

RISING ABOVE *the Storm*

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure



LINDA NORRIS

Save the Bay. Great adversity calls for great purpose, and no purpose is greater than the Chesapeake.

This year, as the world and the watershed faced unparalleled challenges, the Bay—its rivers and streams, forests and wetlands, city waterfronts, and remote coves—became refuge, solace, and guiding light for many of us who call this place home.

Never has our fight for clean water felt more personal. And never have we been more honored and overwhelmed by the unyielding support of the CBF family. Because of you, we did not pull back in 2020—we pushed forward.

Because of you, science and the rule of law—not politics—governs management of one of the Bay’s most critical fisheries. Rural communities in Virginia

successfully protected their water and air from an ill-conceived, fossil-fuel pipeline. Forests in the heart of Maryland enjoy the strongest protections in the state.

Because of you, students and teachers across the watershed can explore and fall in love with the Bay from home and virtual classrooms. Oyster farmers connected with local markets, helping their small businesses survive the pandemic. Nurseries in Pennsylvania have the economic security to create jobs and grow trees that will protect local streams for generations to come.

Because of you, a coalition unprecedented in the history of Bay restoration is holding the federal Environmental Protection Agency accountable to ensure states live up to their Bay restoration commitments by 2025.

We are grateful and inspired. Together, we will finish the job.

“Because of you, we did not pull back in 2020—we pushed forward.”

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A Message from our PRESIDENT AND CHAIR

After more than five decades of Bay saving, this year tested us like no other. But the passion, strength, and resilience of the CBF community continues to shine.

It starts with a culture of trust. Trust in our mission—Save the Bay. Trust in the science—it can be done. And your trust in us—we will finish the job.

This year, we led a concerted effort to require the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to hold up its end of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. For years, we have urged EPA to enforce the Clean Water Act. When the administrator repeatedly refused, we sued the agency.

The breadth of our coalition is historic. The Maryland Watermen’s Association; Anne Arundel County, Maryland; and Virginia cattle farmers Jeanne Hoffman and Bobby Whitescarver are partners in our suit. The Attorneys General of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia filed their own suit concurrently.

Why now?

The Chesapeake Bay cannot wait. The Blueprint is working. Underwater grasses are becoming more

resilient. Over time, the Bay’s dead zone is getting smaller and blue crab populations are rebounding. EPA’s inaction puts the entire restoration at risk.

It’s not just about clean water. Taking action to reduce pollution supports local businesses, creates jobs, and provides additional environmental and public health benefits. All watershed communities deserve no less, including those that have long faced systemic barriers to clean water, air, and a safe environment.

We are determined to Save the Bay. Thank you for standing with us.



COURTESY PHOTO



MIKE BUSADN/MIKE B PHOTOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Oliver-Farrow
Chair

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President



This spring, CBF educators, like Nathan Hesse, pivoted to delivering outdoor experiences online through Learn Outside, Learn at Home.

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Maya Alexander
CBF Educator

“It’s not just a group of 15 kids coming out on the boat, **we’re reaching all across the watershed—across the nation, really.**”

Silver LININGS

As CBF Educator Maya Alexander prepared to teach students about the Chesapeake Bay this spring, she donned her CBF gear, gathered placards labeled “nitrogen” and “phosphorus,” and headed outside for a nutrient scavenger hunt—in her front yard. Then she set her phone’s camera rolling.

CBF has always believed that the best place to learn about the Bay is on it. So when the global COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close classrooms and families to stay at home this spring, our educators innovated new ways to practice what we preach.

From their backyards and backwoods, front stoops and sidewalks, they created Learn Outside, Learn at Home—an entire suite of standards-aligned, interactive videos and investigations to help students explore and connect to the Bay from home. They led professional development courses, providing resources and support networks to help teachers navigate the new virtual landscape and keep students learning outdoors. And this fall they are joining classrooms virtually to bring Bay field experiences to school systems across the watershed.

For Maya, who manages CBF’s Potomac River Environmental Education Program in Washington, D.C., and her fellow Potomac River educators Nathan Hesse and Ochaë Bynum, it’s a big change from teaching students in-person on the water. But the challenge comes with unexpected silver linings, too.

“We’re able to reach a broader audience,” Maya says. “It’s not just a group of 15 kids coming out on the boat, we’re reaching all across the watershed—across the nation, really.”

Bringing the Bay to students at home is powerful in its own way, adds Nathan. Lessons are hyper-localized, tailored to the issues that matter most to students’ communities, he says.

Those benefits will pay off down the road, says Ochaë.

“We can reach so many people now virtually,” he says. “It plays a huge role in the future, when we are able to get back on the boat and hopefully bring more people out there. It all connects.”



Menhaden are a keystone species in the Bay—providing food for osprey, fish, dolphins, and other wildlife.

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- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
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| Hap & Becky Chalmers | |



Chris Moore

CBF Senior Regional
Ecosystem Scientist

“It is going to lead us to **better management decisions** for the resource and also for the citizens in the Commonwealth.”

Victory for MENHADEN

Modest in size, but mighty in ecological and economic value, Atlantic menhaden are a keystone species in the Chesapeake Bay.

The small, oily fish provide a food source for iconic Bay wildlife like striped bass, osprey, dolphins, and whales—among other fish and birds—and support one of the largest commercial fisheries on the Atlantic Coast.

So it's perhaps fitting that the biggest victories for management of this critical fishery came from grassroots efforts as humble and essential as the fish itself. This year, after more than two decades of relentless work, CBF advocates and partners from across the conservation and angling community achieved critical safeguards for menhaden.

First, late last year the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) found Virginia out of compliance after fishing company Omega Protein announced it had caught approximately 30 percent more menhaden than allowed under the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap. Subsequently, the U.S. Department of Commerce upheld ASMFC's non-compliance finding, noting that menhaden's role as a food source for other species in the Bay "is critical to the marine environment."

Soon after this decision, state legislators in Virginia voted to officially transfer management of the menhaden fishery from the General Assembly to professional fishery managers at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)—a change that CBF advocated for over a decade and is important for ensuring management decisions are based on science rather than politics.

"It is going to lead us to better management decisions for the resource and also for the citizens in the Commonwealth," says Chris Moore, CBF's Senior Regional Ecosystem Scientist in Virginia.

Recently, the ASMFC voted to adopt ecological reference points (ERPs) to help guide menhaden fishery management coastwide. It's the first step to formally consider the importance of menhaden as a food source for other animals, including striped bass, in fishery management plans. These new ERPs were used to set new lower harvest levels of menhaden this fall for the next two fishing seasons.

Finally, with the help of many hands, menhaden are having their moment.



The Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is the science-based plan for saving the Bay and its rivers and streams.

WILL PARSON/CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

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Marguerite Lenfest

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George & Miriam Martin Foundation



Stuart Pittman
Anne Arundel
County Executive

“Anne Arundel County residents have **invested far too much in the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort to watch from the sidelines** as upstream states and the EPA abandon their obligations.”

Battle for the BLUEPRINT

In a show of solidarity unprecedented in the history of Bay restoration, citizen groups, a county, and four Bay jurisdictions sent a clear message to the federal government that we won't allow it to give up on clean water.

On September 10, CBF and our partners filed a lawsuit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its failure to enforce the Clean Water Act, uphold the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, and ensure pollution-reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams are met. The Attorneys General of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia also filed a separate similar suit.

The reason is simple. The Blueprint is our last, best chance to achieve the fishable, swimmable waters guaranteed by the Clean Water Act. As the only entity with the authority to enforce the states' commitments to reduce pollution, EPA's failure to require Pennsylvania and New York to develop plans that achieve their share of those reductions puts the success of the entire restoration effort at risk.

The magnitude of that risk is hard to overstate. After decades of failed commitments, the Blueprint is working. Pollution is down, and crabs are rebounding. The dead zone in the Bay is getting smaller over time. Our hard-fought progress is at stake, but so too is our region's health, local economies, outdoor heritage, and quality of life.

Together with our partners—including Anne Arundel County, Maryland; Virginia livestock farmers Robert Whitescarver and Jeanne Hoffman; and the Maryland Watermen's Association—we're determined to hold EPA accountable and leave a legacy of clean water for future generations.

As Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman stated in announcing the county's decision to sign on to CBF's lawsuit, “Anne Arundel County residents have invested far too much in the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort to watch from the sidelines as upstream states and the EPA abandon their obligations.”



CBF and the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership are investing in a strong future, with help from local volunteers like these at a pre-COVID event on Drager Farm in Pennsylvania.

BRENDA SIEGLITZ/CBF STAFF

CBF IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:

The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Inc.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

James S. Riepe Family Foundation
The Hamer Foundation
The Hershey Company



Molly Cheatum
CBF Restoration
Manager in
Pennsylvania

“We’re shifting the industry toward **growing trees locally and improving the local economy** but also supporting triple bottom line businesses that are more ecologically, economically, and community-focused.”

Seeds for SUCCESS

Four businesses in the watershed seeded big plans for the future this summer, getting contracts to supply roughly 500,000 trees for the **Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership in 2022**. CBF is investing a total of \$2.6 million to buy 210,000 trees next year and 500,000 for 2022.

The partnership, which CBF coordinates, has an ambitious goal to plant 10 million trees in Pennsylvania by the end of 2025. The contracts for 2022 not only help secure the many trees needed to make progress toward that goal, they also mean guaranteed tree sales for the local growers, providing an economic boost and certainty for the future at a time when both are needed more than ever.

“To me, the benefit of the forward-contracting is CBF gets to lock in the plants that they want, when they want them, and it allows us to plan our production schedules with much more clarity and certainty,” says Jim

MacKenzie, President and Co-owner of Octoraro Native Plant Nursery in Pennsylvania’s Lancaster County, one of the winning bidders. “Will it mean that we will be buying more soil and pots? Does it mean that we will eventually need some additional labor? Yeah.”

The trees grown will represent a wide diversity of native species, providing benefits for water quality, wildlife habitat, and food sources. Eventually, they’ll be distributed to local partners, making their way to farms and city parks to shelter creeks and shore up stream banks across the Keystone state. They’re an investment in clean water, but also an investment in communities.

“We’re shifting the industry toward growing trees locally and improving the local economy,” says Molly Cheatum, CBF’s Restoration Manager in Pennsylvania. “But not only shifting where trees are grown, but also supporting triple bottom line businesses that are more ecologically, economically, and community-focused.”

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Though we were apart for much of the year, and remain so, we continue to accomplish amazing things for the Bay. Across our shared 64,000-square-mile watershed, we planted trees, restored oyster reefs, improved farming practices, won legislative victories, helped communities clean up rivers and streams, and reached ever closer to our goal of a vibrant Chesapeake Bay—successes that will stand for generations as a testament to what we can achieve together.

EDUCATE



Launched in response to the pandemic, CBF's **Learn Outside, Learn at Home Initiative** kept learners of all ages connected to the Bay and the watershed from their own backyards, porches, and public spaces. In the first three months alone, our new educational resources reached **more than 365,000 people**.

Among **19 courses delivered to almost 300 teachers** this summer, our Chesapeake Classrooms professional learning program offered two new courses for teachers focused on the environment and social justice. Teachers explored how

investigations of natural systems can help students, schools, and their communities create change for a greener, more equitable future.

We worked with **79 student leaders from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland** to draft a **Chesapeake Bay Outdoor Bill of Rights**, a guiding document they plan to put into action across the watershed.

The **Online Watershed Learning (OWL)** program was developed this fall to support teachers and students with **engaging, live, online teaching about the Chesapeake Bay system** from CBF expert educators.

ADVOCATE



Working with partners, leaders, and grassroots advocates—even virtually!—we helped **secure stronger forest protections in three Maryland counties**, including the state's strongest forest conservation law in Frederick County.

Offshore oil and natural gas drilling, as well as associated infrastructure, are now banned in Virginia coastal waters thanks to legislation we worked to pass with legislators and a broad coalition of environmental groups.

Our new “Solar Development Principles,” published this year, provides a guide for state and local planning and advocacy efforts to help ensure renewable energy development in the watershed safeguards local waters and the Bay.

LITIGATE



In a major court victory, we **successfully challenged the air permit for a compressor station for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline**, which was defeated this year. The decision protected clean air and water for a rural Virginia community and established precedent for the consideration of environmental justice impacts in the Commonwealth’s air permitting process.

We **challenged federal rollbacks of essential environmental regulations**, including the repeal and replacement of the Waters of the U.S. rule that would eliminate protection for hundreds of streams and wetlands across the watershed, and continued fighting to reduce harmful air emissions that contribute pollution to the Bay and damage human health.

RESTORE

Despite major upheavals in plans due to COVID-19, the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership successfully **planted 87 percent of its spring trees in Pennsylvania**. Since 2018, cumulative efforts by CBF, the partnership, and others across Pennsylvania have planted roughly **1.74 million trees**.

We worked with farmers across the watershed to **convert nearly 800 acres of farmland to rotationally grazed pastures**, a practice that helps build healthy soils and



reduces water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and **secured a \$700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture** to help more farmers in Maryland convert their land to grazing. We also continue to expand the **Mountains to Bay Grazing Alliance**, now including West Virginia.

Working with local partners, we **kicked off a two-year project in Richmond, Virginia**, that will help reduce polluted urban runoff and combat extreme heat in some of the city’s hottest neighborhoods by planting hundreds of trees, training local youth for green jobs, and transforming asphalt into green space.

COMMUNITY



To help support fellow Chesapeake Oyster Alliance partners and keep up momentum toward our 10 billion oyster goal during the pandemic, we coordinated **oyster pop-up sales** to connect consumers with local oyster farmers.

CBF’s Claggett Farm successfully enacted safety protocols in response to the pandemic to continue **providing local, organic, regeneratively-farmed food** to our Community Supported Agriculture members and the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020—UNAUDITED

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

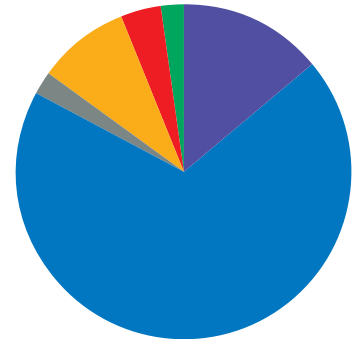
Membership Contributions.....	\$ 5,515,035
Grants & Gifts.....	26,553,917
Education Contracts & Tuition.....	811,538
Investment Income.....	3,472,390
Donated Goods & Services.....	1,393,936
Other.....	778,999
Revenue for Current Year.....	\$ 38,525,815

Expenses

Program Services.....	\$ 23,984,084
Environmental Education	6,895,836
Environmental Protection & Restoration	13,723,622
Strategic Communications	3,364,626
Support Services.....	6,351,463
General & Administrative	2,338,295
Fundraising	4,013,168
Total Expenses.....	\$ 30,335,547
Change in Net Assets Before Capital Additions.....	\$ 8,190,268*
Capital Additions.....	\$ 261,785
Change in Net Assets.....	\$ 8,452,053
Net Assets, Beginning of year.....	\$ 111,503,842
Net Assets, End of year.....	\$ 119,955,895

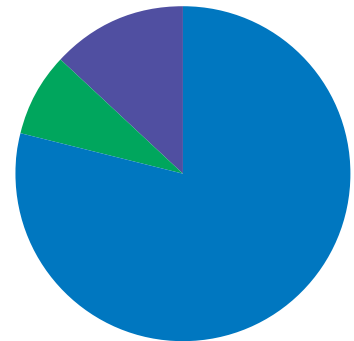
A copy of the audited financial statement & IRS Form 990 is available at cbf.org or by calling 888-SAVEBAY.

*\$6,376,084 is related to Making History Campaign and future expenditures.



REVENUE

14%	Membership Contributions
69%	Grants & Gifts
2%	Education Contracts & Tuition
9%	Investment Income
4%	Donated Goods & Services
2%	Other



EXPENSES

79%	Program Services
8%	General & Administrative
13%	Fundraising



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CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

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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

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

Maryland Oyster
Restoration Center
4800 Atwell Road
Shady Side, MD 20764

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

Virginia Oyster
Restoration Center
1219 Franklin Road
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
757-644-4125

Washington, D.C.

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Washington, DC 20036
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OUR MISSION: Save the Bay™ and keep it saved, as defined by reaching a 70 on CBF's Health Index.