



Photo by Susan Hale



Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center

STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

Dear CBEC Supporter,

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center continued to flourish in 2017.

Thanks to caring people like you!

When I arrive at the Center at daybreak, to me it's the best time of the day! It's quiet and tranquil, wildlife is still moving and the hustle and bustle of the day is a few hours away. This time gives me the opportunity to collect my thoughts, and get ready for "taking care of business." Today is one of those "collecting my thoughts"...

I think back to January 2003 when I arrived on a cold, quiet, blustery day. No one was around. I was the only employee. Later I found out there were two volunteers that "helped out" to keep the place running. Nearly 14 years later, I can't believe that was then, and this is now. It is kind of a blur... I was working here two years before I located all of the ponds, found the trails and realized the uniqueness of the property of CBEC.

In December of 2002 the board had made changes to the name and mission. The name Horsehead Wetlands Center was changed to Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center and the mission was changed to focus on education and restoration rather than captive waterfowl as a showpiece. In that 14 years many other changes have occurred to extend services, restore habitat, upgrade facilities, promote stewardship and become involved with our community.

Presently, there are many diverse learning and fun opportunities for people to engage in at CBEC. The staff planning focuses on activities that fit the bill of "something for everyone." There is activity at CBEC nearly every day throughout the year, whether it is kayaking in season, adult classes, kid's classes, meetings/seminars, hikes, birding or fundraising efforts. The 6 full-time staff members keep the place "humming with activity," the 200 volunteers serve as an extension of the staff and are most invaluable, the board is an integral part of the operations and fundraising, and you, the friends and members of CBEC are responsible for the changes over 14 years, changes that benefit many.

On behalf of the all the students, visitors and wildlife at the center, we thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Judy Wink, CBEC Executive Director

Learn more about CBEC at bayrestoration.org



CBEC is committed to:

- Protecting & managing critical wildlife habitat through best management practices
- Offering top-notch environmental education programs for children & adults
- Engaging in habitat restoration & Bay-related research
- Inspiring stewardship through volunteerism
- Connecting people to nature through recreational activities

"Look deep into nature, and then you understand everything better."

—Albert Einstein



EDUCATION



This year we provided over **40,000 hours of instruction and hands-on activities to youth & adults** from all over the Chesapeake Bay watershed including Virginia and Pennsylvania.



"I feel that CBEC provides more than a camp, but gives an education to the children in a fun and amazing way. Both Ruthie and Woodley love going and would spend every day off there if I let them. The beautiful environment they get to play and learn in is one of a kind."

—**Elise Thompson**, Mother of Ruthie and Woodley who participate in many of CBEC's youth education programs.

Our exemplary education programs employ a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and "bring to life" complex concepts in ecology, biology and environmental science by fully engaging students of all ages in practical and fun activities. CBEC provides a spectrum of outstanding interactive educational programs throughout the year for both children and adults, including:

- **On-site field trips & in-school outreach programs**
- **Creepy Crawlers:** Nature exploration for toddlers
- **Creepy Crawlers Organic Gardening** for toddlers
- **"School's Out Camps"** during teacher in-service days
- **Environmentally-focused Summer Camps**—over 350 campers this year!
- **AREN Project:** STEM Education Initiative for middle and high school students in partnership with NASA. Students use kites and remotely operated vehicles to gather data on environmental changes in plant diversity, water quality and wildlife populations found in the marsh, forest and bay.
- **Legacy Institute for the Environmental:** 14th year of adult life-long learning classes focused on Bay issues and volunteerism. Each participant receives 9 weeks of in-depth instruction then donates 20 hours of service to CBEC. To date the program has graduated 170 volunteers.
- **Critters & Cocktails:** Lively Adult Wildlife Lectures Series held during the winter...each session sells out!
- **Maryland Master Naturalist:** Program in partnership with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. This training program focuses on volunteers who want to learn about the natural history of animals and plants in Maryland. Certified Maryland Master Naturalists help preserve and share the state's environmental wealth and each participant receives 60 hours of classroom and field training. In return, graduates donate 40 hours of service to CBEC. In 2017 CBEC graduated 22 volunteers.



"The Creepy Crawlers programs and summer camps are wonderful! We have participated from the time they were a year old into elementary school. CBEC offers so many positive and interactive experiences. There is the opportunity to grow within their wide range of programs. Children are encouraged to explore, create, and use all of their senses to develop a deeper understanding of nature and the world around us. These programs are fun and engaging. Our children have learned practical skills within the gardening programs. They have also learned about our local environment and developed a respect and understanding of our surroundings. Their programs are so unique and I am so grateful for these programs and the experiences they offer our children. It is my hope that every child could have these same invaluable opportunities."

—**Sarah Matthews**, Creepy Crawler parent of family attendees

"I loved the LIFE Program, it was a very hands-on approach to Chesapeake Bay education. It was fun to get my feet wet, and hands dirty, while learning about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed I love, and how to protect and care for it for our future generations."

—**Lacey Dean**, LIFE 2017 Graduate





CBEC's staff worked with individuals, public and private organizations to conduct on-site and off-site research and habitat restoration projects throughout 2017. Partnerships with NOAA, NASA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland DNR, Washington College and other institutions are ongoing and enable us to expand our contributions to conservation in the Chesapeake Bay region.

New research and restoration efforts initiated in 2017 included:

- **Oyster Lease:** The 2.8-acre bottom lease area was planted with 1.4 million spat on shell between June and October. CBEC has partnered with Harris Seafood Co. and local waterman who will help make "CBEC Brand Oysters" available to local restaurants in late 2018.
- **Meadow Restoration:** The 1.3-acre meadow area was seeded with a native wildflower mix and rye grass between April-May. Groundwork is being laid for a butterfly monitoring protocol to include a Monarch Tagging Station and native bee population studies.
- **Conservation Areas:** Over 50-acres were enhanced this year by removing overgrowth, planting native grasses and spraying for Phragmites to benefit migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. Highlighted areas included the creation of a 1-acre Wood Duck area, a half-acre Woodcock habitat and a 1-acre turkey plot.
- **Lake Knapp:** Planning began for the restoration of the 24-acre Lake Knapp and surrounding habitat. Creation of new islands utilizing lake dredgings, installation of a new flood control

structure, controlled burn and native plantings will be phased in starting next year. Lake Knapp is a fresh water impoundment and a critical resting/feeding area for wading birds and migratory waterfowl.

- **Garden Creation:** A new butterfly garden and kid's organic vegetable garden were constructed to enhance educational opportunities as well as increase pollinator habitat. Interpretive signage and interactive teaching stations are planned for each area in 2018.
- **Baywise Certification:** CBEC was awarded the Maryland Bay-Wise Yardstick Certification through the Maryland Master Gardeners for utilizing best management practices to maintain native landscapes throughout the property for wildlife conservation.

In 2017 CBEC relied heavily on our talented and dedicated volunteers who have contributed over **10,000 hours towards restoration and education projects**. Some individuals even donated 1,500 hours of service! In 2017, our volunteers assisted with educational programs & events, wildlife monitoring, invasive plant species control, facility maintenance and clerical work

"After my first year of volunteering at CBEC, I have been amazed by the level of activity of the staff and the volunteers. Multiple high-quality educational events each day are the norm and it's a very rare day when only one event is offered for. Volunteers are very engaged in all of CBEC's operations!"

—**Rudy Lukacovic**, CBEC Male Volunteer of The Year

The 510-acre picturesque CBEC peninsula provides multiple recreational activities as well as wildlife-watching opportunities for people of all ages and abilities such as:

- 4 miles of hiking trails with boardwalks & observation decks
- bird watching over 200 species & bird blinds
- kayaking
- photography
- geocaching
- picnicking



This year's and ongoing facility and visitor services improvements include:

- The **Great Horned Owl Web Cam** was installed and will be live on CBEC's main web page in January 2018.
- **Launch of the Lakeside Pavilion Capital Campaign** to replace the old pavilion overlooking Lake Knapp.
- Completion of two more Eagle Scout Projects that resulted in **6 new recycled plastic picnic tables** for the pavilion and the **remodeling of the wedding gazebo**. An Eagle Scout Project slated for 2018 includes the construction of new raptor mew to house American Kestrels.
- The addition of 10 new kayaks to the fleet. Three staff became ACA certified instructors, which allowed for the development of **new kayak programs to include the offering of ACA certified courses in rescue and paddling skills**. A funding campaign is slated for 2018 to replace the current kayak dock system.
- Visitor center upgrades included the **installation of aesthetically pleasing murals and a wider offering of merchandise**. Visitor center sales increased by 50% in 2017.
- All trails will have new trail head signs installed by January 2018. A large trail trimming and revamping project is currently underway.



Chesapeake Bay
Environmental Center
P.O. Box 519, Grasonville, MD 21638



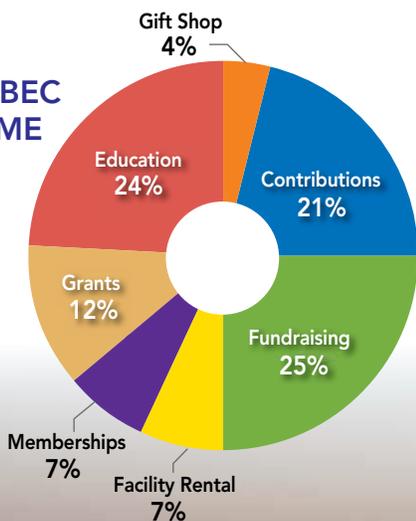
GET YOUR WILD ON

2017 ANNUAL APPEAL

You can also support CBEC with a gift of **STOCKS** or **SECURITIES**.

The tax benefit of this option is a win-win at this time of year. Information about this is provided on the next page.

2017 CBEC INCOME



Two easy ways to donate to CBEC!

1 DONATE ONLINE: bayrestoration.org

2 Complete this form and mail to: CBEC, P.O. Box 519, Grasonville, MD 21638

Name _____

Address _____
credit card billing address, if applicable

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please accept my tax deductible gift in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2500 Other _____

Check enclosed Charge my credit card:

Credit Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ CVV Code _____



Ways to Give to CBEC

The Wildfowl Trust of North America Inc. (WTNA) welcomes the following types of gifts to ensure that the physical site, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC), can continue its mission to promote stewardship and sustainability through environmental education and habitat restoration.



GIFT OF STOCK

Markets have been rewarding and your gift of stock avoids capital gains taxes and results in a deduction for income tax purposes based on the average market value on the date of your direction.

The process is simple and straight forward: call your broker, direct your specific gift in the name of Wildfowl Trust of North America (this is CBEC's incorporation name) and it will be wired as follows:

Wye Financial & Trust

Contact name: Lora Davis, FA, 410-763-8543,
LoraDavis@Wyetrust.com
DTC# 0075

Account Name: Wildfowl Trust of North America Inc.
Account Number: 7505-4964

Include your name in the gift and for all gifts over \$10,000 please contact Judy Wink at 410-827-6694 or email jwink@bayrestoration.org to insure proper documentation



GIFTS OF CASH

Maximize your charitable deduction and provide unrestricted funding for CBEC to use immediately for educational equipment, animal care, restoration projects or general operations. Personal checks and all credit cards accepted. Online payments also accepted at: www.bayrestoration.org/donate

MATCHING GIFTS

Over 500 companies and corporate foundations currently match their employees' gifts to CBEC. Double your gift today or help get CBEC on your employers' list.



MEMBERSHIPS

Individuals, family and business memberships are available throughout the year. Members receive discounts on gift shop items and program fees, free kayak usage and the opportunity to rent the CBEC facility for a function. Memberships can also be purchased online at:

www.bayrestoration.org/memberships

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Gather some friends or family members and help make a difference by attending one of the many CBEC fundraisers. All events have various levels of sponsorship opportunities. For a listing of CBEC fundraisers go to: www.bayrestoration.org

WILLS

Make a gift for CBEC's future that costs you nothing now. Naming CBEC in your will is a great way to help build financial strength and provide valuable resources to maintain CBEC for future generations.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Throughout the year CBEC is in need of all types of materials and supplies for educational programs, habitat restoration work and facility maintenance. Items such as gift cards in any denomination, heavy-equipment use, office & cleaning supplies, landscaping materials and lumber are always welcome.

**For more information, please contact
Judy Wink, CBEC Executive Director at
jwink@bayrestoration.org.**



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