It is just the beginning of
THE BIGGEST FIGHT FOR CLEAN WATER
THIS NATION HAS EVER SEEN
President and Chairman’s Message

CBF HAS HAD ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL years that we can remember. But that would mean nothing if we were not also seeing a positive response in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers.

For years we have waged our fight for stronger government enforcement of Bay pollution-control laws for some time. Finally, others are joining—members of Congress, national environmental organizations, the media, and more.

We are currently engaged in negotiations at the highest levels of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) trying to reach a binding settlement to our Clean Water Act lawsuit. And we are pursuing new federal legislation that will require that actions replace well-intentioned words. Federal enforcement must be mandated to ensure accountability at the state and local levels.

After fighting more than one decade in Virginia, CBF—in partnership with groups and individuals—prevailed to defeat a massive, ill-conceived reservoir project that would have caused the single largest permitted destruction of critical wetlands in the mid-Atlantic in the history of the Clean Water Act. Our tools: tireless public education, grassroots activism, and legal action.

CBF is also focusing on two major polluting facilities, one new and one old. Toxic contaminants continue to flow from the Sparrows Point Industrial Complex in Baltimore, Maryland, in violation of a 12-year consent decree intended to clean up the site. And, a proposed new coal-fired power plant in Surry, Virginia, will dramatically increase pollution and affect human health. We intend to fix the former and stop the latter.

At the top of the watershed, we have been actively involved in Marcellus Shale debates in Pennsylvania. We intend to put a halt to the fast-track permitting which has lead to such devastating practices at the outset. Our goal is to ensure that the drilling and production go forward only with the most protective environmental controls in place.

Finally, CBF provided more than 42,000 field experience days to students, teachers, school administrators, and other adults. And thousands of our dedicated volunteers restored native habitat throughout the watershed in 2009.

As for the Bay, there is good news. The dead zones appear to be on the retreat; native oysters are developing a tolerance for two devastating parasites; and underwater grasses are continuing their slow but steady improvement. In all three of these cases, far more progress is needed. But the trends are improving.

Are we getting closer to a positive tipping point for the Chesapeake? It is entirely possible. Federal enforcement of water-quality laws would be the most significant advancement in decades for the Bay. We have the attention of EPA, Congress, and the states. We are waging The Biggest Fight For Clean Water This Nation Has Ever Seen. In the words of Tom Petty, we “won’t back down.”

We thank each and every one of CBF’s 226,000 members. Your volunteer hours, advocacy, and contributions are the key to our success. We could not exist without you.

Sincerely,
William C. Baker, President
Keith Campbell, Chairman of the Board
The Biggest Fight for Clean Water This Nation Has Ever Seen

IN 2009, THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION launched an all-out offensive to save the Bay. Sensing a window of opportunity with the change in the federal administration, CBF fought hard in the court of public opinion to convince President Barack Obama and the new Congress to make jump-starting the long-delayed Bay cleanup a top federal priority. CBF organized protests, press conferences, and letter-writing campaigns; and rallied supporters using cutting-edge online communications tools.

CBF also battled in the courtroom. Teaming up with former elected officials and fishing groups, CBF filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CBF’s goal is to hold the federal government accountable for three broken Bay restoration agreements over the last quarter century. At the state level, CBF concluded successful lobbying campaigns to improve sewage treatment plants, upgrade home septic systems, and pay for fertilizer runoff control strategies on farms. In outdoor classrooms, CBF inspired future environmental leaders by educating students, teachers, and principals.

And CBF intensified the on-the-ground campaign to restore the region’s waterways. CBF built large native oyster reefs in Maryland and Virginia, created an innovative strategy to convince businesses to pay for “nitrogen-neutral” projects that absorb pollution, and planted trees along streams on farms. All of these actions—just a sampling of our activities this year—were paid for through CBF’s Saving a National Treasure campaign, a six-year effort that so far has raised $140 million toward its $150 million goal.

Despite tough economic times, CBF saw great success this past year. Top among these was President Obama’s May 2009 Executive Order, which declared the Chesapeake Bay a “national treasure” and directed EPA to take significantly more responsibility for the Bay’s cleanup. As a result, EPA is now designing the next generation of tools needed to restore water quality.

CBF and its allies also convinced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers not to allow the introduction of an Asian species of oyster into the Chesapeake. A non-native bivalve could have undermined promising new efforts to rejuvenate native oysters.

And, ending a battle of more than a decade, we finally defeated a poorly planned public works project in Virginia called the King William reservoir, which threatened to wipe out more than 430 acres of wetlands. Working with allies, we stopped what would have been the single-largest permitted loss of critical wetlands in the mid-Atlantic region in the history of the Clean Water Act.

This sounds like a lot to accomplish in a year. But it is just the beginning.

“IT IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE BIGGEST FIGHT FOR CLEAN WATER THIS NATION HAS EVER SEEN.”

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WITH THE ELECTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND Congress in November 2008, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation knew it had a once-in-a-generation opening to change the course of Bay history. For the previous 25 years, Bay cleanup had been stalled by weak federal effort, inconsistent progress by the states, and restoration agreements that were all but ignored. CBF was determined to make it clear to the incoming Obama Administration that we would not tolerate more neglect. On November 20, hundreds of CBF activists wearing black t-shirts with pictures of skeletal fish and the words “The Bay is Slowly Dying” marched slowly through Union Station in Washington, D.C. CBF was targeting the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, a committee of regional governors, the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the mayor of Washington, D.C. The slowness being criticized was the Executive Committee’s failure to meet a 2010 Bay clean-up deadline. “We need to turn the Environmental Pollution Agency into the Environmental Protection Agency,” CBF Board Chairman Keith Campbell proclaimed to an enthusiastic crowd outside the station.

Over the next several months, CBF and allies convinced more than 10,000 people to sign petitions. These supporters urged new EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to take strong and immediate action to reduce pollution in the Bay. In March, CBF President Will Baker and Chairman Campbell presented Jackson with more than 1,000 individually written letters. The call for an accelerated cleanup was repeated during an unprecedented number of events around Earth Day on April 22. Supporters took over 16,000 separate actions to save the Bay, from writing letters to Ms. Jackson, to making phone calls and planting trees. CBF organized a public exhibition outside a second Executive Council meeting on May 12 in Mount Vernon, Virginia, raising a display of hundreds of bottles of polluted water. CBF donor Dorothy Batten of Charlottesville, Virginia, was among those who supported our tactics. “While many nonprofit organizations were pulling back during the recession, CBF was making the right choice and becoming more aggressive during the transition to the new administration,” Batten said.

As part of our efforts to pressure EPA, CBF released groundbreaking investigative reports that attracted coverage from more than 50 television stations and newspapers, reaching audiences of millions. Bad Water and the Decline of Blue Crabs in the Chesapeake Bay documented more than $640 million in cumulative economic losses in crabbing related industries in Maryland and Virginia over the last decade. Bad Waters 2009: Impact on Human Health in the Chesapeake Bay Region provided graphic examples of how water pollution can cause life-threatening bacterial infections and other serious health problems. CBF did not just rely on the press conferences and the traditional media, however. CBF also spread messages through a new blog, Bay Daily (cbf.org/baydaily), Twitter, and CBF’s growing Facebook page (whose fans tripled in 2009). On the ground, CBF expanded its presence in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, holding a speaker’s series called the Blue Planet Forum. CBF also organized education-
In March 2009, CBF President Will Baker (center) and Board Chairman Keith Campbell (left) presented more than 1,000 letters from CBF members to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson asking for EPA to restore the Chesapeake.

In September 2009, CBF and Environment Maryland presented EPA with 19,000 petitions demanding action.

al trips on a new boat, the Bea Hayman Clark, purchased in 2008 by Fred and Karen Clark of Philadelphia. Overall, because of all of these varied efforts, CBF's membership across the region grew by more than 10 percent, from 200,000 to 226,000.

While CBF was focusing a spotlight on EPA, it was also quietly working on the inside. CBF was part of a group that pushed to accelerate the Bay cleanup through the creation of a Presidential Executive Order. CBF supported Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine's efforts to bring the idea to President Obama's attention. On May 12, the President issued the first Executive Order focused on the Chesapeake Bay. “Restoration of the health of the Chesapeake Bay will require a renewed commitment to controlling pollution,” President Obama wrote. “The federal government should lead this effort.” The order directed EPA and other federal agencies to draft reports that would “define the next generation of tools” needed to restore the Bay. The first round of reports, released in September, proposed tighter regulations on construction sites and concentrated animal feeding operations, more federal oversight of state clean-up efforts, and consequences if states fail to meet goals. The order by the President was unprecedented, and the words were a good first step toward a stronger federal role in the cleanup. But CBF will continue to push for concrete and immediate actions.

CBF also focused a successful public campaign on another federal agency—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this case, the goal was to prevent the introduction an exotic species of oyster. The Virginia Seafood Council and some watermen wanted to introduce a Pacific bivalve, Crassostrea ariakensis, which had shown to be somewhat tolerant of parasites that have ravaged native Chesapeake oysters. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led a more than four-year, $15 million study into whether introducing the Asian oysters would help. When a draft of the study was released in October 2008 without a conclusion, CBF—in partnership with the Nature Conservancy—determined that there would be too much risk in releasing the exotic bivalves because they could bring in more parasites and outcompete native oysters, Crassostrea virginica. CBF emailed alerts to oyster gardeners and volunteers, asking them to write the Army Corps in opposition to the exotics. More than 2,400 people flooded the federal agency with letters. One letter came from CBF member J.C. “Jay” Rodgers, an oyster gardener from Piney Point, Maryland, who found a major math error in the report. In the end, the Army Corps decided against an introduction of the Asian oysters, in no small part because of this feedback from well-informed citizens.

All of these efforts—from the protests in Washington, D.C., to the campaign against the Asian oyster—were made possible because of the generosity of CBF members and donors. CBF Board of Trustees Chairman Keith Campbell and other members of the board were also instrumental, offering a challenge to members and matching every donation for The Biggest Fight. That resulted in almost $1 million of additional funding to support CBF’s work during the most challenging economic time in our history.
THREE TIMES OVER THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY—in 1983, 1987, and 2000—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Bay-region states, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the District of Columbia have signed agreements to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Most recently, in the Chesapeake 2000 agreement, the federal and state governments reaffirmed a 1987 promise to reduce nitrogen pollution by 40 percent and meet other key goals by 2010. As that deadline grew nearer, it became increasingly clear that the parties were nowhere near meeting those commitments. Worse, EPA and states began talking about moving the goal posts—shifting the deadline many years or decades into the future. Such a delay would be the second time a Bay clean-up deadline would be pushed back, with the original goal of 2000 revised to 2010. With this history of broken promises, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation knew it had to take legal action to force EPA to comply with the federal Clean Water Act. And so on January 5, 2009, on the steps of the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., CBF President Will Baker and CBF Vice President for Litigation John Mueller announced a lawsuit against EPA. Partnering with CBF in this legal action are several co-plaintiffs—including watermen; sports fishermen; and former top officials of Maryland and Virginia. The goal of the lawsuit is simple: to require the federal government to finally meet the terms of Chesapeake 2000 cleanup as required by the federal Clean Water Act. “EPA signed an agreement in which they said they’d get the Bay off the impaired waters list by reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution, and they haven’t done that,” said Jon Mueller. “The agency should be held accountable.” On September 30, CBF stayed the lawsuit because negotiations with EPA were going well and we were optimistic we could favorably settle the case. If those negotiations do not bear fruit, CBF will return to court.

Beyond this broad struggle, CBF also sought to hold the EPA and states accountable for pollution from local industrial sites. On May 29, CBF and its ally, the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, filed a notice of intent to sue EPA, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and past and present owners of the Sparrows Point steel factory site in Baltimore County over toxic contaminants seeping from the property. In 1997, the previous owners of the plant signed an agreement with EPA and MDE to clean up the roughly 2,300-acre industrial site, but the government agencies never enforced the agreement. Meanwhile, pollutants continue to flow from the property into the Patapsco River and Bear Creek. High concentrations of arsenic, chromium, and benzene (known carcinogens), and lead (which can cause neurological problems) have been found in the sediments nearby. CBF and our partner are demanding that EPA and MDE enforce the 1997 clean-up order, halt illegal water and air pollution, and investigate the impact on human health. “There are times when litigation is the only effective tool to ensure that government agencies follow laws that are on the books,” said James Earl of the Helena Foundation. Support from James and his wife Sylvia Earl and others
allowed CBF to utilize litigation as an option to protect the environment and communities when governments fail to comply with the law.

In June, CBF filed an appeal of a Virginia decision to allow Merck and Co., a pharmaceutical giant, to release more nitrogen pollution into the Shenandoah River and Chesapeake Bay than scientists have concluded the waterways can tolerate. The Merck plant in Elkton, Virginia, received approval to release over 29,000 more pounds of nitrogen pollution each year into the Shenandoah River than allowed under the state’s program to accelerate pollution reductions and restoration. CBF challenged the state, because the Shenandoah River is already impaired with nitrogen pollution, and adding more is a violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

While these actions are still pending, CBF also concluded litigation with concrete wins in 2009. In Pennsylvania and West Virginia, more than 80 municipalities challenged new state nitrogen limits for their sewage treatment plants, claiming the required pollution-reduction technology was too expensive. CBF and allies appeared before state hearing boards in both states, arguing that the limits are critical. Nitrogen is the Bay’s number one enemy, spurring the excessive growth of algae that dies, creating low-oxygen “dead zones.” CBF prevailed in both Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and the states upheld the nitrogen limits. These victories set a precedent. Had these sewage plants succeeded in avoiding strict nitrogen limits, other plants may have tried as well.

Our longest running legal battle also concluded in 2009. For more than a decade, CBF had been fighting a proposal by the city of Newport News, Virginia, to build the 1,500-acre King William reservoir. CBF and our allies in the Sierra Club, the Southern Environmental Law Center, the Mattaponi Indian Tribe, and the Alliance to Save the Mattaponi, argued the project would be environmentally destructive, flooding more than 430 acres of pristine wetlands. The project would have also siphoned up to 75 million gallons of water a day from the Mattaponi River, flooded 21 miles of streams, and inundated American Indian cultural sites. After years of legal conflict, on March 31, 2009, the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., finally ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was wrong to issue a permit for the reservoir. The nail in the coffin came on September 22, 2009, when the Newport News City Council voted to terminate the project. “It was many long years, but we stuck it out,” said Ann Jennings, Executive Director of CBF’s Virginia office. “We used all of our resources, and ultimately it was our litigation that stopped the project. In the face of questionable need, destroying these wetlands was unjustifiable. Wetlands provide an important filtering capacity for the Bay, as well as wildlife habitat.”

These legal efforts would have been impossible without the support of H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest of Philadelphia, the benefactor of the CBF’s litigation program.
WHILE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION PUSHED for the enforcement of existing clean water laws in court, the organization was also working with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and the state capitals to pass new and stronger environmental laws and protections. For example, CBF worked closely with U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland to craft a bill, called the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009. This landmark legislation would update and strengthen the federal Clean Water Act in three principal ways. First, the federal government would require states in the Chesapeake region to draft and implement plans to reduce pollution from all sources or face the withholding of federal funds or other penalties. Second, the bill would authorize $1.5 billion in new federal spending for pollution-control projects, such as improved stormwater control systems for towns and cities. Finally, the bill would put the force of law behind President Obama’s Executive Order, which requires federal agencies to work toward Bay restoration. “It’s a very significant piece of legislation for the Chesapeake Bay,” said Doug Siglin, CBF’s Director of Federal Affairs. “It would seek to put a new system in place that would bring all sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution under control for the first time.”

In 2009, CBF’s lobbying efforts focused on this federal level. This is because the federal Clean Water Act is the only law expansive enough to cover the six states and 64,000 square miles in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. But we also pushed as hard as we could at the state level. In Pennsylvania, CBF and its allies convinced the General Assembly to approve $1.2 billion for improvements to sewage treatment plants, waste systems, and drinking water infrastructure. Another $400 million for sewage system upgrades and other projects was approved by Pennsylvania voters in the November 2008 election. Matt Ehrhart, Executive Director of CBF’s Pennsylvania office, said that the recession made it difficult to win approval for the spending on waste and water infrastructure. But he said CBF succeeded among state lawmakers by teaming up with onetime opponents, including the Pennsylvania Builders...
Association. “It stunned people when I came in the door with the lobbyist from the builders’ association,” Ehrhart said. “It created some buzz. People were talking about unlikely bedfellows.”

In Maryland, CBF supported successful legislation that required the installation of nitrogen pollution reduction equipment on the septic systems of new homes built within 1,000 feet of tidal waters. The bill, sponsored by state Senator Michael G. Lenett of Montgomery County and Delegate Stephen W. Lafferty of Baltimore County, also requires these pollution-control systems for all homes replacing failing septic systems in these waterfront areas. State funds to help homeowners pay for these systems was made available through a “flush fee” created in 2004 with the backing of CBF. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly also passed a CBF-backed bill that expands the right of citizens and organizations like CBF to go to court to challenge environmental permit decisions. Previously, people had to live adjacent to a property to have a right—called legal standing—to contest wetlands destruction permits, pollution discharge permits, and construction in environmentally critical waterfront areas. This restrictive rule left Maryland residents with weaker rights to use legal action as a tool to fight pollution than the citizens of more than 40 other states nationally. That disparity was eliminated when a bill introduced by the chair of the House Environmental Matters Committee, state Delegate Maggie McIntosh of Baltimore, passed with the support of CBF and other organizations. “We have experienced being thrown out of court for challenging permits, so we had an interest in this bill,” said Kim Coble, Executive Director of CBF’s Maryland office. “This is a fundamental right and tool that we believe citizens should have.”

There were also significant gains in Virginia. During a time of economic hardship and budget cuts, funding for many important programs was at risk. But CBF won a victory by pressuring lawmakers to approve $20 million for agricultural conservation practices, the most cost-effective way to reduce runoff pollution. These “green” farming practices include planting strips of trees as filters along waterways, building fences to keep cows out of streams, and planting crops in the offseason to absorb left-over fertilizer.

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THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL education programs spark change by inspiring young minds. By studying nature up close, students learn to appreciate not only the vast spectrum of life, but why it is important to protect these natural resources. In 2009, CBF led a national coalition to advocate for more outdoor education through a legislative initiative called the No Child Left Inside Act. CBF has been joined by more than 1,450 partner organizations representing more than 47 million people across the country. The groups—from the Alliance for the Great Lakes to the Honolulu Zoo Society—are united in urging lawmakers to allow students more time outside studying science, ecology, and other subjects. Last year, CBF and our allies in Maryland worked closely with Governor Martin O’Malley’s administration to design a “children in nature” education plan, which promotes outdoor learning in all of the state’s schools and public agencies. It is the first of its kind in the nation.

Of course, teaching outside is nothing new to 42-year-old CBF, which runs the largest and most respected environmental education program in the country. During the 2009 fiscal year, CBF provided over 42,000 field-experience days to students, teachers, school administrators, and other adults. One new program launched this year enhances field experiences through the use of a web-based software environment called National Geographic FieldScope. FieldScope is being developed by the National Geographic Society to enable students in different locations to collect, share, and analyze environmental data. The first large-scale use of FieldScope has been co-designed by CBF, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Geographic over the last year. FieldScope is now being implemented by a network of environmental educators throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. More than 650 students pioneered FieldScope this year, taking water samples from local creeks, and posting the results on FieldScope’s website (cbf.org/fieldscope). “Joining experiential learning with technology helps students to strengthen their analytical and scientific skills, and it promotes critical thinking,” said Tom Ackerman, CBF’s Director of Teacher Education and Student Leadership.

Another approach to reaching students is through their principals. CBF escorted 30 school principals on outdoor learning experiences in 2009, with the largest number from Fairfax County, Virginia. This school system’s close connection to the Bay started in 2008, when three principals from the Fairfax public schools journeyed to CBF’s education center on Smith Island. They stayed in a quiet and stunningly beautiful fishing community, where they talked to watermen, crab pickers, and local ministers. They canoed among the wetlands, netted blue crabs, and explored the question of how the management of their schools affected water quality downstream. “Something magical happened on that trip,” recalled Cindy Duncan, CBF’s Teacher Professional Development Coordinator. Sal Rivera, principal of Flint Hill Elementary School in Vienna, Virginia, returned from the CBF experience determined to reduce his school’s ecological footprint. “I came back
hyped—and my whole school went green,” Rivera said. He cut down on waste of paper by urging his teachers to use electronic communication with parents. Rivera and the other two principals were so moved, they went on a second experience with CBF this past summer—this time, joined by 14 other principals from Fairfax County. “The spirituality of being on the Bay pulls you in,” confessed Debbie Lane, principal of Rolling Valley Elementary School in Springfield, Virginia.

As principals are pulled in, so are their teachers. CBF provided ecology and education training to than 400 teachers during the summer of 2009. One teacher whose life goals merged with CBF’s mission is Bill Bechtel. Bechtel grew up on the Susquehanna River and played in it constantly as a child. He spent 38 years as a science teacher at Selinsgrove Area High School, about an hour north of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He started an outdoors club, taking the kids rock climbing and whitewater rafting. Over the last 15 years, Bechtel led close to 10,000 of his students on CBF outdoor experiences. Finally, at the age of 60, Bechtel decided to retire last June. For his next step in life, he joined CBF as a professional educator and canoe instructor. “The kids who love the Susquehanna River are the ones who are going to care about it in the future,” said Bechtel, who was named Environmental Educator of the Year by CBF in 2006.

Many students who participate in CBF education experiences end up as inspired as Teresa Yeh. Teresa, an 18-year-old from Ellicott City, Maryland, is now a pre-medical student at Rice University. For the past four summers, she submerged herself in CBF outdoor experiences. She participated in CBF’s Student Leadership Program, made possible by generous corporate contributions from Goodman and Company, an accounting firm in Norfolk, Virginia, and the Volkswagen Group of America. “CBF’s student field programs have been a staple of my summer since I was 11,” Yeh wrote in an essay. “It is not just that these two-week programs totally immerse you in Bay culture and tradition, [and] that you learn how to identify macro-invertebrates found in streams…It is the people whose lives you have touched, whose outlooks on life have changed and inspired yours.” She felt especially moved by her journey to CBF’s education center on Tangier Island, Virginia. There she met a physician, Dr. David Nichols, a native of the isolated island community who for nearly three decades has been flying his own plane back to the island every Thursday to care for local residents. Yeh, a biochemistry major dreams of combining epidemiology with study of the environment. “If you can improve the environment, you can often prevent disease,” she said.

CBF’s Maryland education programs received a tremendous boost this year from the Charles T. Bauer Foundation of Baltimore. Some of the other important support we received for our education programs included gifts from The Morningstar Foundation of Bethesda, Maryland; the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation of Washington, D.C.; Wachovia Bank; and the Norfolk Southern Foundation.
THE BATTLE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHESAPEAKE Bay is also playing out in the mud and muck. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation isn’t just about educating, organizing, litigating, and lobbying. It’s also about doing the gritty work of planting oysters, grasses, and trees. From these natural filters flow cleaner water—and the glimmer of hope for a restored Bay.

In 2008 and 2009, CBF teamed up with the Maryland Transportation Authority, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and several other partners to construct the largest native oyster reef the foundation has ever built. The three-acre Asquith Creek Oyster Reef is located in the Severn River about four miles northwest of Annapolis. In addition to its size—the reef was built with more than four million baby oysters—what makes this reef different is that its base is concrete from a Chesapeake Bay Bridge construction project. The concrete was crushed to volleyball-sized chunks and filtered to remove foreign material. CBF and its partners carefully placed the rubble on top of a natural shelf on the river's bottom, and then planted baby oysters on this artificial reef. The young oyster “spat” are lifted up out of the bottom silt which can suffocate oysters or make them more vulnerable to disease. The whole area around the reef becomes a sanctuary, where people are prohibited from harvesting oysters. So far, the oysters appear to be thriving, and the healthy reef filters millions of gallons of water and supports crabs, fish, and other forms of life. Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley gave the project the state’s “exemplary ecosystem initiative award” in 2009. “It is the largest experiment we have conducted with alternative materials,” CBF Fisheries Director Bill Goldsborough said. “We are building a live bottom community, what amounts to a Chesapeake coral reef.” These kinds of large oyster-restoration projects are showing promise, as some native Chesapeake bivalves evolve and develop more resistance to diseases that have been a scourge for a half century. And the signs of hope are not limited to Maryland. In Virginia, CBF has been working with the Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to plant about 10 million seed oysters a year on state sanctuary reefs in the Piankatank River. Oyster “spat” must attach to shells, and so this planting process requires large quantities of used oyster shells. To meet this need, CBF runs oyster shell recycling programs, collecting used shells from restaurants and caterers.

In Pennsylvania, CBF promotes another form of recycling. This is the re-use of poultry litter, which is converted by a natural biological process into compost, a more environmentally friendly form of fertilizer than manure just spread in a field. CBF and partners are taking excess poultry litter from farms in the lower Susquehanna River basin one of the region’s greatest “hot spots” for excess nitrogen pollution.
Another innovative approach to managing pollution launched by CBF in 2009 involves a computer program that calculates how much nitrogen a person generates each year. This “Bay Footprint” nitrogen calculator, which is available at cbf.org, allows people to type in facts about their lifestyles. The calculator then estimates how many pounds of nitrogen pollution they contribute to the Bay every year. “The point is to drive home that we are all contributing pollution to the Bay—it’s not just farmers or sewage treatment plants,” said Dr. Beth McGee, CBF Senior Regional Water Quality Scientist. The program also gives people tips on how they can make changes in their lives to reduce their nitrogen pollution (for example, by using less electricity or spreading less fertilizer). For those nitrogen emissions that can’t be cut, individuals or firms can make donations to the Chesapeake Fund, which invests in pollution-reduction projects like planting buffer strips of trees along streams on farms. “As much as the discussion about carbon footprints has raised public consciousness about global warming, we hope that this creates a similar buzz in the Bay watershed about nitrogen—that we are all contributing,” McGee said.

CBF’s restoration, outreach, and pollution-reduction efforts are supported in part by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Farm Fresh supermarkets.
ALL ASPECTS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY Foundation’s work in 2009—from the rallies to the launch of the “Bay Footprint” Nitrogen Calculator—flourished because of the generosity of our supporters. CBF is now entering the sixth and final year of the Saving a National Treasure campaign, an effort to rally all resources available to restore a body of water that is central to the region’s history, culture, and economy. The campaign was launched in 2004 and is scheduled to end in December 2010. So far, it has been on-target, with over $140 million raised toward the goal of $150 million. This money has been the rocket fuel behind CBF’s most stirring triumphs over the last several years. These include: the victory over the Blackwater Resort development project on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, the passage of a Pennsylvania program that gives farmers tax credits to reduce fertilizer runoff, the defeat of the King William reservoir proposal in Virginia, and the largest-ever federal investment in regional farm conservation practices. “The impact of this campaign cannot be underestimated,” said Alan R. Griffith, chairman of the Saving a National Treasure campaign. “It has allowed us to expand our membership and approach our pollution-reduction work from even more angles—including more litigation and policy development. Since 2004, we’ve really taken on some of our most ambitious work in years.”

When the campaign began, CBF had 116,000 members, and today we have 226,000. This is impressive growth, especially given the economy, but we still have a long way to go. We’ve learned in the past that the Bay’s supporters always step up to the plate at critical moments. And no time is more important than right now, with our intensified focus on the federal government finally beginning to change the direction of EPA and Congress. The Biggest Fight For Clean Water This Nation Has Ever Seen is making clear progress. We won’t let up until the Chesapeake is saved.

In 2008, CBF helped convince the Virginia General Assembly to create the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund which established vital funding to help Virginia farmers reduce pollution reaching streams and rivers.

Through the support of the Saving a National Treasure campaign, the importance of environmental education was raised to the federal level by CBF’s work leading the No Child Left Inside Coalition.

On October 19, 2009, 150 clean water activists cheered and waved signs as U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings introduced a bill to strengthen the federal Clean Water Act. Such victories were made possible by the support of the campaign and donors like the Mars Foundation of McLean, Virginia.
Contributors

Without the support of CBF members and donors—our investors—the strides made in 2009 to save the Bay would not have been possible. Our thanks go to all who supported our work over the fiscal year from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

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Many CBF members raised oysters as part of our oyster-gardening program this year. In addition, CBF called on these folks to speak out against the introduction of non-native oysters—and it worked. In March 2009, the Army Corps of Engineers announced that it would not introduce the Asian oyster into the Chesapeake Bay.
This year, donors and members helped fund professional development for 30 school principals. These decision makers had the opportunity to learn what a CBF education experience out on the Bay is like first-hand. That understanding will make them better advocates for environmental education as they return to their respective schools.

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Financial support from CBF members and donors allowed CBF to publish a groundbreaking report on pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its threat to human health. The report resulted in more than 50 news stories, bringing the problem to the attention of millions of people.
MEMORIALS

Often loved ones will make a gift to CBF in memory of a special person who cared about the Bay. Gifts were received this year in loving memory of the following individuals.

Virginia Quigley was devoted to the Chesapeake Bay throughout her life. She grew up in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C., but then later moved to a magnificent house overlooking the Bay in southern Anne Arundel County in Maryland. She held festive crab feasts nearly every year, and enjoyed little more than boating on the Bay and admiring the beauty of the “Land of Pleasant Living,” as she frequently called it. When she died at the age of 95 last year, she left a significant bequest to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The generous gift is being used to advocate for the protection and restoration of the waters she loved so much. Bequest donations such as this have provided valuable support to the Saving a National Treasure campaign.
ENDOWMENTS

Endowment funds provide a reliable income stream for CBF year after year. The following are CBF’s named endowments.

Baker Fund
John R. Kessler
William R. Keyser, Jr.
William C. Kraft, Jr.
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Wira Mykolenko
Werner Naek
Elke N. Nash
Judy Neighbor
Andrew E. Neubauer
Marion Booker Newsome
John Nicholson
Ray W. Nightingale
Robert Noel
Karen E. Noonan
Jack C. Northam
Nancy S. Northam
Mercer Oast
Bertha Ochomogo vda de Quintero
Francisca G. Ochomogo
Antonia Orfield
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Bob Owens
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Donald H. Patterson, Jr.
Nikolaus Pawlyk, Jr.
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William A. Perkins III
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Jessica L. Petsche
Mary Pitman
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Jeff Pirz
Thomas L. Poore
Anna Doris Powell
Dallas Burton Powell
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Terry A. Powers
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Freida “Natty” Yasbeck
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Gloria E. Zumuhlen

Baker Fund
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The Bunting Family
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L. Corrin Strong Memorial Fund
Mary Frances Wagner Endowment
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Environmental Education Endowment for Baltimore City Environmental Education
Earl White Memorial Fund
Mrs. John Campbell White Fund

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**GIFTS IN KIND**

All gifts to CBF are appreciated, including those of products and time. The following are generous donors who made gifts other than financial ones this fiscal year.


CBF’s opposition to Merck and Co.’s permit to release excessive amounts of nitrogen pollution into the Shenandoah River (pictured at right) would not have been possible without the support of our members and donors. We are grateful for the loyalty of these important individuals, foundations, and corporations who share our vision of a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed. Thank you for your support.

* indicates donor who has passed away
Financial Overview

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2009

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

SUPPORT AND REVENUE
2009

Membership Contributions ........................................ 5,084,819
Grants and Gifts ...................................................... 13,014,531
Education Contracts & Tuition ................................... 1,146,090
Investment Income ................................................... 2,017,983
Other ......................................................................... 1,094,385
Funds raised in prior years to support FY09 expenses .................. 726,249

Total Support and Revenue ........................................ $23,084,057

EXPENSES
2009

Environmental Education ......................................... 6,075,301
Environmental Protection & Restoration ...................... 9,469,932
Strategic Communications ......................................... 2,766,796
Total program services ............................................. 18,312,029

General & Administrative .......................................... 3,073,912
Fundraising ............................................................... 1,698,116
Total support services .............................................. 4,772,028

Total Expenses ......................................................... $23,084,057

A copy of the audited financial statement & IRS 990 tax return are available through our state offices or the headquarters office in Annapolis, Maryland. (See back cover for addresses.)
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CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

The Chesapeake Bay’s 64,000-square-mile watershed covers parts of six states and is home to more than 17 million people.