

Envision the James: Community Led Conservation Planning

Neighbors on Virginia's James River, from the tidewater to the headwaters, attended six meetings held earlier this spring designed to elicit their thoughts on how to shape a common agenda for the river's future and promote regional collaboration efforts to protect the river's natural resources, cultural heritage, sense of place, and wildlife habitats.

Called *Envision the James*, the project will develop a long-term conservation vision for the James River that incorporates the desires of the many communities along its shores. This process will also serve as a blueprint for community engagement and conservation that can be used as a model on rivers throughout the Chesapeake Bay and other ecosystems around the nation.

The Conservancy is working with the James River Association, our lead local partner, and National Geographic Maps to develop internet based community engagement tools to help guide the vision and share information about the river. The work of the partners is supported by the Virginia Environmental Endowment, MeadWestvaco, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This spring's work is only the beginning. The goal of these meetings was to begin a conversation with the people of communities on the James to develop a descriptive vision of the river, its place in its neighbors' lives and its future. "Our intent is to build a vision that reflects the priorities and aspirations of communities in the James River watershed, with a special focus on the river corridor.

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Secretary Salazar Designates Four Rivers as Historic Components of Smith Trail

More than two years of work by the Chesapeake Conservancy paid off in mid-May when Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar designated four water trails as new historic connecting components of the existing Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

The designation recognizes the significance of the Susquehanna, Chester, upper Nanticoke and upper James Rivers—to the history, cultural heritage, and natural resources of the 3,000-mile-long national historic trail in the Chesapeake Bay. The new connecting trails are found in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The National Park Service, which administers the national trail, will now be authorized to work closely with state and local agencies and other partners - notably conservation and tribal organizations - to provide technical and financial assistance, resource management,

facility enhancement, interpretive trail route marking, and promotion along the connecting trails.

Secretary Salazar was joined in a ceremony at Sandy Point State Park by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley; National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, Superintendent John Maounis, the head of the Chesapeake Bay NPS office; Tadodaho Sid Hill, spiritual leader of the Haudenosaunee nations (Six Nation/Iroquois Confederacy); Chesapeake Conservancy Executive Director Joel Dunn, and the Conservancy's Chairman Charlie Stek and Vice-Chairman Patrick Noonan.

"These river trails, totaling 841 miles in length, are closely associated with [Captain] John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including the American Indian towns and cultures of the 17th-century Chesapeake that he **Connecting Trails** cont. on page 3



With the stroke of his pen, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar designated four rivers historic components of the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. He is flanked by Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland, left, and Director of the National Park Service Jonathan Jarvis, right. Courtesy of Department of the Interior

A note from the Executive Director

With a regional population approaching 17 million and climbing fast, and with tens of thousands of acres of open space vanishing each year, protecting our Chesapeake landscapes will be vital to restoring the health of the Bay and our rivers; preserving working farms and forests; protecting the region's character and history; and ensuring a bright future.

There is no doubt that land use holds the key to our region's environmental health and economic well-being and it remains the single most profound factor affecting the Bay's water quality.

But given the region's relentless growth, our strained public purse, the scattered nature of land use planning, and the many public and private agencies and several states involved, a new and innovative approach is needed to accomplish landscape-scale conservation.

At the Chesapeake Conservancy, we have four projects in the works to reach this end.

- Development of a landscape-scale, collaborative conservation initiative in the Chesapeake;
- Creating a Special Places fund to help finance conservation;
- Community-led Conservation Corridor Planning (our *Envision the James* project);
- Identification of special places and treasured landscapes.

All present exciting opportunities.

Developing a Special Places fund will engage private philanthropy in the effort to target conservation toward historically, culturally, and ecologically significant landscapes. Corridor planning, as we are conceptualizing it in our *Envision the*



Joel Dunn emphasizes to Secretary Salazar the need for further conservation efforts in the Chesapeake during the connecting trails designation ceremony. Courtesy of Department of the Interior

James project, engages communities in identifying significant landscapes and supports their efforts to conserve and realize their vision for those special places. Developing support for a collaborative conservation initiative in the Chesapeake holds the promise of bringing large federal investment and longer term focus to conservation in the watershed. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the four historic component connecting trails were both named as part of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. They help achieve the goals of public access and conservation set out in the President's Executive Order to restore the Chesapeake Bay. We will build on this momentum between now and the end of the summer to persuade the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture that our region deserves this investment. To that end we have been working with federal, state, and local agencies; communities; and other non-government groups to develop support for this idea. Please join us in our efforts to save the Chesapeake's great rivers and special places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JD' or similar initials.

Watermen named Endangered Chesapeake Icons

Preservation Maryland, an organization dedicated to preserving Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archaeological sites, recently listed the Chesapeake Bay waterman as an endangered Maryland icon, an unprecedented distinction.

The Chesapeake Conservancy and Coastal Heritage Alliance nominated the watermen for the list. The two organizations have worked with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and the Maryland Watermen's Association to develop a Waterman's Heritage Tourism

Training Program to provide watermen and their family members skills they would need to provide tours or programs about their region's stories, their local waters, and their work.

"Watermen have been a part of Maryland's history for as long as there has been a state," said Joel Dunn, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Conservancy. "Sadly, it is more and more difficult for them to make a living on the water and there are fewer young people joining their ranks. We hope this designation from Preservation Maryland brings renewed

demand for Maryland caught and raised seafood, and support for the many small towns around the Bay from which watermen have traditionally worked."

The watermen are an unusual nomination because they are a group, not a site, but Preservation Maryland's board members said they "hoped that the inclusion of watermen on the list will encourage Marylanders to talk about the continued existence of these fixtures in our state."

The program's purpose is to generate public awareness of Maryland's threatened historic properties, generate possible solutions, and serve as a call for action.

The Chesapeake Conservancy suggests several ways to help our watermen, such as buying Maryland seafood; visiting the Chesapeake's shore side towns to get a feel for how the watermen work; visiting places like the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum that showcase and interpret the state's maritime history; supporting the restoration of the Chesapeake; and understanding the connection between unchecked development, the loss of landscapes that define communities, and environmental degradation (including a loss of water quality and habitat that leads to a loss of fish and shellfish). Lastly, we can support the conservation of landscapes.

Graduates of the program are beginning to provide interpretative tours that allow them to share stories about their communities and their work to visitors to the Bay region. Stay tuned to find out more about how you can take one of these tours.



A waterman gets ready for the day on Deale Island, one of Maryland's few remaining watermen communities. Courtesy of Jeff Allenby

Connecting Trails *cont. from page 1*
 encountered,” said Secretary Salazar. “Incorporating these river segments into the national historic trail will increase public access, provide important recreation and tourism opportunities, and enrich exploration of the water routes in the entire Chesapeake watershed.”

“The Chesapeake Conservancy greatly appreciates the Secretary’s designations,” said Executive Director Joel Dunn. “The four historic connecting river components of the national historic trail extend the framework for collaborative conservation of our region’s history, wildlife, and special places on a large landscape scale.”

The Chesapeake Conservancy funded and managed a professional evaluation of Chesapeake Bay tributaries to determine their potential for designation as historic connecting components to the Captain John Smith Trail. Research teams included historians, tribal representatives, and regional universities.

Based on the study’s findings, the Chesapeake Conservancy worked with local watershed, tribal and water trail

Conserving Harriet Tubman’s Legacy in the Chesapeake

The Chesapeake Conservancy remains dedicated to conserving the historic landscape around the Dorchester County home of Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave who risked her own life leading other enslaved people to freedom after returning to be a conductor in the Underground Railway movement.

In early June, Conservancy staff members Joel Dunn and Joanna Ogburn, as well as Bill Crouch from The Conservation Fund, participated in the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference at the Chesapeake College campus in Cambridge, MD. They conducted a panel discussion titled “The Landscape’s Influence on the Life of Harriet Tubman.”

The discussion covered the impact of the landscape on Harriet Tubman’s life: the influence of the fields and rivers on her life as a slave and how the landscape guided the Underground Railroad. The Conservancy is advocating for the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. To support this effort, call us today.

groups, and state agencies to develop and submit applications to the National Park Service to nominate the four rivers as connecting trail components.

Each of the nominations was supported by both local groups and by the governors of the five states through which the connecting trails pass.

Also at the ceremony were other members of the Chesapeake Conservancy’s Board and Chesapeake Council and prominent leaders of the Chesapeake region’s American Indian tribes. They included Stephen Adkins, Chief of the

Chickahominy Tribe and a member of the Chesapeake Conservancy’s board; Virginia Busby of the Maryland Governor’s Commission on Indian Affairs; Keith Colston, director of the Maryland Governor’s Commission on Indian Affairs; Rico Newman, Piscataway member and chairman of the Maryland Indian Tourism Association; Deanna Beacham of the Virginia Council on Indians and member of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council; Dennis Coker, Chief of the Lenape Tribe; and Sid Jamieson, a Chief of the Mohawk Nation.



Four additional river segments were designated as historic connecting components of the existing Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.
 Courtesy of National Park Service

Envision *cont. from page 1*

We’d like to identify ways to integrate and link local initiatives that have strong potential for shaping a vision for the entire river,” said Joanna Ogburn, Program Director at the Chesapeake Conservancy.

The partners are looking for opportunities that may emerge in four thematic areas: heritage and river-based tourism,

recreational trails and access, conservation and restoration, and wildlife habitat.

Next phases will identify partners and communities who want to get involved and determine key watershed conservation and enhancement projects. To learn more about the James River and to help shape its future, visit www.EnvisionTheJames.org.

Harvard Forum Highlights Conservancy's Efforts

The Chesapeake Conservancy's efforts to establish a regional conservation collaborative were the focus of a recent Harvard University Conservation Innovation Forum. Conservancy Executive Director Joel Dunn and National Park Service Superintendent John Maounis described their efforts to pull together public, private, nonprofit, and academic organizations throughout the Chesapeake watershed to achieve lasting conservation outcomes related to recreation, clean water, wildlife habitat conservation, and sustainable resource utilization.

The Chesapeake Conservancy continues to be at the core of a landscape-scale effort to restore the health and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay. To learn more about the emerging regional collaborative or view the presentation, visit www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/presentations.html

Improving Public Access: Lawrence Lewis Jr. Gateway Boat Ramp



The Chesapeake Conservancy has helped secure funds and planning is underway to construct a boat ramp beside this pier at the Lawrence Lewis, Jr. Park in Charles City County, Virginia. Creating more access for small boats is a priority for the Conservancy. *Courtesy of Joanna Ogburn*

New Publication Supports Exploring Bay Watershed

Bay Journeys, a new publication from Chesapeake Media Services, the publisher of *Bay Journal*, provides readers timely information about ways to explore and enjoy the region's outdoors and its history-rich places. Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails sites are often featured and the work complements Chesapeake Trips and Tips, our weekly e-newsletter highlighting ways to explore the region, available online at: www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/ChesapeakeTripsandTips.html.

Bay Journey's mission supports the Chesapeake Conservancy's goal of connecting people to the watershed's special places. For this reason, the Conservancy has provided ideas for the publication and plans to raise funds to support it. The National Park Service also supports the publication. To view the latest edition, visit www.bayjournal.com.

Capt. John Smith Geotrail Expanded

Geocachers have quickly taken to the newly opened lower Eastern Shore section of the Capt. John Smith Geotrail, with positive comments about the 11 new caches posted to the trail's web log. The new caches are located from Pocomoke, MD in the north to Cape Charles, VA at the southern tip of the peninsula. More than 100 people attended the launch celebration, held on April 14 in Onancock, Virginia.



The Captain John Smith Geotrail provides geocachers a journey across Chesapeake landscapes in Maryland and Virginia that evoke scenes and stories experienced by Captain Smith 400 years ago when he explored the region. The first part of the trail was launched in June 2011 and included 40 sites on five Chesapeake rivers.

"The success of the Captain John Smith Geotrail is in getting people outside and connecting them to the Chesapeake Bay and its many special places, and the response to the trail shows it is working," said Joanna Ogburn, the Program Director for the Chesapeake Conservancy. She noted that geocachers have recorded more than 5,000 visits to the trail on the national registry at www.geocaching.com.

The Captain John Smith Geotrail is sponsored by the National Park Service and its Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, the Chesapeake Conservancy, Maryland Geocaching Society, and Groundspeak, the national organization supporting the geocaching community world-wide.

Invest in the Chesapeake Bay's Great Rivers and Special Places

At the Chesapeake Conservancy, we believe in conserving the cultural and historical landmarks and ecologically valuable rivers that give the Chesapeake region its unique character. Your gift to the Chesapeake Conservancy will help advance conservation and expand access opportunities for the Chesapeake region's residents and visitors. With your support we will connect the public to the Chesapeake Bay's lands and waters and leave a lasting natural and cultural legacy for future generations.

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Or mail your gift to

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Inside the Chesapeake Conservancy

Dunn joins leadership of open space and blueways groups

Joel Dunn, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Conservancy, became the Chairman of the Partners for Open Space, a consortium of hundreds of Maryland organizations that support full funding for Maryland's Program Open Space.

At the request of the Walton Family Foundation, Dunn joined the National Blueways Task Force to recommend criteria and standards for the recently designated National Blueway System created by the Department of the Interior.

Chesapeake Council

In an effort to engage more members of the community who can bring the Chesapeake Conservancy a wide range of expertise and contacts, the Board of Directors has formed a Chesapeake Council. The members of the council are community leaders serving as key advisors in the important effort to protect our cultural and natural resources and support our mission through fundraising, leveraging relationships, providing advice, and being ambassadors for our organization with businesses, governments, foundations, and private individuals.

The members of the council include: Dr. Torrey Brown; Mr. Charles Collins; Dr. Wilton "Wilt" Corkern; Ms. Lavinia Currier; Dr. Sylvia Earle; Mr. Mike Hankin; Mr. Stephen Harper ; Mr. Ed McMahon; Ms. Nancy Merrill; Ms. Joan Murray; Mr. Truman Semans, Sr.; Mr. John Turner; Mr. Douglas Wheeler; and Mr. Steven Williams.

Truman Semans said his interest in the Chesapeake Conservancy "stems from their great vision and hard work to protect and celebrate Maryland's treasured natural resources and cultural heritage, which fosters a deeper connection between citizens and the Chesapeake's watershed."

Director Ann Swanson receives honor

Ann Swanson, Conservancy Board member and Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Vermont, her alma mater. The university said the award recognized

her "vital and important contributions to the state, the university, the nation, and the world, over the course of her distinguished career." Ann has provided valuable leadership to the Chesapeake Conservancy since its founding.

Sarah M. Elder has joined the Chesapeake Conservancy as the new Director of Development. A native Annapolitan, Sarah brings more than 15 years of experience in development and fundraising to support the Conservancy.

Sarah grew up on and around the Chesapeake Bay and spent time boating, crabbing, and hiking with her family. Previous to the Chesapeake Conservancy, Sarah worked on fundraising for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Historic Annapolis, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. She has experience in fundraising, marketing, public relations, and communications.

Jeffrey Allenby has joined the Chesapeake Conservancy as a Conservation Planner. Prior to coming to the Conservancy, Jeff ran the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Maryland Canoe Program and managed a competitive grant program focusing on local climate change adaptation at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Jeff has spent the majority of the last nine years in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Jeff has a Master's Degree from Duke University and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Richmond. He brings a strong background in coastal management and climate change adaptation as well as experience using diverse innovative technologies in targeting and communications efforts.

JonSidney Apfelbaum, our summer intern, is a student at American University in Washington, D.C. He grew up in central Pennsylvania, along the West

Branch of the Susquehanna River, where he enjoyed his closeness to the river and developed a strong interest in conservation and environmental studies. He has previously worked on research projects focused on the Susquehanna River at the Bucknell University Environmental Center and this past fall he interned in Congressman Tim Holden's office. In the coming months, JonSidney hopes to gain a better understanding of how the Conservancy bridges the intersection of public policy and conservation.

David Blitzler, the Conservancy's Chesapeake Fellow, heads off to law school at the Vermont Law School in August. David has worked on government relations for the Conservancy and has been involved in successes such as the naming of Fort Monroe as a National Monument and the designation of four rivers as historic component connecting trails to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. David's energy and good humor will be missed and we wish him well as he pursues his law degree.



Bald Eagles are one of the many species that have benefited greatly from having high quality land conserved along the shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Courtesy of Leslie Billman www.billmanphotography.com

Chesapeake Conservancy

SAVING THE CHESAPEAKE'S
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Advocating for Public Access and Land Conservation

This spring, the Conservancy led advocacy campaigns to maintain critical funding for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Park Service's Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Program, Maryland's Program Open Space, Pennsylvania's Keystone Fund and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Offices' Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System.

Help shape the future

Create a lasting ecological and cultural legacy for the Chesapeake Bay by including the Chesapeake Conservancy in your estate plans. Contact us for more information.

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