



FISCAL YEAR 2019  
IMPACT REPORT

It all comes down to  
**saving the Bay.**



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION

*Saving a National Treasure*



## BECAUSE OF YOUR INVESTMENT, LAST YEAR CBF:



**Planted 37 million juvenile oysters** on sanctuary reefs in the Bay.



**Advocated successfully for a law to protect Maryland's oyster sanctuaries** from a plan that would have opened some of them to harvest.



**Educated 34,004 students, teachers, and adults** through our award-winning environmental education programs.



**Worked directly with 869 farmers and landowners** to reduce agricultural pollution.



**Collected 45,000 pounds of trash with 3,500 volunteers from 200 sites** during CBF's annual Clean the Bay Day in Virginia.



**Grew our membership and e-subscriber base to 300,000.** These advocates, donors, and volunteers are critical to our mission to save the Bay.

KIRAN KRISHNAMURTHY

CBF STAFF



**“As more waterways around the world grapple with low oxygen levels, people from China to India to Peru are looking to the Chesapeake for lessons on how to protect ecosystems.”**

*—The Baltimore Sun*

## It all comes down to saving the Bay. **And together we are!**



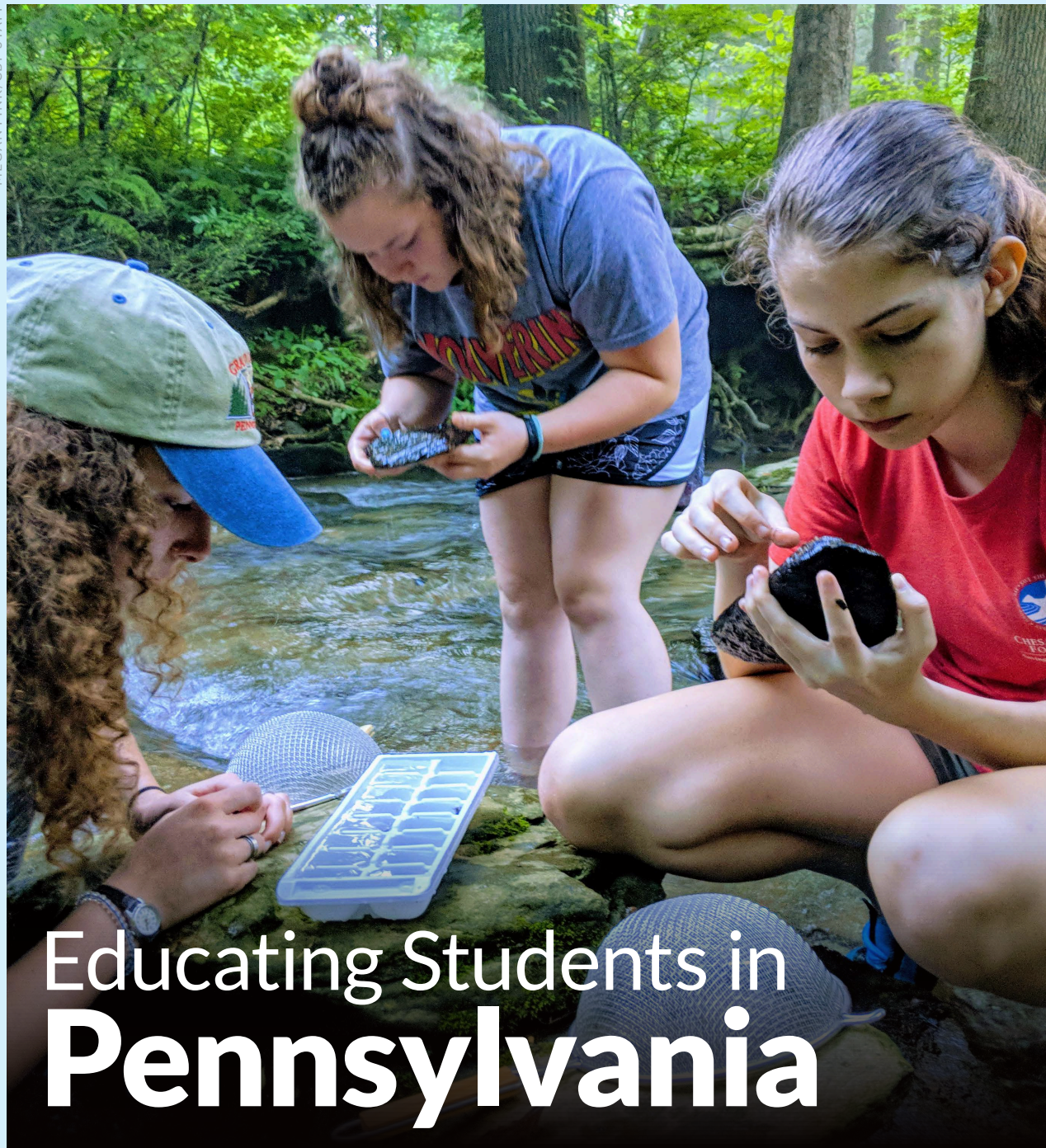
BRIAN BROWN

The most recent annual survey revealed the blue crab population in the Bay rebounded to its highest level since 2012, with an estimated total of nearly 600 million crabs. The Bay's dead zone is shrinking over time. Bay grasses, despite record rainfall in 2018, are showing signs of resilience. Monitoring reports show oysters flourishing on restored reefs. The Bay is making history!

But we can't stop now. Some of our biggest challenges lie ahead. Human-induced climate change is a real and immediate threat to the Bay's health, and it promises to make our restoration work harder. Resources to help address these challenges are under attack at the federal level.

At the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), we will not back down. In Pennsylvania, we set a goal to plant 10 million new trees as pollution-reducing filters by 2025. In Maryland and Virginia, we formed the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance to add 10 billion oysters to the Bay. We are mobilizing a powerful network of one million voices as our rallying cry to save the Bay. Across the watershed, we continue to advocate for funding and programs that reduce pollution, advance restoration, and safeguard progress. **Because of you, we are saving the Bay. Thank you!**





## Educating Students in Pennsylvania

In an effort to educate more Pennsylvania students, in spring 2019, CBF launched a new Student Action and Restoration (StAR) Environmental Education Program. This land- and stream-based program partners with local land conservation groups, combining elements of field investigation, student action projects, and restoration. The new program will expand CBF's field education capacity in Pennsylvania and generate 100 new educational experiences each season, complementing our longstanding Susquehanna Watershed Environmental Education Program.

CBF's Pennsylvania Mentors in Agricultural Conservation (MAC) program continued to offer job-shadowing field experiences with CBF's restoration specialists for 95 high school agricultural science and Future Farmers of America students. MAC students work alongside the specialist and a farmer, gaining real-life experience for a career in agricultural conservation. The MAC program also supported the second annual Penns Valley to Chesapeake Bay Partnership that engaged the entire seventh grade of Penns Valley Area Junior High School in meaningful watershed educational experiences. In addition, the MAC program led in-class programming for students from nine different school districts in Centre, Perry, Cumberland, Lancaster, Tioga, and York counties.



## Students Get a Hellbender of a State Amphibian

In 2016, CBF's Pennsylvania Student Leadership Council had an amazing idea—to designate the Eastern hellbender as the official state amphibian of Pennsylvania. The students knew that hellbenders are an indicator of clean water. When water quality is diminished due to polluted runoff, hellbender populations can't thrive. Students drafted the first iteration of SB 658, which was co-sponsored by Pennsylvania state Senator Gene Yaw (R-Allegheny) and Senator Mike Regan (R-Cumberland and York).

Senate Bill 658 essentially expired when the 2017-18 legislative session ended. But student leaders vowed to go back to the drawing board and try again. Their second effort passed the state Senate in February 2019 and passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support in April. The Eastern hellbender was officially designated as the state amphibian when Governor Tom Wolf signed the bill into law on April 23, 2019.



Pennsylvania Student Leaders watch as Governor Tom Wolf signs the Hellbender bill into law. Seated to the left of the governor is Anna Pauletta—CBF Board of Trustees' new Stanley Trustee.

## Teachers Become Environmental Literacy Leaders

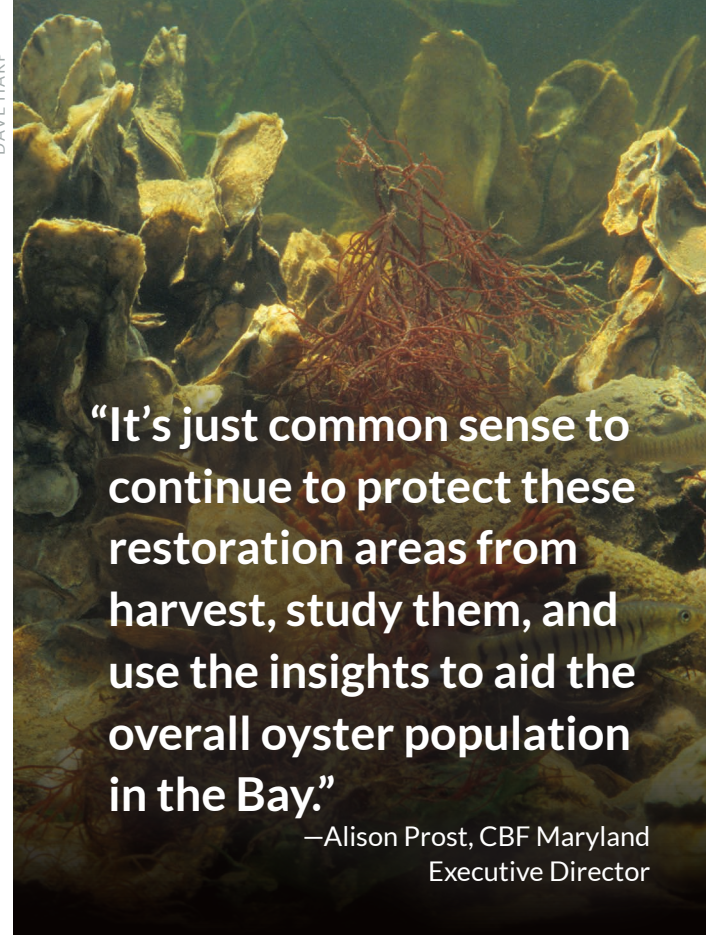
In the Teacher Environmental Literacy Leaders (TELL) program, CBF trains teachers to advance environmental education in school systems within the Chesapeake Bay watershed by serving as mentors to other teachers. This June, mentor teachers spent three days on Port Isobel, one of CBF's educational island centers, learning ways to support, lead, and translate field experiences into teachable moments. They gained the skills and confidence to teach outdoors and engaged in real-life investigations to better understand the elements of environmental education.



**“Best meaningful professional development. I came out feeling confident about being a mentor.”**

—TELL retreat participant





**“It’s just common sense to continue to protect these restoration areas from harvest, study them, and use the insights to aid the overall oyster population in the Bay.”**

—Alison Prost, CBF Maryland  
Executive Director

## Keeping Oysters Protected

The 2018 Maryland General Assembly passed a bill that permanently protects five Maryland tributaries selected for oyster reef restoration, including Harris Creek—the world’s largest oyster restoration project. Significant public investments in large-scale restoration projects are working, but progress has been threatened by proposals to open the reefs for harvest. This bill protects the sanctuaries, demonstrates Maryland’s strong commitment to oysters and clean water, and provides tremendous natural benefits to the Bay and the citizens of Maryland. This is a great victory for oyster restoration in Maryland.

CBF advocated for the passage of the bill by urging members to contact their state representatives. In total, CBF members took more than 3,604 actions, including sending emails and signing petitions. As part of our work to save the Bay, CBF advocates at all levels of government for science-based policy and investments in clean water.

## BECAUSE OF YOUR INVESTMENT, LAST YEAR CBF AND OUR MEMBERS:

- Advocated for Virginia’s stormwater budget. It was approved with \$10 million in funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which helps local governments pay for projects that reduce polluted runoff.
- Saw unprecedented investments in critical clean-water programs in Virginia’s 2019 General Assembly.
- Took 2,421 actions expressing support to members of Congress for a strong, Bay-friendly Farm Bill.
- Lobbied members of Congress to continue the \$73 million yearly investment in Chesapeake Bay cleanup and, in fact, increase funding to \$90 million.

## Litigating for Clean Water

CBF is fighting threats to clean water from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project and air pollution from the associated Buckingham Compressor Station. In February 2019, CBF and Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Friends of Buckingham, filed a lawsuit in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals challenging Virginia’s approval of the compressor station. The station, which will burn natural gas to power four turbines designed to push natural gas through the pipeline, is slated for construction in the rural and historically Black community of Union Hill. The location of the facility has raised serious concerns because it could jeopardize the health of the many residents who live less than a mile from the site. The case is just one way CBF is working to ensure environmental justice for all who share the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



KENNY FLETCHER/CBF STAFF

For more than 60 years, Richard Walker’s family has held reunions on the Harper homestead in Union Hill. Five Harper families live within a quarter mile of the proposed site for the Buckingham Compressor Station. Walker is especially concerned about one of his cousins with respiratory issues. “The fumes and the methane and the gases coming out of that compressor station will all but kill her. I’m certain of that,” he said.

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, CBF’S LITIGATION TEAM:

- Achieved victory when the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a stormwater management fee in Roanoke, Virginia. The court’s opinion emphasized the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and the need for everyone to do their part to protect water quality from harmful stormwater runoff.
- Argued before the Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals in Maryland, opposing a variance that would allow construction of a new house and associated facilities located entirely within the critical area buffer. The buffer is meant to reduce the impact of development near the Bay’s shores, rivers, and wetlands.
- Filed a lawsuit asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to review the EPA’s decision not to order a curb on power plant emissions from upwind states that contribute to unhealthy smog in East Coast states like Maryland and Delaware.



# MAKING HISTORY

## It's Time to Finish the Job

This is a critical time for Bay restoration. We are at the halfway point in the historic clean-up plan, the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. To help us finish the job and save the Bay, CBF launched the Making History campaign. With partners, we will plant 10 billion oysters in the Bay, plant 10 million trees in Pennsylvania, and engage 1 million voices in the fight for clean water. Together, we are making history. All thanks to you!



B.J. SMALL/CBF STAFF

### Tree by Tree, Buffer by Buffer: Pieces of the Pollution Reduction Puzzle



Keystone  
**10 MILLION TREES**  
PARTNERSHIP

Larry Herr owns a 76-acre farm in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. As a landowner partner of the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, trees will be planted in buffers along the streams on his farm. The trees will filter and absorb runoff from a nearby pasture and Herr's small herd of beef cattle. In addition, the native trees will support natural ecosystems and provide habitat and food for brook trout, as well as birds, mammals, insects, and macroinvertebrates. Trees help fight climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in their tissues and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

Herr's stand of 50–75 new trees is one of many important pieces in Pennsylvania's pollution-reduction puzzle. **They are among the 70,000 trees planted by more than 1,500 volunteers this year as part of the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership.**



Chesapeake  
**OYSTER ALLIANCE**  
*10 Billion for the Bay*

**“The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance is a multi-partner effort to put 10 billion oysters into the Bay by 2025. The Lafayette River success is fundamental to this goal. We thank the entire community, from volunteers to restaurants to government agencies. Every partner deserves credit.”**

—Will Baker, CBF President



CBF STAFF



TERRY YOUNG/AIR ASPECTS

### Norfolk's Lafayette River Declared Restored for Oyster Habitat

Culminating a longtime community-supported effort to improve the health of the Lafayette branch of the Elizabeth River, officials declared the Lafayette River the first Virginia waterway to reach oyster habitat restoration goals. CBF has seeded these reefs with 70 million juvenile oysters and provided additional structure by placing 1,500 concrete reef balls in the water. A healthy oyster population can improve the health of the whole waterway. Oysters are natural filters that clean the water, and their reefs protect shorelines from erosion and provide habitat for fish, crabs, and other Bay life. Biological sampling on the Lafayette found at least 25 species of fish living around the reefs, from seahorses to speckled trout. This is a great victory for oyster restoration in Virginia.



# Connecting with our Community

KENNY FLETCHER/CBF STAFF



## Richmond Area Hispanic Leaders Go Fishing with CBF

On a fishing trip with local Hispanic leaders aboard the *Baywatcher*, CBF's James River education vessel, CBF staff discussed how we can work together to restore our waterways. Juan Santacoloma, who works to engage immigrant communities for Chesterfield County, said outreach to the Hispanic population is critical. "We are here to improve our community, but we need you to please reach out to educate us so we can learn more about our community, our environment, our county, and right now our country," he said. We're all in this together, and together we'll make it happen.



CBF STAFF

## CBF Partners with Pride

CBF partnered with Annapolis Pride and supported the inaugural Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 29, 2019. We believe that including new communities, like Annapolis Pride, in our member outreach initiatives helps us meet our goal of a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization. CBF is an accepting and welcoming organization to ALL our 18 million friends in the watershed.

## Diversity is Key

Just as biodiversity is the key to a thriving ecosystem, human diversity is the key to saving the Chesapeake Bay. To diversify our reach and build a constituency that better represents the demographics of the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed, CBF is launching a "One Million Voices" initiative. These voices will advocate for clean water in Congressional offices, the courts, and their communities. Through this five-year long effort, CBF will build an army of support for the Bay—from students, teachers, and parents to volunteers, members, and donors—and engage hundreds of thousands of advocates annually in the fight for clean water.



# Working with Farmers to Increase Profit and Save the Bay

CBF expanded and enhanced our outreach efforts to promote the adoption of rotational grazing in the Chesapeake Bay watershed portions of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Over the last four years, CBF worked with farmers to convert more than 1,300 acres to rotational grazing. We also implemented related practices such as fencing livestock out of streams, providing alternative water sources for livestock, and planting forested buffers. CBF focuses on grazing because of the benefits to the environment and farm economics.

We also created the Mountains-to-Bay Grazing Alliance (M2B), a network of farmers who implement grazing practices on their lands. The M2B connects current and new grazing farmers, providing outreach and technical assistance in the form of farmer-to-farmer mentoring, on-farm demonstrations, a quarterly newsletter, and other peer-to-peer experiences.

Building on partnerships and lessons learned, CBF will strengthen the structure and information-sharing of the M2B partnership and work with roughly 30 farmers to convert 1,700 acres to rotational grazing.

## MOUNTAINS-TO-BAY



GRAZING ALLIANCE



ISTOCK



# Thank you!

These accomplishments, and so much more, are possible because of your investment. Together, we are educating students, protecting the Bay with the law, advocating for science-based policy, and reducing pollution in communities across the watershed. **Because of you, we are saving the Bay.**

## CBF Staff Awards

Over the last year, CBF staff received several awards. Our successes are thanks to you.

- **Tom Ackerman, Vice President for Education**, received an award from Youth Learning as Citizen Environmental Scientists for his advancement of environmental education, awareness, and stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Allison Colden, Maryland Fisheries Scientist**, was named the Birdland Community Hero by the Baltimore Orioles for her work in oyster restoration and advocacy.

## THIS YEAR, TO EDUCATE AND INFORM THE PUBLIC, CBF:

- Saw an average of 8.1 radio, television, newspaper, or news blog stories that included CBF per day.
- Published our 2019 *State of the Blueprint* report, which drove more than 7,000 actions to decision-makers and reached over 82,000 people online.

DEBRA BROWN

CBF prides itself on demonstrating the highest standards of transparency, effectiveness, and accountability. We hold high ratings with the top charity rating organizations in the United States, including:



GuideStar Exchange  
Platinum Participation Level



America's Best Charities  
Seal of Excellence



Better Business Bureau  
Top-Ranked Charity



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