



# Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center

STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

Dear CBEC Supporter,

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center continued to flourish in 2016 **thanks to caring people like you!**

What is it about CBEC that makes people from different generations and backgrounds say exactly the same thing?

Like many of you, **we believe that knowledge about the natural world is a crucial component to not only our educational system but to all of our life-long learning endeavors.** Our belief is rooted in the idea that if people are connected to the natural world... at every life stage... then they will be committed to playing a role in conserving the environment.

This year, CBEC saw an unprecedented demand for environmental programs as well as recreational opportunities. We responded by increasing our program offerings to meet the public's variety of interests as well as set the wheels in motion for more innovative and transformative experiences.

From the tiniest hands in our Creepy Crawler classes to the couples who utilize CBEC for their weddings, to children participating in field trips and the many volunteers who help maintain our 510-acre wildlife preserve...this is why many people believe...there is a place for everyone at CBEC.

**Please contribute to CBEC's 2016 Annual Appeal** and enable us to continue to create the next generation of Chesapeake Bay stewards. **Your support is critical as CBEC does not receive Federal or state funding for our operations.**

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

Judy Wink  
CBEC Executive Director



## 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

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 provided 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
- **“Schools Out Camp”** during teacher in-service days
- **Eco Summer Camps**
- **AREN Project:** First year of 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:** 13th year of adult life-long learning classes focused on Bay issues and volunteerism. Each participant receives 12 weeks of in-depth instruction then donates 100 hours of service to CBEC. To date the program has graduated 155 volunteers.
- **Critters & Cocktails:** Lively Adult Wildlife Lectures Series held during the winter
- **Maryland Master Naturalist:** First year of 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 2016 CBEC graduated 23 volunteers.



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.

*“We have been coming to the Creepy Crawlers class at CBEC since our first child was two years old, which was five years ago. We now have three children ages 7, 5, and 3. The kids have learned about the ecosystems of the Eastern Shore, including the forest and the Bay and all the critters who call this area home. I am always amazed at the variety of age-appropriate, engaging activities that the leaders have the children involved in. My children are always learning and having fun! This program is an important part of our monthly activities.”*  
—Rick & Kimberly Schultes



*“The LIFE program is a great opportunity to learn much about the Chesapeake Bay. As recent retirees, we wanted to become involved in our community, enjoy the Bay, and meet like-minded individuals. Participating in LIFE allowed us to do exactly that. Each session was fascinating—not overwhelming—and featured both lectures and hands-on activities. We met many interesting people through LIFE and have thoroughly enjoyed our continued involvement in CBEC.”*  
—Anne and Dave Brunson, LIFE 2016 Graduates.





CBEC's staff worked with individuals, public and private organizations to conduct on-site and off-site research and habitat restoration projects throughout 2016. Partnerships with NOAA, NASA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland DNR, Washington College, Versar Inc., Harris Seafood Company 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 2016 included:

- **Aquaponics Project:** Installed a 42' geodome that will house a closed system for raising plants and fish. The project will demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices 365 days a year and provide solutions to residents in community food deserts.
- **Oyster Leasing:** Established a 2.8 acre bottom leasing area in order to generate our own CBEC brand of oyster which will be sold to the local restaurants within the Kent Narrows.
- **Reef Balls & Oyster Restoration:** Resumed the construction of reef balls for fish and oyster habitat in the Cabin Creek Sanctuary using a new concrete mix higher in calcium carbonate. Another 1 million oyster spat will be added to the sanctuary in 2017 raising our total to over 10 million oysters restored.
- **Meadow Restoration:** Converted 1.3 acres to a pollinator meadow using a native wildflower and grass seed mix to benefit butterflies, bees and birds.

- **Wye River Water Quality Study:** The goal of the study was to identify potential pollutant sources from the headwaters of the upper Wye River and particularly non-tidal tributaries located in Queen Anne's County.
- **Narrows Pointe Living Shoreline:** Completed the restoration of 31,540 square feet of wetlands to benefit horseshoe crabs, blue crabs, wading birds and juvenile fish. The project utilized 50 volunteers who planted over 14,000 plugs of *Spartina* grasses.

In 2016 CBEC relied heavily on our talented and dedicated volunteers who have contributed over **10,000 hours towards restoration and education projects**. Some individuals even donate 1,500 hours of service per year! In 2016, our volunteers assisted with: educational programs & events, wildlife monitoring, invasive plant species control, facility maintenance and clerical work.



*"CBEC is a great place to be! As a retiree of the USFWS, I continue to help the environment by assisting the staff of CBEC in all kinds of endeavors. It provides me a unique opportunity to interact with all kinds of youth and adults of the Chesapeake Bay area. It's my pleasure to volunteer for CBEC!"*  
**—Jim Goldsberry**

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 facility and visitor services improvements included:

- The **launch of the new Lakeside Pavilion Capital Campaign** to replace the old pavilion overlooking Lake Knapp. The new pavilion will be the hub of 75% of our program activities and be usable year round.
- Completion of two more Eagle Scout Projects that resulted in a **new bird care room** for our captive raptors and a **new observation deck on Piney Point Trail**. An Eagle Scout Project slated for 2017 includes the construction of new raptor mew to house American Kestrels.
- **Construction of a restroom, foot washing station and changing station** by the beach pavilion.
- The addition of more guided kayaking programs. CBEC plans to increase and replace its kayak fleet in 2017 to accommodate the growing popularity of the sport at our site.

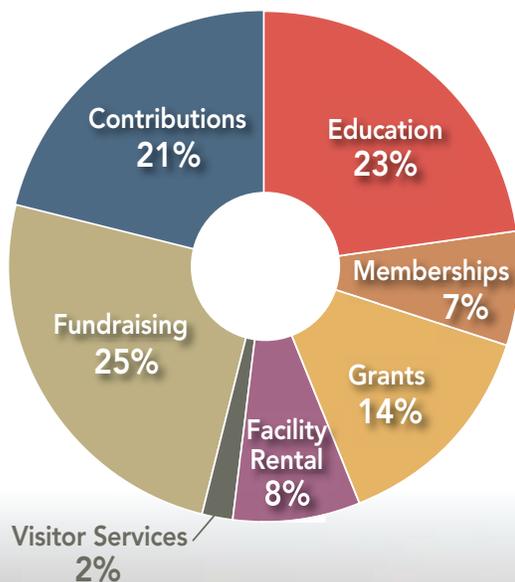




Chesapeake Bay  
Environmental Center  
P.O. Box 519, Grasonville, MD 21638



## GET YOUR WILD ON! 2016 ANNUAL APPEAL



**2016 CBEC INCOME**

### There are many ways to donate.

One way that offers special consideration at this time of year is a **gift of stock or securities**. The tax benefit of this option is a win-win at this time of year. Please read the enclosed insert on this topic.

For more information on programs, events or to make a donation online check out the CBEC website at [www.bayrestoration.org](http://www.bayrestoration.org) or **follow us on Facebook**.

