The Biggest Fight for Clean Water
Protecting the Bay’s Best Nursery
Terrapin Territory
President’s Message

The Biggest Fight for Clean Water this Nation has Ever Seen

That’s what it is going to take. It is time to take off the gloves and fight for what we have always believed is our right—clean water.

I guess one could say that’s the trouble with democracy—it allows for all parties to have a voice. Unfortunately, those who do not want government to enforce the law have had a louder voice than we have. It is time to turn the tables.

There is reason to be optimistic. The Obama administration has made a refreshing commitment to environmental protection, and Lisa Jackson, the new EPA Administrator, has repeatedly stated her commitment to the Chesapeake Bay. She has also said her policies will follow science and the law. In addition, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine is the new Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. Already, he has used his strong relationship with the president to argue for a significantly increased federal presence on the Bay.

The new administration has got to be feeling the pressure to make saving Chesapeake Bay its signature environmental initiative. Our litigation filed against the former administration’s EPA must be defended by the current EPA. We hope that a truly precedent-setting and legally binding settlement—which will establish a firm timetable and specific pollution-reduction targets with consequences for failing to meet incremental and final deadlines—can be reached. What we are after is a precise, pollution-reduction budget based on the best science, targeted and focused on the areas that will pay the greatest dividends first. Ninety percent of the Chesapeake Bay waters and tidal tributaries are officially designated as impaired under the Clean Water Act. Our reading of the Act requires EPA, the lead federal agency, to prohibit any additional levels of pollution to these impaired waters until the impairments are reversed.

Our legal challenge is just part of the Biggest Fight. We have also called on the public to write EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson personal letters urging her to take action. As we go to press, we have received copies of more than 500 such letters and feel safe in estimating that at least that many more have been sent without copies to us. The writers are an impressive lot—younger to older, blue collar to professional.

We are also urging our congressional representatives to join the Biggest Fight. Does anyone doubt that the new administration would be dramatically influenced if every member of Congress from the Chesapeake Bay watershed states directly contacted Ms. Jackson and urged specific action for the Bay?

We hope that every CBF member will write a personal appeal for help for the Bay to Administrator Jackson. (See page five for sample excerpts and contact information.)

And we hope that every member of CBF will call or write his or her U.S. Senators and Congressmen urging them to petition President Obama and Administrator Jackson.

With security so high in Washington, we find that letters to the home offices of your Congressional representatives are more likely to get through. For addresses and telephone numbers, visit cbf.org/lookup.

What we are after is a precise, pollution-reduction budget based on the science, targeted and focused on the areas that will pay the greatest dividends first.

History may record that a well meaning but ultimately timid society lost the Chesapeake Bay in the early decades of the twenty-first century. Alternatively, history may record that the Chesapeake Bay was saved in the early twenty-first century.

The choice is ours. Let’s go out together and write history. Let’s all join the biggest fight for clean water this nation has ever seen.

William C. Baker
President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
6  Destination Chesapeake: Mattawoman Creek
In southern Maryland, residents fear that a proposed highway could ruin one of the most productive tributaries of the Bay. The public outcry raises the question: How do we want our communities to grow?

10  A Fighting Terrapin
The diamondback terrapin has endured many threats. As shoreline nesting grounds shrink, the tenacious turtle perseveres.

14  CBF to EPA: Time’s Up
“The Biggest Fight for Clean Water this Nation has Ever Seen” fires an opening salvo: a federal suit against EPA to force legal compliance and pollution reduction.

23  Service on the Anacostia
A National Service Day tree-planting unites Congressional leaders, No Child Left Inside advocates, students, and neighbors.

24  A Photographic Memory
Baltimore teenagers give up cell phones and showers to experience an unforgettable CBF-National Geographic photo camp.

5  MAILBOX
Members respond to a CBF call for action with more than 500 letters to newly appointed EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, calling on her to make Bay restoration a national priority.

13  REFLECTIONS
Embattled farmers are proving their commitment to protecting natural resources by investing in conservation.

18  BAY BRIEFS
CBF activities in the Bay states and the District of Columbia.

22  PROFILE
For one Episcopal bishop, environmental justice, clean air, and clean water are matters of faith.

26  OUR GIVING COMMUNITY
CBF’s circle of friends and supporters.

28  DRIFTWOOD
Bay bits and pieces.

30  LAST LOOK
In a sinking economy, investment in green infrastructure could be a solution that benefits us all.

PHOTO CREDITS THIS PAGE: UPPER RIGHT, DAVID BICK; LEFT TO RIGHT, ISTOCK, GETTY IMAGES, JONI MILLER/CBF STAFF, ANNA BAKKAR
Give the gift of a brighter future for the Bay and its rivers and streams.

In tough economic times, don't let the Bay be forgotten. Please support the Chesapeake Bay Foundation with a special donation today.

Call 888/SAVEBAY or visit cbf.org/give.

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Environmental Awareness Statement
The Chesapeake Bay Foundation saved the following resources in the production of this publication:

- 11 tons Trees
- 233,086 gallons Wastewater
- 506 million BTUs Total Energy
- 29,329 pounds Solid Waste
- 75,763 pounds Greenhouse Gases

Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Defense Paper Calculator.

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Editor’s Note
As a new captain takes the helm in Washington, all eyes are on the Capitol. A stimulus plan that includes billions for pollution-reduction projects is an early and encouraging sign that the Obama administration is committed to building a greener America.

Even before the president took office, CBF seized the moment. Our ambitious campaign, the Biggest Fight for Clean Water this Nation has Ever Seen, was launched in November to unite our 216,000 members and enlist many more in an all-out effort to save the Bay and its rivers and streams. Read more on page 14, and learn how you can help to steer the ship of state towards that goal.

Carol Denny
CBA President Will Baker issued an urgent call to members at the start of the year. He encouraged friends and supporters to send personal letters to new EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, asking her to make restoration of the Bay and its tributaries her top priority. Within days, hundreds had responded with heartfelt messages. Here are some excerpts.

As a marine biologist trained at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, I became well-versed in the tragic tale of the Chesapeake’s degradation…I remain optimistic, however, because I know all the Bay’s problems have solutions, pending the political will to implement them. Because of Chesapeake Bay’s historical importance, its proximity to the cultural, population, and political centers of the U.S., and its serious-but-solvable ecological problems, it should be a cornerstone of the EPA’s activities under your administration.

—JAMES DOUGLASS, PH.D.

Everyone takes away photos and memories of the [National Mall], a special place along the glittering Potomac River. Yet, that very river sits in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. More than ninety percent of the Bay and tidal tributary rivers that feed it are officially designated as impaired under the Clean Water Act. The EPA…can seize this wonderful new time in our country’s history to show true leadership.

—SUE MANGAN

The Chesapeake is the world’s greatest estuary. We who have lived here our whole lives and the generations who went before us hold it as a sacred trust. We want to pass its richness on to our descendants. We want them to know crabs and oysters and grasses and fish and birds and ducks that inhabit these waters and lands.

—SISTER COLETTE ACKERMAN, OCD, AND THE CARMELITE SISTERS

These delays must stop now. What do I say to my two young children when they want to go fishing in the Potomac River? What do I tell my son when he wants to take a swim in the Rappahannock River? Is it safe? Will it be clean by the time he is an adult?

—HANK HELMEN

As a regular boater on the Chesapeake and a volunteer member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, I ask, urge, and plead that you exercise all the authority you have, and all that you can persuade President Obama to use, to finally and effectively set in place strict pollution controls, with penalties enforced effectively for non-compliance…It CAN be done.

—DONALD H. GREEN

▶Send your message to Lisa Jackson today. Letters can be mailed to Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania, NW, Washington, D.C. Please send us a copy. Sign our online petition and read more about The Biggest Fight for Clean Water this Nation has Ever Seen at cbf.org/epa.

▶Get in touch with Save the Bay!
Talk to us online
E-mail the editor at stbeditor@cbf.org.

Write us a letter
Save the Bay Editor, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Hemdon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403

Give us a call
888/SAVE-BAY or 888/728-3229
Maryland’s Mattawoman Creek

Protecting “an Extraordinary Place”

by Carol Denny
On a spring morning, the marshes of Mattawoman Creek put on a better show than Discovery Channel HD. Ospreys swoop past statuesque great egrets. Red-bellied turtles and northern water snakes vanish below the surface, then reappear. The soundtrack is a mix of bird calls and the murmurs of fishermen, casting from bass boats.

The Mattawoman is a jewel in the Potomac River’s large, tidal-freshwater estuary. Each spring, it’s the scene of an epic migration of fish, some of which come from as far as the Gulf of Maine to spawn in its waters. Hundreds of thousands of river herring, American shad, hickory shad, white perch, yellow perch, and rockfish reproduce in the creek and river, and their offspring are the basis for a food chain capped by the largemouth bass. State biologists have called the Mattawoman the state’s “best, most productive” nursery for migratory fish.

With the spawn come legions of anglers, attracted by prime fishing on local waterways and fat purses in area bass tournaments. But the annual influx of fish and fishermen, a sign of spring and a boon for regional tourism, is under a cloud. The pristine waters that both rely on are threatened by a proposed highway—one that could wipe out acres of Chesapeake forest and wetlands and degrade an exceptional incubator for fish and wildlife.
Charles County is seeking permission to bulldoze forests and wetlands around the Mattawoman to build a new, 6.5-mile highway known as the Cross County Connector. The proposal has caused an outcry among residents, who say the project would cause irreparable damage to water quality and aquatic habitat and open the door to further sprawl. The road is part of a plan to accommodate thousands of new houses over the next 20 years in the fields and forests west of Waldorf, Maryland.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) has joined the Mattawoman Watershed Society and others to form the Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County, which questions the necessity for the four-lane highway. Last fall, the alliance launched an e-mail campaign calling for denial of critical permits and the development of an Environmental Impact Statement to assess the effects of the roadway before construction begins. This spring, the coalition will publish a report that will identify alternatives to the roadway—ones that will protect the resource while accommodating appropriate growth. In a related effort, CBF is lobbying for legislation that would require a better strategy for growth statewide.

Terry Cummings, Manager of Advocacy for CBF, says the current threat to the Mattawoman is symptomatic of ineffective planning throughout Maryland. “The highway and the development that will follow are outside the state-endorsed growth area for the county. How can we protect our natural resources and clean up the Bay if we allow this construction in such a valuable natural area?” he asked.

As Jim Long, coordinator of the Mattawoman Watershed Society, sees it, the proposed
highway isn’t only a threat to the environment—it’s unnecessary. Officials counter that the high-speed link from Waldorf to tiny Bryans Road (pop. 5,000) is needed for traffic safety and would provide a major artery for future commuters. Residents in the area, however, are already served by Route 228, an existing four-lane highway four miles north.

Long also voiced fears that increasing paved surfaces in the region will add to the environmental pressures facing the Mattawoman. He said the loss of local forests and wetlands—precious natural filters for the creek—has already put water quality at risk.

“We know that 2008 was not a good year for fish eggs [in the Mattawoman]. That should raise the alarm,” he stated. “Fish biologists would say there are many reasons, but a primary concern is the amount of increased runoff coming from paved, or impervious, surface.”

The direct link between the percentage of paved surface in an area and the health of its streams has been thoroughly documented. At seven percent, most waterways can maintain health and productivity; at more than 20 percent, they become “non-functioning.” In 2003, the Army Corps of Engineers reported the Mattawoman’s impervious surface to be 8.3 percent. Now, it’s approaching 10 percent—generally agreed to be the point at which fish and other aquatic life are compromised.

Before construction of the Cross County Connector can begin, both the state and the Army Corps of Engineers must issue permits to Charles County. Residents have voiced so many concerns that the state and the Corps have asked for additional information from the county before they make their decisions. In November, William P. Seib, a chief of the Corps’ permits section, sent the county a letter seeking “clarification” on the roadway’s purpose and need. Seib noted that the State Highway Administration has already declared that Route 228 could accommodate traffic. He also requested further data on the environmental impacts of the proposed highway on the sensitive Mattawoman.

“This creek is at a threshold,” said CBF Land Use Planner Erik Fisher, who’s working with a partnership of opponents to the project. “And this is a big road, and a lot of houses. We’re talking about an awful lot of development in the absolute wrong place. The ‘if you build it, they will come’ idea is really borne out by the research. So the question for me is, ‘Does this roadway support the kind of damaging development pattern we’re trying to avoid?’ The answer is clearly yes.

“There are still good options out there,” added Fisher. “There’s enough room in and around existing town centers to accommodate growth for the next 20 years.”

Like many Charles County residents, Fisher sees the creek as an irreplaceable treasure. “It’s an extraordinary place,” he said. His sentiments are echoed by Long, who sees the roadway issue as a symbol of the need to protect the creeks, coves, and wetlands that comprise the Chesapeake.

“The fish productivity here is consistently the greatest in the entire Potomac watershed,” Long said. “If we cannot muster the political will to protect a recognized gem like Mattawoman, then how can we seriously claim to be restoring the Bay?”

Learn more about the Cross County Connector and its impact on the Mattawoman at cbf.org/mattawomancreek.
Dr. Willem Roosenburg was cruising down the Patuxent River in Maryland on a warm day last June when he saw something disturbing. Poles jutted out of the flat green water, marking a commercial fish trap called a pound net. Trapped inside were hundreds of rare diamondback terrapin, their heads poking out, their nostrils sucking air. They were alive, but clearly under stress.

“Many of them were big adult females who should have been nesting, but they were trapped and thus unable to lay their eggs,” recalled Roosenburg, an expert on terrapin. “The nets were perfectly legal, because they were set up for fish. But nobody was checking these nets, and so the terrapin were caught accidentally and held there.”

The incident was a vivid reminder for Roosenburg. The Ohio University biologist had successfully lobbied with several partners the year before, in 2007, to win approval of a Maryland law banning the trapping of terrapin, a dinner-plate-sized reptile with diamond-shaped bumps on its shell. Virginia and other states have long banned the catching of diamondbacks.

Terrapin populations suffered in the last decades of the twentieth century, in part because trappers were catching thousands of them for sale to China. The market for Chesapeake turtles soared as the supply of Asian turtles vanished. The trend was an eerie replay of the Victorian era in America, when a craze for terrapin soup nearly drove the species to extinction.

Swimming for Shore

LOSS OF HABITAT HINDERS TERRAPIN SURVIVAL

BY TOM PELTON
The new law to prohibit trapping is an attempt to stabilize the population, but the net full of terrapins Roosenburg encountered illustrated a sad truth: Banning the intentional catching of terrapin won’t save the species unless more also is done to prevent their unintentional capture. Roosenburg said this accidental “bycatch” in fishing nets and crab traps can be minimized by asking, or requiring, watermen to check pound nets set in rivers where terrapin live every three or four days, and by installing turtle-blocking devices on recreational crab traps.

Scott Smith, an ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, said a task force is looking into Roosenburg’s concerns to see if additional regulations are needed to protect the terrapin.

Unlike another Chesapeake icon, the blue crab, the terrapin thrives in a mix of salty and fresh water. Terrapin mothers dig nests on sandy beaches to deposit their eggs. Hatchlings emerge seven to 10 weeks later. As coastal development accelerates, available natural shorelines are becoming less common. A mature female terrapin trapped in a net may not be able to reach the beach to lay her eggs. Tending pound nets regularly can prevent this problem. Despite new regulations, researchers believe that terrapin populations in the Bay region are on the decline.

Dr. Paula Henry, a zoologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said it’s important to protect the turtles because they are a good indicator of the Bay’s health. “The terrapin lives on shore, on beaches, and in the water, and it has been around socially and historically as a major component of the Bay’s culture,” she notes. “It is the only estuarine turtle in North America,” uniquely adapted to the mix of salty and fresh water in the Chesapeake. “We should care about them because they represent everything that is great about the Chesapeake Bay.”

BUILDERS CAN HELP TO CREATE LIVE SHORELINES, PLANT MARSH GRASSES, AND LEAVE SANDY AREAS FOR TERRAPINS TO NEST. OR, BETTER YET, SMITH SAID, SIMPLY LEAVE THE BAY’S NATURAL SHORELINES ALONE.

“Nature has done a heck of a great job of building what the terrapin needs,” he said.

Another concern for the terrapin is water pollution in the Bay, particularly toxic wastes such as oil and PCBs, said Smith. PCBs ingested by terrapin remain in their bodies for a long time.

Dr. Willem Roosenburg, who found a 75 percent decline in the population in the Patuxent River between 1996 and 2005, said it’s important to protect the turtles because they are a good indicator of the Bay’s health. “The terrapin lives on shore, on beaches, and in the water, and it has been around socially and historically as a major component of the Bay’s culture,” she notes. “It is the only estuarine turtle in North America,” uniquely adapted to the mix of salty and fresh water in the Chesapeake. “We should care about them because they represent everything that is great about the Chesapeake Bay.”

Michael W. Fincham, MD Sea Grant College

“Waterfront development has “hardened” beaches, making it difficult for the terrapin to follow their instinctual urge to lay eggs on the shore.”

NOAA

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Smith said that, beyond fishing, terrapin also face a major threat from the destruction of the Bay’s sandy beaches. As more of the Chesapeake shoreline is bulkheaded or reinforced with boulders, fewer spots remain for the diamondbacks to form nests and lay their eggs. Waterfront development has “hardened” beaches, making it difficult for the terrapin to follow their instinctual urge to lay eggs on the shore.

Builders can help by creating living shorelines, planting marsh grasses, and leaving sandy areas for terrapins to nest. Or, better yet, Smith said, simply leave the Bay’s natural shorelines alone. “Nature has done a heck of a great job of building what the terrapin needs,” he said.

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NOAA
Like many of us, Virginia farmers are struggling under current economic conditions. Agriculture profits are slim and at times turbulent, with few highs and lots of lows. This could account for a recent report which shows Virginia lost 521,000 acres of farmland between 2002 and 2007—the largest decline in the past 20 years.

Despite these difficulties, farmers continue to be committed to doing their part to care for our natural resources—particularly our water. Our commitment is evident through our participation in Virginia’s Agricultural BMP (Best Management Practices) Cost Share Program, which helps farmers to put important conservation practices into operation.

“Cost share” means that farmers across the Commonwealth are putting up our own funds to cover 50 percent of the expense of implementing many kinds of pollution-reduction projects. These projects will improve water quality for all citizens, and be in place for years to come.

Robert Curd, a beef cattle farmer in Amherst County, Virginia, explains his participation this way: “Farmers are stewards of the land, and most would go out of their way to improve the quality of their land. Many farmers would like to include more conservation practices on their farms, but not all of them have the economic resources to do so.”

Margaret Ann Smith, who uses cover crops to prevent erosion in the winter and fences cattle away from streams on her family’s Rockbridge County, Virginia, beef operation, emphasizes that the cost share program “is not a handout. We invest our capital and give up acres for some of these Best Management Practices. But in return, we’re helping the Bay and becoming better managers of our property.”

For the last two years, the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and eight other agriculture and conservation groups have been working together as the Agriculture and Conservation Partnership for Water Quality. The partnership has been successful in convincing legislators and the public that by working together, we can make real gains in reducing the pollution plaguing our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The partnership is also looking at ways to maintain a healthy agriculture economy, which is vital for all of us. Agriculture and forestry are Virginia’s number one industry, and constitute the foundation of many of Virginia’s rural communities. Together, they contribute an estimated $79 billion annually to the state’s economy. And every job created in agriculture and forestry results in another 1.5 jobs in other sectors.

Increasing the use of Agricultural Best Management Practices simply makes good sense. It can improve our water quality and help our local economies. It’s up to all of us to do our part, and farmers are.
Federal lawsuit kicks off
‘Biggest Fight for Clean Water this Nation has Ever Seen’

After 25 years of broken promises and unfulfilled commitments on Bay restoration, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and several partners filed suit in U.S. District Court against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). With the action, they launched what CBF President William C. Baker termed “the biggest fight for clean water this nation has ever seen.”

The lawsuit, announced by CBF and seven co-plaintiffs on January 5, seeks to force EPA to enforce the Clean Water Act and reduce pollution sufficiently to remove the Chesapeake Bay from the federal “impaired waters” list.

CBF and its co-plaintiffs have asked the court to order EPA to reduce pollution from all sources—air, wastewater treatment plants, and urban, suburban, and agricultural runoff. As required, they notified EPA of their intent to sue 60 days before the filing.

The move reflects mounting public frustration at the slow pace of Bay recovery efforts and the lack of progress despite repeated government commitments. To date, EPA and the Bay states have signed three agreements to restore the Chesapeake Bay, all of which have failed to meet key commitments. The most recent, the Chesapeake 2000 agreement, pledged to reduce pollution sufficiently to have the Bay removed from the federal “impaired waters” list by 2010. EPA and the states have acknowledged that the goal will not be met and could be pushed back to 2020 or beyond.

In addition, over the past several years, three EPA Inspector General’s reports and one Government Accountability Office report have detailed EPA’s leadership failures.

Joining CBF in the lawsuit are former elected officials and watermen’s groups who have witnessed the deterioration of the Bay and its rivers and streams firsthand: former Maryland Governor Harry Hughes, retired Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler, former Virginia Legislator and Natural Resources Secretary Tayloe Murphy, former Washington D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, the Virginia State Waterman’s Association, the Maryland Watermen’s Association, and the Maryland Saltwater Sportsfisherman’s Association.
The Goal: Restored Water Quality

At a CBF press conference in January announcing the suit, Baker explained the desired outcome. “We have asked that EPA accept its responsibility under the Clean Water Act. EPA must impose a legally binding pollution-reduction budget, or cap, that will restore water quality. While discussions have occurred, we have not been able to resolve our claims during the 60-day notice period. Despite EPA’s assertions to the contrary, CBF believes that after 25 years of failed policies, the only way to ensure that EPA does its job is to have a court order requiring it.”

Baker added, “With a new administration, there is hope for change. This lawsuit will put Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts directly in front of the new EPA Administrator. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure. We believe that through this lawsuit, it can also become a model for pollution reduction and the restoration of water quality across the nation.”

His message reached Lisa P. Jackson, who was sworn in as EPA Administrator on January 26. Jackson went on record at her confirmation hearing to state support for a renewed national commitment for the Bay. She said she wants to “turn the tide… of (runoff) pollution that is affecting the Bay” and “make sure that the waters of this country are adequately protected.” Jackson agreed that the federal government’s partnership with Chesapeake Bay-area states “is important not only because of the extraordinary treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay… but because it is such an important demonstration to…the rest of the country.” She reiterated that statement in her first official communication to EPA staff.

At the confirmation hearing, Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) called on Jackson to provide a stronger federal focus and adequate funding to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. “We don’t want to see press releases. We want to see results in the cleaning up of the Bay,” Cardin said, echoing the sentiments of thousands of CBF members.

As Jackson’s appointment as administrator was pending, Baker called on CBF members and supporters to contact her and urge her to make restoration of the Chesapeake and its tributaries a top priority. In addition to asking activists to sign an online petition to Jackson at cbf.org, Baker asked for personal letters to be sent to the administrator. Within hours of his request, the first of hundreds of messages advocating a renewed Bay effort were on their way to Jackson’s office (see page five). Rallying supporters around the theme of the “biggest fight,” Baker exhorted petition signers and letter writers to continue the campaign.

Ahead: New Federal Investment

CBF sees additional possibilities for federal involvement in Bay clean-up efforts in the massive economic stimulus bill passed in February. While the principal objective of
the stimulus package is to create or maintain jobs, the measure will also be used to further the policy goals of President Obama and the 111th Congress, including protecting and restoring the environment. As such, it holds promise for making progress towards restoring water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

CBF’s federal affairs staff began working with Congressional staff and Obama transition officials in December to try to make the developing legislation as productive as possible for Bay pollution reduction and restoration. Three of the biggest remaining sources of pollutants to the Bay—wastewater treatment plants, urban and suburban stormwater, and agriculture—could be reduced through the bills large new investment of federal funds in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Hundreds of millions of new dollars are now being transferred to the states to pass on to communities, and in some cases agricultural operations, to help pay for wastewater upgrades and other pollution reduction projects. Each state has its own process for soliciting, evaluating, and funding proposals with a combination of low-cost loans, no-cost loans, and grants.

A separate infusion of funds was made to the USDA’s Rural Development program, to provide loans for drinking and wastewater projects in rural areas and towns of fewer than 10,000 people. Several other programs that could ultimately help pollution reduction and habitat restoration in the Bay and its tributaries also received funds. Appropriations will be made according to procedures established by administering agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, and EPA.

In addition, the reauthorization of the federal highway bill, expected this year, could present further opportunities for pollution reduction in the Bay and its rivers and streams. In the coming months, CBF will also focus the biggest fight for clean water on ensuring that federally funded highway projects contain built-in sediment and stormwater controls. “But we need to make some NOISE. We need to raise our voices. Or we won’t be heard,” said Baker.

Learn more about CBF’s Biggest Fight for Clean Water this Nation has Ever Seen and sign the online petition to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson at cbf.org/fight. Letters can be mailed to Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.
2000
EPA and the Bay states sign the Chesapeake 2000 agreement. It re-affirms the 40 percent reduction goal of 1987 and promises that the Bay will be restored and off EPA’s “impaired waters” list by 2010.

2006
A report from the EPA Office of the Inspector General concludes that “at the current rate of progress, the (Bay) watershed will remain impaired for decades.”

2007
A report from the EPA Office of the Inspector General says that not only will the EPA’s Bay restoration efforts miss goals set for 2010, but that pollution trends from new construction are increasing.

2008
On October 29, CBF and partners file Notice of Intent to sue EPA for its failure to enforce the Clean Water Act.

2008
Hundres rally at a Washington, D.C., meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Committee on November 20, demanding action on Bay restoration.

2009
On January 6, 2009, CBF and partners file suit against EPA.
**Adams County Advocates Expand Benefits of REAP Tax Credits**

Adams County, Pennsylvania, famous for its Civil War history and its many fruit orchards, is quietly establishing itself as a leader for cleaner streams and a healthier economy. The south-central Pennsylvania county has earned special distinction for its proactive promotion of REAP, the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act, which became law in 2007.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) helped secure passage of REAP to provide tax credits to Pennsylvania farmers who complete projects, some quite costly, that reduce agricultural runoff and improve water quality in local streams and the Bay. Conservation equipment that also achieves these goals, such as no-till planters, can also earn the tax credit.

REAP is limited to $10 million per year and is in high demand by the farm community. In its first year, applications exceeded available funds within 10 days of the program’s opening. In 2009, applications exceeded available funds within four hours.

In Adams County, a variety of organizations responded to the opportunity to increase REAP’s impact locally. In 2008, local civic groups worked actively to connect businesses with farmers to help REAP credits go even farther. The Agriculture Committee of the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce joined with the Adams County Economic Development Corporation to host informational meetings for farmers, accountants, and business leaders. (Accountants and businesses were invited because farmers who cannot use their REAP tax credits—common because of farmers’ relatively low state tax burden—can sell them to other taxpayers.)

The result of their efforts was more than one million dollars in tax credits for Adams County applicants last year, the second highest amount for any county in the state.

“Our local businesses already recognize the value of agriculture,” said Brian Snerringer, who works for the Adams County Conservation District and serves with the Chamber’s Ag Committee. “But I was impressed to hear a number of farmers say they wanted to sell their tax credits to local businesses and keep their dollars in the local economy.”

Ellen Dayhoff, Director of the Adams County Farmland Preservation Program, also played a key role in the initiative. “It only makes sense for the farm and business communities to work together,” says Dayhoff. “REAP is the best way to do that right now.”

![Motivated, well-informed farmers in Adams County were behind the success of the REAP tax credit program for cleaner water.](image)

[For more information on Pennsylvania’s Resource Enhancement and Protection Act, visit cbf.org/REAP.]

**Conference to Focus on Protection of Land, Water, and Communities**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) have joined forces to present a public forum on land and water conservation. Together, they will sponsor “Working Together to Protect Our Land, Water, and Communities,” a conference for citizens and professionals, from May 7 to 9.

The event at the Penn Stater Conference Center & Hotel in State College will examine critical issues relating to land preservation, water restoration, habitat protection, and related topics. Programs will combine the best of the annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, sponsored annually by PALTA, and CBF’s Confluence Conference, a biennial event that explores topics affecting the quality of our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay.

More than 400 conservation professionals—volunteers and board members; state, county, and municipal officials; attorneys, planners, landscape architects, and community volunteers—are expected to attend the gathering. The program includes more than 130 hours of seminars, workshops, and roundtables.

The conference is made possible through the support and contributions of the William Penn Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Penn State University, and numerous other organizations.

[To learn more, contact Kim Patten at CBF (kpatten@cbf.org or 717/234-5550) or Nicole Faraguna at PALTA (nfaraguna@conserveland.org or 717/909-1298), or visit www.landandwater.org.]

[For more information on how CBF is working to protect Pennsylvania waters, visit cbf.org/Pennsylvania.]
In General Assembly, A Struggle to Sustain Pollution Reduction

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is fighting aggressively to keep funding steady in Maryland’s Bay Trust Fund, the primary state program to help reduce pollution from farms, urban and suburban run-off, and other sources. CBF sees the spending as a critical investment that can improve the health of the Bay while it helps restore ailing seafood, farming, and other industries statewide.

“A dollar spent to reduce pollution could mean dollars earned by watermen, dairy farmers, restaurant chefs, right on down the line,” said Kim Coble, Maryland Executive Director of CBF. “Never mind that the Bay can’t afford to slip further into ecological collapse.”

When Governor Martin O’Malley unveiled his spending plan for fiscal year 2010 in January, it included $25 million for the Trust Fund. CBF applauded O’Malley for that commitment, saying it demonstrated considerable leadership given the difficult choices he faced. But O’Malley’s proposal was just the beginning. The legislature has the authority to change the governor’s budget, and at press time, various legislative committees were debating changes to the Fund.

Better growth management can nourish Maryland’s environment and local economies.

Baker Awarded Speaker’s Medallion

CBF President Will Baker has been named the 2009 recipient of the Speaker’s Medallion, awarded annually to a Maryland citizen who has made outstanding contributions to the people of the state. Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael E. Busch presented the award before the House of Delegates in February in recognition of Baker’s 32-year fight to save the Bay.

“Will Baker has been advocating for the Bay for more than three decades. All citizens of Maryland will benefit directly if the Bay’s health improves, and for that we must thank Will. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Will’s tireless efforts to restore the Bay,” said Speaker Busch.

Baker has been president of CBF since 1982 and has worked for the organization since 1976. “I am honored to receive the Speaker’s Medallion award. Speaker Busch has been a great partner and what this award reflects is Speaker Busch’s and the House of Delegates’ commitment to restoring the Bay,” Baker said. “While the condition of the Bay remains poor, it is hard to imagine where we would be without the leadership of Speaker Busch and Chairwoman McIntosh.”

Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch honored CBF President Will Baker with the 2009 Speaker’s Medallion for his outstanding service to the citizens of Maryland.

CBF and partners proposed new legislation in the 2009 General Assembly to encourage smarter growth and more liveable communities in Maryland. Rampant development is adding to environmental stresses on the Bay.

A Better Plan for Growth

During the 2009 General Assembly, CBF and a group of environmental, housing, and other organizations unveiled innovative legislation for future development in Maryland. The bill calls for the state to set five specific performance standards for growth around the state, and then leaves local governments to design their own tailor-made ways to meet those standards. Towns and counties that make the most progress toward the goals over the next decade get a priority for state funding and permitting.

The bill complements, but also adds accountability, to legislation proposed by Governor Martin O’Malley. “Sprawl ruins our quality of life and our environment, and the timing couldn’t be better to ensure Maryland is growing in a sustainable versus a destructive way,” said Kim Coble, Maryland Executive Director of CBF.

Maryland must manage runaway development—a pattern that is gobbling up 100,000 acres of forest and farmland a year in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and adding considerable nitrogen pollution to the Bay. CBF believes better management is critical, and wants the state to strengthen its ineffective growth guidelines so that both local environments and local economies prosper.

To learn more, visit cbf.org/Maryland.

For more information on how CBF is working to protect Maryland waters, visit cbf.org/Maryland or call 410/268-8816.
Stimulus Spending Includes
Clean Water Projects

Fewer than 20 minutes into his presidency, Barack Obama pointedly told the American people, “Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin the work of remaking America.”

In response, Congress has passed a huge new economic stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, intended to create thousands of new jobs by injecting money into the economy. A significant element of the package will focus on reducing pollution and restoring habitat in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The bill’s most important provision for the Bay is a large new federal investment in the EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). This fund is the principal means by which the federal government assists in building and upgrading wastewater treatment plants and similar projects to restore clean water.

Nationally, SRF will receive $4 billion through the new bill. Approximately $871 million will come to the six Bay watershed states and the District of Columbia. Each will use its share to help communities with low-cost financing or grants for wastewater and stormwater runoff projects, and in some Bay states, farm operations.

Projects funded through SRF will create or maintain hundreds of jobs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, effectively combining President Obama’s call to begin “remaking America,” Bay restoration goals, and economic recovery objectives.

Other provisions benefiting the Bay include clean water funds for rural communities through the USDA; NOAA’s habitat restoration program; the Army Corps of Engineers’ environmental restoration; energy efficiency grants for schools and homes; and public transit.

Highway Bill Holds Potential for Reducing Runoff Pollution

Reauthorization of the Highway Bill will be one of the major undertakings of the 111th Congress. The legislation could have a dramatic impact on water quality throughout the nation by requiring that interstates and other roads built with federal funds—about $40 billion per year—be designed to reduce pollution from roadway runoff.

Highways built with federal help have an enormous negative impact on water quality, both in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and throughout the nation. Rain and melting snow runoff from almost a million miles of federally aided highways (97,044 miles in Chesapeake Bay states alone) are directly responsible for a huge quantity of pollutants that degrade rivers, streams, and the Bay.

Highway runoff contains mercury and toxic metals, which can make people sick, and nitrogen pollution that feeds the Bay’s dead zones. Surges of highway runoff during big storms also erode stream banks, pushing huge amounts of sediment down to the Chesapeake Bay, where it smothers underwater grasses and habitat.

When most of our nation’s highways were built, designers didn’t understand the impact that polluted runoff has on our waterways. Today, we understand the problem and have available, affordable technologies to solve it. Congress’ upcoming consideration of the highway bill provides an opportunity to ensure that the nation’s highway system will no longer be a significant cause of water pollution.

The federal stimulus package will help reduce pollution and restore habitat in the Bay and its rivers and streams.

A reauthorized Highway Bill could keep runoff from new and existing roads from polluting the nation’s waterways.

Be part of CBF’s Highway Bill campaign. Visit cbf.org/transportation.

For more information on how CBF is working at the federal level to protect and restore the Bay and its tributaries, visit cbf.org/dc or call 202/544-2232.
**VIMS Says No to Asian Oysters**

Citing ecological and economic uncertainties, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) has recommended that Virginia, Maryland, and the federal government not introduce Asian oysters in the Chesapeake Bay or use them for commercial aquaculture.

Instead, VIMS strongly recommends that the two Bay states and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers increase efforts to restore native oysters in the Bay and encourage use of native oysters for aquaculture.

In December, the Army Corps issued a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for oyster restoration in the Bay. The EIS suggested several options for restoring oysters, including introducing an Asian oyster, *Crassostrea ariakensis*.

In opposing foreign oysters in the Chesapeake, VIMS joins CBF, The Nature Conservancy, other conservation groups, and a host of federal agencies, Eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast states.

“Given the available information, the combination of native oyster aquaculture and enhanced native restoration clearly provides the best potential for progress with the least amount of risk,” CBF President William C. Baker said.

State and federal officials continue to weigh oyster restoration options. A decision is expected later this spring or summer.

**To achieve Bay cleanup goals, deadlines for pollution reductions by wastewater treatment plants must be met.**

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**Holding the Line on Nitrogen Pollution**

CBF continues to oppose efforts in Virginia to backslide on the 2011 deadline for wastewater treatment plants to reduce nitrogen pollution going into Virginia rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

The current program is working: Since 2000, Virginia has reduced nitrogen pollution from wastewater plants by 4 million pounds, and is poised to achieve the remaining reductions by 2011. But several wastewater plants requested deadline extensions—some until 2015 and one until 2020—from the State Water Control Board and the Virginia General Assembly.

During the ’09 legislative session, CBF successfully defeated these requests. In addition, CBF will continue to fight proposals to allow increases in pollution unless those increases are fully and completely offset.

“If Virginia is going to allow a discharger to increase pollution going into a river, the state must also require equal reductions elsewhere in the river,” said CBF Virginia Deputy Director Joe Tannery. “Otherwise, the net effect is a more polluted Chesapeake Bay. That is unacceptable.”

**Clean the Bay Day needs you!**

Sign up now for the biggest clean-up event of the year: the 21st Annual Clean the Bay Day on Saturday, June 6. Register at cbf.org/clean.
The Right Rev. Eugene Sutton strides toward the altar of the Church of the Transfiguration in Frederick County, Maryland, carrying a golden staff shaped like a shepherd’s crook. All but one of the 70 worshippers in his flock this Sunday are white. Rev. Sutton is the first black bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, but that’s not how he wants to be known. He prefers to be seen as the “green” bishop.

Twice during the service, he talks about the need to protect the environment, placing this responsibility in the same moral context as helping the poor or fighting disease. “More than the color of my skin, and my heritage—of which I’m very proud—I want to be known for what I’m about, and the priorities that I’m having for my ministry here,” Sutton said during an interview later. “And one of my very main priorities is to meet the ecological challenge that is facing the state of Maryland, and indeed this country and the world.”

Bishop Sutton grew up in Washington, D.C., as the son of migrant laborers from North Carolina who had nothing but faith. He experienced a greening of his religious vision during his first assignment out of seminary. As pastor in a poor black neighborhood in Muskegon, Michigan, he was disturbed that so many children in his parish were poisoned by lead paint, while adults suffered lung disease because of asbestos. The poor there lived in low-lying areas that were often flooded, while the wealthy lived high and dry.

In the years that followed, as he travelled from Asia to Africa, he recognized the same pattern and began to see environmental issues as justice issues.

“We have to let people know that at the basis of all faiths is loving your neighbor,” Sutton said. “And right now, our neighbors are dying because of bad air, unclean water, unsafe land; especially the poor, in our urban areas. It’s very acute.”

Before his election as bishop last March, Rev. Sutton was one of the pastors at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He helped reduce the church’s energy use and carbon footprint. Now that he’s leading 117 parishes in 10 Maryland counties, he said he plans to lobby for stronger pollution control laws in Annapolis, especially to combat climate change. He promoted his message during a keynote address at the state’s annual Environmental Summit in January.

Bishop Sutton’s activism is part of a broader trend of increasing involvement in environmental issues by religious organizations. And more green groups like CBF are reaching out to churches and synagogues.

The Right Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, is an outspoken advocate for environmental justice. He supports passage of stronger pollution control laws. Sutton uses “The Green Bible,” (shown above) a new version of the scriptures printed on recycled paper. Passages on nature and stewardship are printed in green ink.

CBF Maryland Executive Director Kim Coble has been appointed by Sutton as his advisor on environmental issues. “I’m honored to help the bishop strengthen the connections between our communities,” she said.

Her involvement follows that of Doug Siglin, now Director of Federal Affairs for CBF, who was one of the founders in 2004 of an interfaith alliance to fight global warming called Greater Washington Power and Light. Noting that the group has grown to 350 congregations, Siglin said, “I think it’s absolutely critical to involve people of faith in environmental efforts.”

Bishop Sutton agrees, saying religious leaders have a spiritual obligation to use pulpits and persuasion in the struggle against pollution. “If the religious leaders could educate their people as to the responsibilities that people of faith have to this Earth, it would make a tremendous difference.”

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On January 19, the day before the inauguration of President Barack Obama, a crowd of more than 1,500 students, environmental activists, community residents, and elected officials gathered along the banks of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. They were there to join in a spirited, song-filled celebration and plant 44 trees in honor of the new president and environmental education.

The event was planned in response to Obama’s call for a national day of community service on what would have been Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 80th birthday. Many in attendance were part of the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Coalition, a team of environmental and education groups mobilized and led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). The coalition is behind legislation in Congress to strengthen and support environmental education.

The NCLI coalition, founded just two years ago, now represents more than 47.5 million members from 1,100 organizations, from the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society to hundreds of youth, education, and conservation groups.

At the Anacostia event, sponsored by CocaCola, Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) spoke to the assembly before picking up a shovel and planting a tree. “There is no better service that we can do for our children and our grandchildren than to preserve our environment,” Sarbanes told the cheering crowd. “So let us serve today and every day…and we will make a finer world to live in.”

“AS someone who has watched environmental education take a back seat for eight years, now witnessing the highest level of government embracing our message gives me great hope. This is opportunity we can believe in,” said CBF Vice President for Education Don Baugh.

― To learn more about the No Child Left Inside movement, visit cbf.org/ncli.
Last summer, 15 Baltimore high schoolers gave up iPods, cell phones, and even showers to become Bay explorers. The inner-city students from Vivian Thomas Academy and the Baltimore School for the Arts traveled with cameras and mentors to a National Geographic Photo Camp in the heart of the Chesapeake. For most, it was unfamiliar and enthralling territory.

Accompanied by National Geographic photographers and editors, the budding photojournalists shot muddy marshes, seined for fish and crabs, and chatted with the residents of nearby Tangier Island. By the end of their four-day stay at CBF’s Port Isobel Study Center, they had a new perspective on the workshop’s central theme: “What’s your connection to the environment?”

“The students got to work with some of the top photographers and editors at National Geographic, and we also had fan-
tastic leaders like photographer Dave Harp, who's Mr. Chesapeake Bay,” said Kirsten Elstner. She’s the executive director of VisionWorkshops, which organizes experiences for underserved youth across the world—from South Dakota to Botswana—for the photo camps. “There were so many positive role models for them, like former CBF educator Dave Cola—the kids were blown away by his teaching.”

This May, a new group of Photo Camp participants will travel to the Chesapeake, this time to CBF’s Smith Island center. Because last year’s students were so impressed by residents’ stories of Tangier Island life, the theme for 2009 will be the culture of the Bay. Once again, students will focus on seeing their surroundings through the lens of a camera, and seeing themselves and their world in a new light. 

To see additional National Geographic Photo Camp images from the Chesapeake and other workshops, visit http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photocamp. To learn more about VisionWorkshops programs, go to www.visionworkshops.org.
Memorial Fund Honors a Life-Long Connection to the Water

By Joni Sralla Miller

John Fischel’s memorial service was so crowded that mourners spilled out into the rain. The 48-year old Annapolis resident, loved by family and friends for his sense of humor and enthusiasm for sailing, had suffered from depression. In May 2008, he took his own life, shocking the community where he lived and devastating his father, Tom, and sister, Debbie.

John was born in Canada, and the family moved often for his father’s job. After living around the country and abroad, John, Debbie, and their parents moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, in the early 1970s and took up sailing. From their berth off the York River, they sailed Fishing Bay and the Piankatank and explored the rivers south of the Potomac. “We were aground all over the Bay,” remembers his father.

When John was 17, his mother died of cancer, and he found solace on the water. Later, as an adult, he moved from state to state, settling in Annapolis to be near his sister and the thriving boating community. There, he spent every free moment on his boat.

His sister told STB, “To say that John loved the Bay is an understatement. It was his life. But he had real concerns about its health.” She also said her brother observed the Bay’s decline over the years and could not understand how people could abuse it so carelessly.

As a way to commemorate John’s life and love for the Bay, Tom and Debbie created the John V. Fischel Memorial Fund. This CBF endowment fund will be used year after year, permanently, to ensure students have access to environmental field education. Some students will learn to test water quality aboard a “floating classroom” on the very waters around Williamsburg where John boated in his teens. Others will dredge for oysters aboard CBF’s Stanley Norman skipjack near Annapolis, directly where John spent the last part of his life.

Through CBF’s hands-on field education experiences, students will learn lessons that will encourage them to be respectful and responsible stewards of the water. These are ideals John’s family knew he would appreciate.

When asked what John would say about a fund in his name, Tom and Debbie have the same answer: “That works.” It’s a one-liner John often used to express his approval.

“The water provided him the peace that the land never did,” Tom says. “It was his safe haven.”

Board Welcomes New Members

CBF is delighted that business leaders Matthew J. Klein and Byron F. Marchant have joined the CBF Board, bringing unique skills to the organization’s governing body.

Matthew J. Klein is President of Akridge, a real estate development firm based in Washington, D.C. He brings to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation a strong commitment to environmental responsibility, and 20 years of experience in integrating this ethic with business practice. Akridge is noted for the energy efficiency and sustainability of its projects, which incorporate U.S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards in both new construction and renovations. The firm has set a goal to use five percent less energy annually in all its buildings, and has achieved that goal for two years running. No developer has won more awards from Washington’s Smart Growth Alliance.

Klein, a graduate of Wake Forest University, is the current Chairman of the Downtown DC Business Improvement District. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Executive Committee of the Urban Land Institute.

Byron F. Marchant, an attorney, is President and CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. He formerly served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Administrative Officer of Black Entertainment Television, Inc.

Marchant has deep ties to the Chesapeake Bay region, having graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and served in leadership posts throughout Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. He is former Senior Vice President and General Counsel of TeleCommunications Systems, Inc. and a former Partner at Patton Boggs, LLP. Marchant currently sits on the boards of George Mason University and the University of Virginia, where he is an alumnus and adjunct professor at the Law School. He will provide legal expertise and an in-depth understanding of public policy issues as CBF works to advance its state and federal initiatives.
Each summer, CBF’s one- and two-week Student Leadership field experiences draw young participants from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. High school and middle school students explore the Bay and its tributaries with naturalists, urban land planners, farmers, scientists, and community leaders. Together they conduct authentic research projects during the trip.

Northrop Grumman began supporting CBF’s Student Leadership program this year. We spoke with Ted E. Imes, Director of Community and Education Outreach at Northrop Grumman Corporation Electronic Systems Sector in Linthicum, Maryland, to find out why this program is important to his organization.

CBF: Northrop Grumman has been supporting CBF’s teacher training program, Chesapeake Classrooms, for many years. Now you’re supporting CBF’s Student Leadership, too. Why?

NG: We’ve had a positive experience working with Chesapeake Classrooms educators. It was natural for us to extend this partnership to include the students. These are the people who will have the most influence on their peers and can spread the message about the importance of protecting the environment. It’s our goal to focus this message on our youth.

CBF: Northrop Grumman has its own mentoring program for students. Why is it important to your company to invest in challenging programs for young people?

NG: Northrop Grumman is the largest industrial employer in Maryland. As a leader in the defense industry, we have a genuine interest in future technology leaders, and we look to our own state for that talent. There are too few students who are graduating with degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Through our mentoring program and programs like CBF Student Leadership, we’re exposing students to the possibilities that await them. We help them understand that STEM presents viable career opportunities for everyone.

CBF: Do you think that classroom instruction alone in topics like science, technology, engineering, and math is really enough?

NG: Absolutely not. It needs to feel real to the students, and it’s our job to get them engaged and connected. We must take students out of the classrooms and provide them with hands-on opportunities, so that they can learn to apply classroom education to real-world situations. These opportunities can generate excitement in children and help deepen their understanding once they return to the classroom.

CBF: CBF is training student leaders to be environmental decision-makers. How does it feel to make a program like this possible?

NG: We’re excited about this program and recognize that leadership can begin at an early age. These students are our advocates for a cleaner environment. They’ll help protect and preserve our region’s resources for generations to come.

► For more information, including ticket information and sponsorship opportunities, visit cbf.org/bandsinthesand.

Save the Date for Bands in the Sand

In the gray days of winter, everyone needs a great summer beach party to look forward to! The Boatyard Bar and Grill presents the fourth annual Bands in the Sand, an evening of hot music, cool drinks, grilled food, and a silent auction of Chesapeake Bay art—all to benefit CBF.

Join us on Saturday, June 13, from 5:00 to 10:30 p.m. on the beach at CBF’s Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis, Maryland. Proceeds from the event will support CBF’s programs to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams.

► Applications for 2009 Student Leadership experiences are being accepted through May 1. For details, visit cbf.org/SL.
Events Around the Watershed

Pennsylvania
May 2: Beef Cattle Farm Stewardship Project, Franklin County, 9AM-1PM. Help plant 800 trees in the Antietam Creek Watershed. Register: 443/482-2156 or MDrestoration@cbf.org

Maryland
April 4: Dairy Farm Stewardship Project, Washington County, 9AM-1PM. Help plant 1,000 trees in the Antietam Creek Watershed. Register: 443/482-2156 or MDrestoration@cbf.org

April to early May (ongoing): Tree potting at Clagett Farm, Upper Marlboro. Times flexible; call 443/482-2156.

April 25: Shad Music and Heritage Festival, Vienna waterfront, 10AM-4PM, rain or shine. Celebrate the culture and wildlife of the Eastern Shore at this free CBF family event. 410/543-1999 or cbf.org/events

May 5: 2nd Annual Akridge Save the Bay Classic, Queenstown Harbor, Queenstown. Sponsors, business leaders, and guests support CBF with a day of golf and discussion on sustainability at this environmentally-conscious course. Space limited, registration required: 410/268-8816 or tdevine@cbf.org

June 14: Living Shoreline Planting Event in honor of Kennedy Fitzgerald, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, 1-4:30PM. Register: 410/543-1999 or menloe@cbf.org.

West Virginia
April 25: Beef Cattle Farm Stewardship Project, Shepherdstown, 9AM-1PM. Help plant 700 trees. Register: 443/482-2156 or MDrestoration@cbf.org

Virginia
March 31: Blue Planet Forum: The Impact of Hurricanes in Hampton Roads and the Nation, Nauticus, Norfolk, 7PM. Featuring Bill Read, director of NOAA’s Hurricane Center. Free, advance registration required: 757/622-1964 or blueplanet@cbf.org. Details at cbf.org/blueplanet

June 6: 21st Annual Clean the Bay Day, Hampton Roads area. Join thousands of volunteers to remove trash and debris from local waterways. Choose your location. Register: cbf.org/clean

For more information, visit cbf.org/events.

CBF’s Philip Merrill Center in Annapolis has earned another award for its sustainable design. The regional chapter of the National Green Building Council, the nation’s top green building certification program, recognized the CBF headquarters for demonstrating that “a completely green building is an attainable reality.”

The chapter presented its Legacy of the Year Award to the Merrill Center and its builder, Clark Construction Group of Bethesda. Now seven years old, the CBF flagship is the first building to receive a Platinum rating for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). In design, construction, and operation, the center reflects CBF’s mission: to protect and restore the Bay.

Learn more about CBF’s green headquarters at cbf.org/merrillcenter.

More Honors for Merrill Center

Picture This
Do you enjoy exploring the Chesapeake with your camera? Got a shot of the Bay, its rivers, or streams that you consider your personal best? Share it with CBF! Enter your work in our second annual photo contest, and you could win one of three cash prizes. Entering is easy: submit your digital images online from April 1 through May 15.

Visit cbf.org/photocontest for details.
The View from Virginia

Bill Portlock’s portrait of a Greater Yellowlegs is part of his one-man show at The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History.

This spring, audiences beyond the Chesapeake will have the chance to enjoy remarkable photography by CBF’s Senior Educator for the Bay. Now on display at The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, New York, is “Nature Revealed: The Photographs of Bill Portlock.” The exhibition features more than 40 images from Portlock’s extensive Virginia portfolio: landscapes, marshes, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. The environmental educator says the honor from one of the nation’s premier natural history organizations is one more way to promote the Save the Bay message: “I’m very honored and pleased to get such an audience, and the opportunity to get people engaged—and outdoors more.” The show runs through April 26.

►See an online gallery of Bill Portlock’s photographs at cbf.org/NatureRevealed.

Extra, Extra: Bay Daily Launches

New in ’09 at cbf.org is Bay Daily, a timely take on the latest news concerning the Bay and its rivers and streams. Created by CBF Senior Writer Tom Pelton, Bay Daily covers personalities, politics, and news from the frontlines in the fight for clean water. Nationally acclaimed cartoonist Kevin “Kal” Kallaugher draws the gull-with-an-attitude that accompanies each post.

►Read The Bay Daily online at cbf.org/baydaily (or have it sent via RSS feed).

“Poisoned Waters” on PBS April 21

Tune into PBS on Tuesday, April 21, as Frontline airs a new documentary on the emerging contaminants being found in drinking water all across the country. Hedrick Smith’s “Poisoned Waters” focuses on case studies of the Chesapeake Bay and the Puget Sound, showing just how far our environmental protections have fallen short. By demonstrating how local activists have forced the EPA and big polluters into more effective cleanup operations, the film challenges citizens and policy makers to become more forcefully engaged in protecting our water.
The recession is harrowing for all of us. Both of my brothers have been laid off. When I went to my parents’ home for a baptism recently, my older brother and I found some time to talk together privately over lunch. As I picked at my French fries, he quietly confided that he doesn’t know if his daughter (whom we were there to bless) will have a home much longer. Both he and his wife have been unemployed now for more than a year, and he doesn’t know where to turn. He keeps applying for jobs, but nobody is hiring.

In the face of such anxiety, it is hard to find any silver lining to the downturn. It feels almost obscene to search for one. But, in fact, my family has grown closer as we pull together and try to help each other out.

In the broader world, too, sometimes the ash of hardship fertilizes the soil. Economic calamity sparked change at the White House. And from this shift has risen a new sense of optimism—not only that America’s economy can be rebuilt, but that maybe our natural world will once again flourish, too. That is a lot to heap on the shoulders of one president, maybe too much. But there is reason to hope that economic recovery and environmental progress will both flower together.

The Economy and the Environment

By Tom Pelton

In reality, strong environmental laws fuel economic growth.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and partners in January sued the federal government, frustrated that a quarter century of promises to clean up the Bay had been broken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Some business owners might worry that tighter EPA regulations would hurt industry, deepen the recession, and make it harder for average folks like my brother to find work. That was the de-regulatory mindset of the Bush administration—and it allowed the mortgage meltdown and financial crisis. In reality, strong environmental laws fuel job growth.

Here’s an example close to home. The Mirant power company owns three coal-fired electric plants in Maryland with a track record of serious air pollution violations. The smokestacks of the Chalk Point, Morgantown, and Dickerson plants belch nitrogen oxides that are a cause of low-oxygen dead zones in the Chesapeake Bay and mercury pollution that contaminates fish. Mirant and other electric power producers and their allies fought bitterly against a 2006 state law requiring better filtration systems on smokestacks, with some claiming the bill would hurt the power industry and eliminate jobs.

But the passage of the law forced this Atlanta-based company to pour $1.6 billion into Maryland. It is now hiring about 800 contractors a month to build scrubbers and other pollution-reduction equipment. When finished next year, Mirant will pay 60 workers about $60,000 a year to run the clean-air systems. This is precisely why we need tough environmental rules: to compel even recalcitrant polluters like Mirant to do good for the Earth and the economy.

Maybe my older brother should apply for one of those jobs. That kind of work would be a blessing not only for him and his daughter, but for everyone who breathes.
SHOULDERS OF CBF MEMBERS.

The future of clean water RESTS ON THE SHOULDERS OF CBF MEMBERS. MEMBERS LIKE YOU.

About 80 percent of CBF’s annual budget is privately raised. That means we rely heavily on our members—concerned, committed citizens like you.

When every penny counts, it’s important to invest in a winner. CBF is leading the fight for the Bay and its rivers and streams.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN SUCCEED. PLEASE GIVE TODAY AT CBF.ORG/GIVE2009

You may also use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation. To make a contribution in the form of a planned gift, stock, or other means, please contact Vollie Melson at vmelson@cbf.org or 410/268-8816 or consult your financial advisor.
A Saved Bay is Worth the Fight

We won’t stop until the job is done.

On the cover: In Washington, D.C., CBF President Will Baker, CBF Litigation Director Jon Mueller, and partners former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler and Virginia Waterman's Association President Ken Smith announce a federal suit against EPA. (See page 14.) Photo by Nikki Davis