

# Connection

Even though the world may be rapidly evolving, our love for nature remains constant. Our connection to the natural world is the link between the past, present, and future. CBEC strives to provide opportunities for getting you outside and connecting you both physically and emotionally to the natural world. Whether it's immersing yourself in the vast expanse of marsh along the beach trail, bird watching on the lake, admiring the beauty of the forest and ferns amongst the North Point trail, traversing the bay by kayak, or marveling at the night's sky during our astronomy classes . . . we at CBEC aspire to keep you exploring and engaged in your bigger backyard—the Chesapeake Bay.



Dear Friends of CBEC,

**Environmental awareness has never been so important for people and the planet as it is today.**

Christina Mohs from Archbishop Spalding High School said: *"I have been visiting CBEC since 2001 when I attended a field trip as an estuarine biology student at Anne Arundel Community College. Since then, I have returned many times as a volunteer and visitor with my family to this serene setting. My son Tristan even became a counselor at CBEC and was trained to handle the birds of prey during his high school years! As a high school science teacher, I have been thrilled with CBEC's education programs. For over a decade, my environmental science and zoology students have looked forward to the Birds of Prey program that supports our curriculum on adaptations, predator-prey relationships, food webs, and conservation. This past fall, we also tried the Remarkable Oyster as our second program during the field trip, and it was the highlight of the trip! Being able to participate in the hands-on learning of examining an oyster reef and the organisms that use it as a home offered a perspective most students had never experienced despite living in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We can't wait to return next year!"*



**Through your generous support, CBEC has been able to continue to offer these unique programs for the last 44 years. We are so grateful to the volunteers, donors, and visitors who make all that we do possible.**

One of our volunteers, Louise Zeitlin, had this to say: *"I have been a CBEC volunteer for more than ten years. I love helping younger generations learn to appreciate, preserve, and protect our planet for their future and future generations. Volunteering helps kids be aware that any little thing they can do can make a huge difference. Being a part of CBEC has given me a sense of accomplishment, pride, and dignity ... most importantly, it is my happy place."*

**In 2023, our demand for educational and recreational programs increased by 10%, volunteerism was at an all-time high and we completed a \$1M shoreline habitat restoration project to protect the Northern and Southern points of the property. Going into our 45th year of operation, our monthly expenses have jumped to over \$58,000 due to inflation and the costs associated with maintaining the 500-acre property. Donations account for 1/3 of our annual budget. Your support is key to enabling CBEC to flourish as that "happy place" for generations to come.**



With gratitude,

**Vicki Paulas**

CBEC Executive Director





# What your donations help us accomplish!



## EDUCATION

### Keeping programs affordable

CBEC has been providing hands-on, feet-wet environmental programs for thousands of students from not only Maryland, but also, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and other states for over 44 years. We were thrilled to have sold out our 2023 summer camps and all our adult education classes from the LIFE Class to Critters & Cocktails. Our school field trips are going strong as we already have bookings into the fall of 2024. Thanks to your donations we were able to maintain our \$17.50 per student program fee for onsite field trips.

**Your donation of \$50 would help offset the costs to run education programs including the purchasing of seine nets, binoculars, garden tools, art and cleaning supplies.**



## RESTORATION

### Commitment to volunteerism and stewardship

It's the dedication of 130+ volunteers participating in our various habitat restoration projects that has allowed CBEC to keep its 500 acres preserved since 1979. As climate change continues to threaten this pristine property, it will be your dedication and generosity that allows CBEC to keep pace with these challenges. In 2023 we repaired and protected 1 mile of our shoreline, added 1.3 acres of historic marshland, restored 1 acre of upland meadow, and planted 1 million oyster spat to build our reefs.

**Your donation of \$250 would help create more habitat by providing funds to purchase oyster spat, plants for reforestation, grasses for shoreline resiliency and wildflowers for pollinator species.**



## RECREATION

### Access for all

With now 5 miles of hiking trails, water trail access, and a rich diversity of observable wildlife, it's no wonder people flock to CBEC to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. In 2023, we added a new spur trail to the North Point. In 2024, we will be constructing a new forest trail on the lower half of the peninsula that all hikers and bikers can enjoy. We are in Phase 2 of our new lake pavilion construction which will be under roof by January 2024. In 2023, CBEC also became the #1 ranked birding site in Queen Anne's County with the highest diversity count of 254 species according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird!

**Your donation of \$1000 would enable us to purchase new kayaks and accessories for guided tours, help finish the pavilion construction, or help us purchase new interpretive signs for all our trails.**

## What CBEC means to me ...

*"I love volunteering at CBEC because it makes me feel part of a community that shares my desire to sustain and restore the environment of the Chesapeake. When I first moved here in retirement I was looking to develop a network of friends and become integrated in the community—CBEC offered me a place for both."*

—Mary Ann Gorman

*"The first time we visited CBEC, we became members. We were greeted with, "Welcome to your new backyard." It has been a joy to have a playground where we can bring our grandchildren to walk the trails, observe nature, and kayak out on Marshy Creek. We will be lifetime members."*

—Cat and Eric Volkmann

*"CBEC has played a key role in student education during my wetland ecology classes at the University of Maryland. Thanks to CBEC, each fall about 25 undergraduate and 10 graduate students carrying out immersive, hands-on field research exercises on the soil, vegetation, and hydrology of the tidal brackish marshes at the Center. CBEC's support has been key to my students learning about wetland ecosystems that will persist and reverberate during their careers."*

—Andrew Baldwin, Dept. of Environmental Science & Technology, University of Maryland



When you donate to our annual fundraising campaign, you let us keep the lights on and the doors open for you and the 25,000+ visitors and school-aged children we serve each year. We receive no federal or state monies for our operational budget, so our goal is to raise \$150,000 with this appeal.

**We need your donations, company matches, and stock contributions to help keep the Center viable and sustainable. Thank you!**