

MAKING WAVES



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023



MAKING WAVES

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN A TREE MAKE?

To the volunteer who plants it by the side of a stream, it can turn neighbors into community and dirty hands into joy. It can grow to shelter deer and birds and fish, protect from floods and pollution and climate change, give respite from heat and daily stress.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN AN OYSTER MAKE?

To the oyster farmer who grows it, it can turn the Bay into a way of life and our estuary into an economic engine. It can filter and clear the water, give light to underwater grasses and homes to fish and crabs, ensure anglers have tugs on their lines and holidays have oyster slurping.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN A FIELD EXPERIENCE MAKE?

To the student who paddles a canoe for the first time, it can turn classmates into teammates and local streams into worlds of inquiry. It can inspire teachers and careers, shape school systems and classrooms, plant the seeds of environmental stewardship and action for generations to come.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN A VOICE MAKE?

To the advocate who is working to protect their community, it can turn hopelessness into accountability and isolation into common cause. It can stop sewage overflows and bulldozers and unjust health impacts, support science and enforce laws.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN WE MAKE?

Because of you, millions of trees are growing along rivers and streams. Billions more oysters are in the Bay. Over 1.5 million learners have experienced the watershed firsthand. Thousands of people have raised their voices for clean water.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE WATERSHEDS.
WE CAN CHANGE WORLDS.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

A Message from Our President and Board Chair

When we think about the Chesapeake Bay, many of us think back to childhood days spent playing in small creeks near home, the times eating crabs with family and friends, or the hours lost happily exploring forests and shorelines. Across all 64,000 square miles of its watershed, the Bay is more than water. It is a patchwork of our collective stories and those with whom we've shared them; our sense of home and community. It is a place to find solitude and a place to gather. No matter how you experience it, this watershed shapes all of us.

Thanks to you, we are also shaping it—for the better. Your support means more farmers are adopting agricultural practices that improve water quality and build resilience to climate change; more neighborhoods are reducing pavement and increasing tree canopy to protect from heat and pollution; more students are accessing hands-on environmental education; more oyster reefs are growing in tidal rivers; and more polluters are being held accountable to the laws that protect our water, air, and health.

Each of these steps forward is meaningful. The cumulative impact is truly incredible. A student today is a businessperson, a policymaker, and a community leader tomorrow. Their connection to the watershed will shape the actions they take and the values they instill in those around them. A tree planted in a neighborhood today may be small, but one day a shady canopy could be lifesaving when an extreme heat wave hits. Like a ripple effect, each person who is inspired, connected, supported, and emboldened by this work becomes a new seed for change and innovation, bringing us closer to a vibrant watershed that allows people and nature to thrive together.

As we look to the future, there is still a tremendous amount to do and many challenges to face. This work has never been easy. Clean water is an ongoing and collective project—one that is not possible without you. This is how change happens. This is how we save the Bay, and keep it saved, for all people and all generations. Thank you for making it possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Otis S. Jones".

Otis S. Jones
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Falk".

Hilary Harp Falk
President and CEO

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EDUCATE

LIMITLESS
LEARNING

While wildfire smoke turned skies orange and sounded air-quality alarms across the watershed this summer, CBF educators and partner teachers were busy developing ways to help students investigate local impacts of climate change and solutions.

Extreme rainfall, rising sea levels, and warming temperatures all threaten the health of the watershed and communities. Meaningful climate change curriculum is therefore essential for preparing tomorrow's leaders,

and students and schools are increasingly demanding it, says Karen Mullin, Director of CBF's Professional Learning Team.

"Everything out there is riddled with computer learning, big scary facts, and despair," she says. "We don't do those things. We want to know, how can we replace despair with investigation and action?"

Over the past 50 years, CBF supporters have replaced despair with curiosity for more than 1.5 million learners



BETHANY ZEIGLER

"[The Network Leadership Course] was very helpful in shifting my way of thinking about how to work with school systems and beyond in a way that will hopefully enable our organization to build stronger partnerships and work toward a shared vision with our network partners."

Suzanne Sullivan, Director of Education, ShoreRivers

through our award-winning Environmental Education program. The program is centered on immersive, real-world investigations that spark inquiry, connection, and action. The team applied the same principles to climate change, developing investigations to explore local heat islands, air quality, and changing biodiversity in rivers and wetlands. Teachers in four school districts will begin testing the investigations this year.

But no single experience, school, or organization can solve the complex challenges facing our watershed—or our world—alone. This year, CBF also began training cohorts of leaders from partner environmental education organizations across the watershed. The training focuses on how

organizations can create local networks that expand and strengthen their educational programs.

The first Network Leadership Course cohort graduated this past year, while the second kicks off this winter. They represent organizations from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

According to Mullin, the goal is to amplify local programs, creating systemic and sustained learning for every kid in every community—and all those who come after them.

“Our capacity is limited when it’s just what we can do on our own,” Mullin says. “But our capacity is limitless when we can affect change through others.”

CBF is grateful for the generous support of:

The D.N. Batten Foundation
Charles T. Bauer Foundation
Deborah Loeb Brice Foundation

Joan P. Brock
The Elisabeth Reed Carter Charitable
Lead Trust
The Hershey Company
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Mr. & Mrs. J. Randolph Hutcheson

Greg & Elizabeth McCrickard
The Morningstar Foundation
Northrop Grumman Corporation
The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
Sisco Associates



DAWN J. SAGER

This year, CBF's Environmental Education program celebrated 50 years of educating people about the Bay and its rivers, streams, animals, history, and people.

ADVOCATE

EXPANDING FORESTS

When the Maryland General Assembly approved the biggest update to the state's Forest Conservation Act in more than 30 years, CBF's advocacy team could hardly believe it.

"There were a lot of times throughout this process that we looked at each other and thought, did we really just do this?" says Matt Stegman, CBF's Maryland Staff Attorney.

For the first time, Maryland has a statewide goal to not only preserve existing forests, but also to increase the acreage of forested land and tree canopy. The new protections, among the strongest in the country, also increase replanting requirements when developers clear forests, which caused most of the state's 19,000-acre loss of forests and trees between 2013 and 2018. However, it



"The coalition of groups advocating for this legislation represented every region in the State of Maryland. We were able to bring a diverse group of stakeholders to the table who all shared the same goal of protecting our forests for future generations."

Anna Mudd, Senior Director of Policy, Potomac Conservancy

also allows local governments flexibility to protect trees while addressing communities' needs such as affordable housing and transit-oriented development.

"After months of work, this forest preservation bill was supported by developers, by counties, by municipal governments—it really ran the whole gamut," Stegman says.

The achievement was only possible with long-term support that allowed CBF to work with partner environmental organizations, communities, and policymakers for nearly a decade to deliver the data and widespread backing needed to drive such a significant change. It also sparked major milestones along the way, with Anne Arundel, Howard,

Frederick, and Montgomery Counties all bolstering local forest protections since 2019.

Forests are among the best natural filters that reduce pollution and protect water quality, making them essential to restoring local rivers and the Bay for the long term. They are also critical to both mitigate and protect against climate change—sequestering carbon, cooling nearby waterways, reducing flooding, and providing refuge and respite for wildlife and communities.

"It was a big, heavy lift, but it's an achievement that will be felt for years, if not decades," says Stegman. "This is a generational piece of legislation."

CBF is grateful for the generous support of:

The Helena Foundation

Ann Pelham & Bob Cullen

Jean T. & Heyward G. Pelham Foundation

Richard T. Pelham

Wells Fargo Foundation

Abingdon Woods was slated for major development and removal of trees. Concerned citizens and CBF fought to protect the area.

LITIGATE

RENEWING RIVERS

The Henrico County Water Reclamation Facility and its system of collection pipes have faced decades of consent orders from Virginia for exceeding permit limits and allowing raw sewage to flow into local waterways when collection system pipes malfunctioned. Yet the orders never led to the improvements necessary to protect water quality. Often, people near the facility and its

sprawling wastewater collection system had no idea of the overflows and exceedances. Anglers fished without knowing the safety of their catch. Waders and kayakers didn't realize they might be recreating in sewage.

"We heard so many personal stories about people interacting with the water, never knowing if they were



"This legally enforceable agreement ensures that the public will be better informed and protected from sewage spills and pollution violations. Additionally, we are pleased that all parties involved were able to reach agreement on projects that will benefit the James River and consider climate change impacts in future plans."

Bill Street, CEO, James River Association

going to be safe,” says Taylor Lilley, CBF’s Environmental Justice Staff Attorney.

In December 2021, CBF joined the James River Association and their attorneys from the Environmental Integrity Project in a lawsuit to force the county to address the problem and comply with its Clean Water Act permit. This year, a settlement agreement was reached with Henrico County that will accelerate upgrades to the facility, improve public notification of sewage overflows, and requires a \$1 million investment in an environmental restoration project to reduce pollution and benefit residents.

It’s not just Henrico. A lack of permit enforcement remains a major threat to the environment and public health across the watershed, Lilley says. Even

when local agencies are aware, they don’t always have the bandwidth to intervene. CBF supporters allow our Litigation team to work with local partners to fill that need, as we did in Henrico and continue to do through ongoing cases to enforce or strengthen permits in Baltimore and on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The team’s work also supports accountability for clean water laws more broadly, such as in a landmark settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this year that increases enforcement and scrutiny of permits across a broad range of facilities in Pennsylvania.

“Cases like this are a critical part of environmental enforcement,” Lilley says. “It’s an important role we play to make sure that there isn’t flagrant disregard for permits.”

CBF is grateful for the generous support of:

Mike & Trish Davis

H.F. Lenfest Fund of Vanguard Charitable

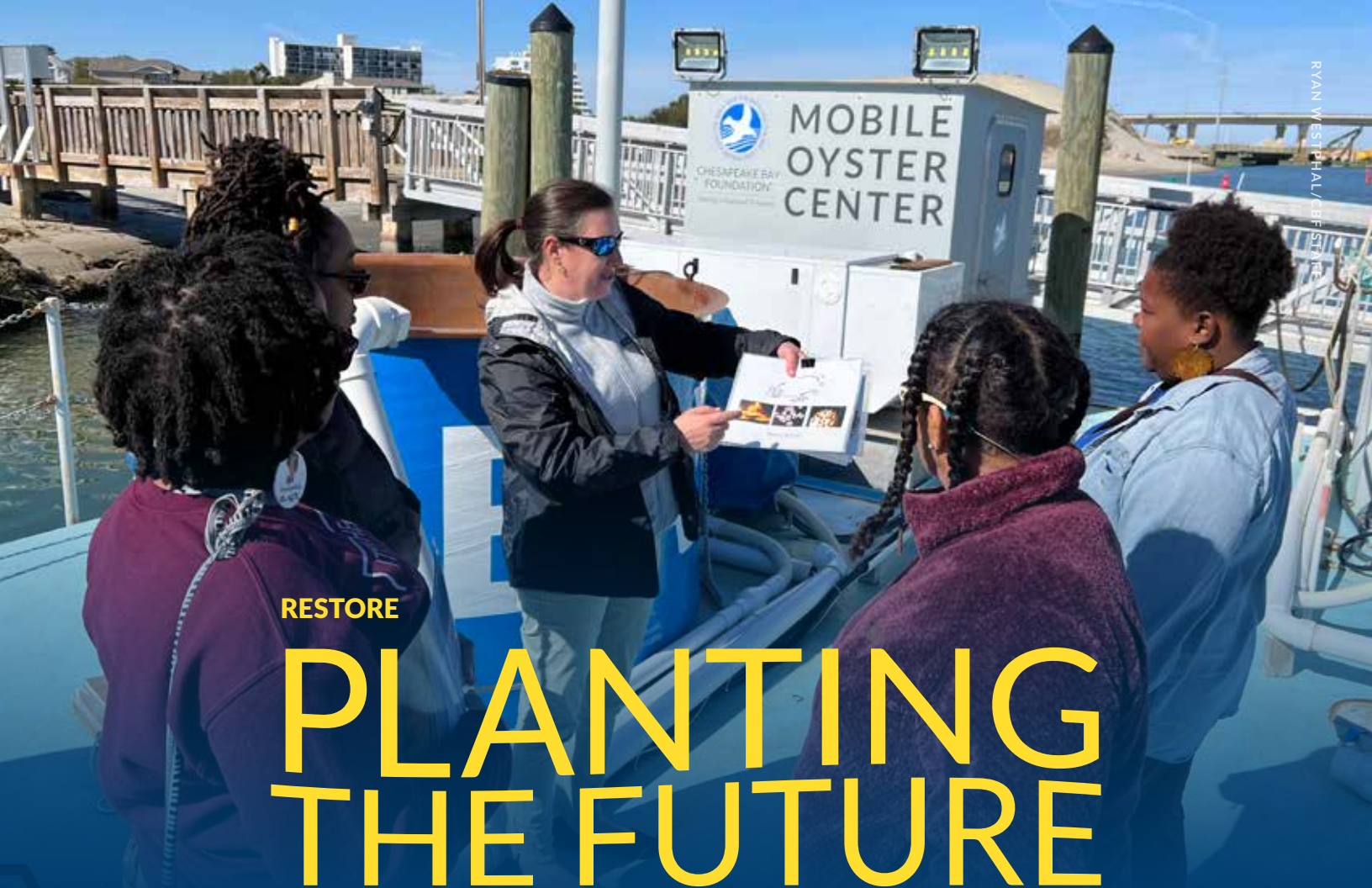
Madwoman Project Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

George & Miriam Martin Foundation

Simon & Nancy Sidamon-Eristoff

Residents of Henrico County, Virginia, the county surrounding Richmond, have unknowingly come in contact with sewage from decades-old pipes and a lack of permit enforcement.

KENNY FLETCHER



RESTORE

PLANTING THE FUTURE

As a three-year-old white oak, grown from an acorn, settled into the ground at Furnace Run Park in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, last October, staff and volunteers from across the Keystone State celebrated.

“This tree we are planting today is going to be here for 100 years,” Sam Cressler, of Southampton Township, said at the time. “It is going to witness a lot of wonder and

smiles from the people who come and go here. It’s really exciting.”

It also marked a major milestone—the five millionth tree planted by the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership (K10). CBF launched the ambitious effort in 2018, with the goal of planting 10 million trees in the Commonwealth by 2025. The effort has since grown to include nearly 300



“As a member of COA, we have access to valuable resources and support that help us achieve our mission of improving the lives of those we serve through environmental stewardship. I am excited to work alongside other members and see the positive changes we can make together.”

Leslie Townsell, Community Director,
Black in Marine Science (100th Chesapeake Oyster Alliance partner)

partners that collectively planted 500,000 trees in 2023.

Trees are a cost-effective tool for cleaning and protecting waterways and provide many co-benefits that will be felt for generations, including shade, carbon sequestration, streambank stabilization, and wildlife habitat.

“Trees are one of the biggest bangs for the buck for cleaning water,” says Joe Hallinan, K10 Partnership Manager at CBF. “By planting trees today, we can leave our communities a better place for our children and grandchildren.”

Across the watershed, the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance (COA) also planted seeds for the future, welcoming its 100th partner in 2023. The coalition, coordinated by CBF, brings together non-profits, academic institutions, businesses, and aquaculture operations to restore the Chesapeake Bay’s oyster population, all united by the goal of adding 10 billion oysters to the Bay by 2025.

COA’s diverse coalition of partners today range from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, to Solar Oysters, to the Nansemond Indian Nation.

CBF is grateful for the generous support of:

Arbor Day Foundation
American Environment Foundation
Kentfields Foundation

One Tree Planted
The Owens & Minor Foundation
Pennsylvania American Water Company
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
The Wenger Group

This past spring, the Keystone Ten Million Trees Partnership planted its five millionth tree, marking the milestone halfway point toward our goal of 10 million trees planted in Pennsylvania by 2025.

Left photo: CBF’s Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia, is home to the innovative floating oyster restoration center, the Prudence H. and Louis F. Ryan Mobile Oyster Center.



From growing oyster reefs and trees to growing partnerships with local organizations and schools, your support creates far-reaching benefits for water quality and communities that will shape the future of our region—and our planet—for generations to come. In 2023, we:

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

RIPPLE

RESTORATION

Expanded the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance to 101 partners, which have added over **4.5 BILLION OYSTERS** to Bay waters.

Grew the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership from 221 to 264 members, which have planted over **5.9 MILLION TREES** in Pennsylvania.

Launched a project to support restoration and conservation of **FRESHWATER MUSSELS**, important river filters that are among the most threatened class of organisms in the country.



CBF STAFF

ADVOCACY

Launched the new **BAY ADVOCACY INSTITUTE** at seven colleges and universities in the watershed, helping students better understand watershed issues, find solutions, and take meaningful action.

Inspired CBF members to take **22,004 ADVOCACY ACTIONS**—including those that helped prevent a salmon farm that posed risks to endangered Atlantic sturgeon on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Supported passage of legislation that will provide resources for **OYSTER REEF RESTORATION** and aquaculture, farm conservation practices, and markets for invasive blue catfish.



WILL PARSON/CBP

COMMUNITY/RESOURCES

Raised the voices of more than **1,200 CBF MEMBERS** in support of draft legislation, introduced by Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen and Representative John Sarbanes, that would create the Chesapeake National Recreation Area.

Engaged community oyster gardeners in raising and planting over **1.8 MILLION OYSTERS**—capable of filtering up to 90 million gallons of water per day—on restoration reefs in Maryland and Virginia.

Expanded **TREE PLANTINGS** in Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, to cool overheated neighborhoods, clean the air, and filter out stormwater pollutants.



EFFECTS

EDUCATION

Celebrated **50 YEARS** of award-winning environmental education that has reached more than **1.5 MILLION LEARNERS** and inspired countless actions—and careers—dedicated to saving the Bay.

Supported the growth of **100 STUDENT LEADERS** from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia during five summer courses, two multi-day leadership development conferences, and several Rally Your Reps days.

Organized and led teacher professional training for the **BALTIMORE OUTDOOR LEARNING NETWORK**, resulting in over 1,000 Baltimore City ninth graders participating in hands-on investigations of local city streams.



LITIGATION

Reached a **LANDMARK SETTLEMENT** with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to increase enforcement and limit water pollution in seven priority Pennsylvania counties.

Successfully challenged a permit that violated the 1991 Forest Conservation Act, preserving **200 ACRES OF FOREST** in Harford County, Maryland.

Filed a **LEGAL CHALLENGE** against a wastewater discharge permit issued to the Valley Proteins poultry rendering facility in Dorchester County, Maryland, as the permit does not ensure that local water quality will be protected.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR FY23

CBF's management practices ensure that operating and capital campaign funds raised in the current year, as well as campaign funds pledged in previous years, are effectively put to use to support programs to save the Bay.

Support and Revenue

Membership Contributions.....	5,852,270
Grants & Gifts.....	20,254,086
Education Contracts & Tuition.....	1,039,177
Investment Distribution.....	4,098,370
Donated Goods & Services.....	239,951
Other.....	1,886,443
Revenue for the Current Year.....	33,370,297

Expenses

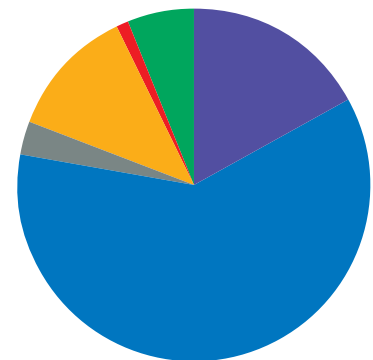
Program Services.....	27,168,965
Environmental Education.....	7,643,090
Environmental Protection & Restoration.....	16,272,584
Strategic Communications.....	3,253,291
Support Services.....	7,217,268
General & Administrative.....	3,021,430
Fundraising.....	4,195,838
Total Expenses.....	34,386,233
Change in Net Assets Before Capital Additions.....	(1,015,936)*
Capital Additions.....	1,622,676
Change in Net Assets.....	606,740
Net Assets, Beginning of Year.....	121,228,637
Net Assets, End of Year.....	121,835,377

A copy of the audited financial statement & IRS Form 990 is available at cbf.org or by calling 888-SAVEBAY.

*((\$2,919,538) is related to Making History Campaign and future expenditures.

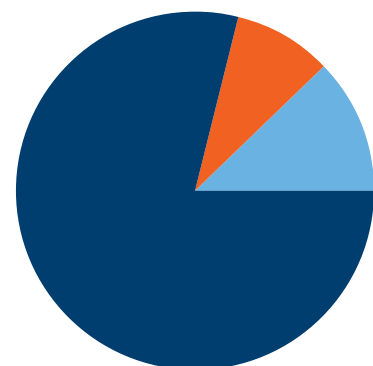


CBF also meets all the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability.



REVENUE

17%	Membership Contributions
61%	Grants & Gifts
3%	Education Contracts & Tuition
12%	Investment Distribution
1%	Donated Goods & Services
6%	Other



EXPENSES

79%	Program Services
9%	General & Administrative
12%	Fundraising



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

Maryland

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Environmental Center
6 Herndon Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-268-8816

Eastern Shore
114 South Washington Street
Suite 103
Easton, MD 21601
410-543-1999

Claggett Farm and CSA
11904 Old Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Pennsylvania

1426 North Third Street
Suite 220
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-234-5550

Virginia

1108 East Main Street
Suite 1600
Richmond, VA 23219
804-780-1392

Brock Environmental Center
3663 Marlin Bay Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-622-1964

Washington, D.C.

202-544-2232

COVER PHOTO:
BILL PORTLOCK/CBF STAFF

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OUR MISSION: Save the Bay™ and keep it saved, as defined by reaching a 70 on CBF's Health Index.