-art restoration center to a custom research vessel built specifically for working the oyster reefs of the Chesapeake, CBF has continued to be at the forefront of modern oyster restoration technology. Although technology has changed, the steadfast dedication of our volunteers has remained the bedrock of our work for nearly 20 years. In 1997

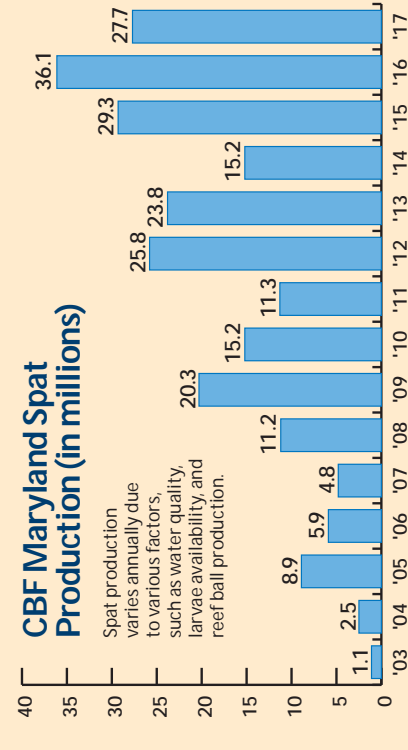
the Oyster Gardening Program began. Offering anyone with water access the opportunity to contribute to the hands-on effort of oyster restoration, the program quickly spread throughout the waters of Maryland, Virginia, and most recently, the Baltimore Harbor. Oyster gardening offers not only a hands-on approach to restoring the oyster population, but an opportunity to educate and engage the communities of this region about the value this keystone species provides.

Since the program's introduction, thousands of individuals and families have participated. CBF currently supplies over 350 different gardens with baby oysters. Gardeners grow juvenile oysters to adulthood over the fall and winter months, keeping them safe and healthy through the most vulnerable stage of their early life. Each spring, the gardeners return the oysters to CBF for planting on nearby sanctuary reefs where they can continue to provide water-quality and habitat benefits.

Our Maryland oyster gardening volunteers helped to raise and plant over 630,000 oysters in 2017, over twice the amount planted in 2016. Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration would not be possible without the support and dedication of our hard-working volunteers.



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In 2015, Tammy Dexter became an oyster gardener. Since then, she has helped to grow and plant over 200,000 spat-on-shell in the Baltimore Harbor. She is a dedicated volunteer and rises to every challenge. In addition to oyster gardening, Tammy has also volunteered at events such as the Great Baltimore Oyster Festival. Tammy has spent long hours educating the public at CBF booths and helping to raise awareness throughout the Baltimore community about the health of the Chesapeake Bay—always with a smile on her face! Tammy has been an absolute asset to the CBF Oyster Gardening Program. CBF has been growing oysters in the Inner Harbor for over five years, allowing people without waterfront property to participate and work to improve water quality in the Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. Volunteers like Tammy help make it possible for CBF and our partners to offer these unique opportunities. This type of community dedication and involvement is vital to restoring our oysters and saving the Bay. For more information about how you can become a gardener, visit [cbf.org/oysters](http://cbf.org/oysters) or contact the program at [mdoystergardening@cbf.org](mailto:mdoystergardening@cbf.org).

