

Imagine

IMAGINE entering a nature center along a road buffered by soft green grasses and seeing the sun's rays highlight the golden hue of a northern harrier gliding over the marsh. IMAGINE listening to a group of school children on a field trip hiking through the forest and squealing in delight as a red fox kit darts out in front of them. IMAGINE a peaceful day floating on a kayak and meandering through the raw, wild beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, just as Captain John Smith would have seen it hundreds of years ago.



You don't have to imagine . . . CBEC already exists!

Dear Friend of CBEC,

When I began my career at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in 2003, I was amazed by the diversity of Chesapeake Bay landscapes. CBEC's property was—and still is—rich in all forms of plant and animal life, not to mention sunsets that take your breath away. Our goal back in 2003 was to grow this little center into a place where visitors would feel like family and to offer educational and recreational experiences that would engage all the five senses. We've come a long way since 2003, and now as Executive Director, I've asked the staff, volunteers and board of trustees to recommit to building a better CBEC, focusing on the trends of today. Under the valued guidance and watchful "owl eyes" of now Executive Director Emeritus, Judy Wink, **we are setting a new course for CBEC's future.**

Throughout 2020 and 2021, we listened to our visitors who sought out CBEC as place for peaceful contemplation, a place of belonging through volunteering, and a place to unwind to better navigate the Covid pandemic. **We changed our mission, vision and values to better reflect the need to create healthier communities by connecting "all people" to nature through adventure-based learning.** The pandemic has proven to us that we can utilize recreational activities to engage, inspire and transform all outdoor lovers into active stewards of the Bay and beyond.

With all we are trying to accomplish, 2022 is going to be a make-or-break year for CBEC. Left-over effects of the pandemic—reductions in public school field trips, lower summer camp attendance, facility rental cancellations and the rising costs of supplies and utilities—continue to challenge us to generate the revenues needed to sustainably operate the center. Funds from our Covid relief grants are dwindling. The reality is that **it costs CBEC \$55,000 a month to operate.**

We are asking for your support NOW more than ever to help ensure that CBEC can continue to be a place where people can explore nature and where we can offer innovative, educational, and recreational experiences that connect all of us to the Bay.

With Gratitude,

Vicki Paulas
CBEC Executive Director



Chesapeake Bay
Environmental Center



Thanks to grants and donors like you, these initiatives are underway for 2022:

- Construction of a New Education Pavilion on Lake Knapp
- Restoring half mile of shoreline and protecting 100 acres of marsh
- Opening of a new trail to the north point of the property
- Construction of a new boardwalk to the beach
- Installation of an Owl Cam so you can monitor the nest from your home

What CBEC means to me . . .

“CBEC has been a blessing during Covid, for me as a volunteer and for so many people who come to visit. As a Visitor Center volunteer, I enjoy acquainting guests with the property and love to hear the many interesting experiences our visitors have at CBEC. I know so much more about native birds—and reptiles!—due to what visitors share with me. In short, CBEC is my happy place—I am always so relaxed and rejuvenated after visiting CBEC.”

—Donna Moran, CBEC Volunteer since 2011

“CBEC has become my second home. Having retired from a 38-year career at Maryland DNR, I love sharing what I’ve learned about the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Nothing is more rewarding than the expressions of excitement when young people dip a net into the Bay and discover the amazing array of life that occupies our shorelines. I’ve also thoroughly enjoyed monitoring wood duck boxes, helping with the Little Bobbers Fishing Derby and meeting other like-minded folks.”

—Rudy Lukacovic, CBEC Volunteer since 2016



Your donation in any amount will help ensure CBEC continues to be a place where people can enjoy nature. THANK YOU!



\$50 will plant 5000 oyster spat over our reefs



\$100 will purchase gas to run our grounds maintenance equipment for two weeks



\$250 will provide a summer camp scholarship to a child



\$500 will feed our captive raptors for one month



\$1000 will pay all our utilities for a month



\$5000 will help maintain all facets of our educational programs for one month