



Chesapeake Bay Trust Awards \$1.5 Million in Grant Funding to Help the Chesapeake Bay

100 organizations receive funding to support Bay education, restoration, and community engagement projects.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annapolis, MD (February 18, 2010) The Chesapeake Bay Trust announces \$1.5 million in grant funding to support 100 organizations throughout the region implement on-the-ground restoration, community engagement, and hands-on education projects aimed at improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Six of the Trust's ten grant programs were supported in this round of funding. The Community Engagement, Environmental Education, Fisheries, Mini-Grant, and Restoration grant programs all awarded funding to support environmental restoration, education, and outreach projects engaging residents from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland. The Trust also made awards for agricultural conservation projects through its partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network.

Grants were awarded to one hundred organizations and schools to support statewide and regional projects in 18 Maryland counties, Baltimore City, Washington, D.C., and communities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Combined, these projects will **remove** 113,000 pounds of trash, **engage** almost 68,000 students and volunteers, and **leverage** an additional \$3.1 million in cash and in-kind contributions.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program was awarded \$20,000 to support the expansion of the Coastal Stewards and Civic Justice Corps Summer Youth Program that will engage local high school students in a green jobs training initiative. Students will be trained to work in public parks, community green spaces, museums and heritage sites. They will build job skills relating to interpretation and environmental education, public speaking and outreach, as well as community environmental stewardship and management projects.

In Carroll County, public school students will benefit from a \$35,000 award through our environmental education grant program that supports the integration of environmental education into K-12 curriculum. This program engages 12,000 students and 200 teachers in Carroll County and enjoys excellent support from the school system.

The Southeast Community Development Corporation is implementing an urban stormwater program in southeastern Baltimore City which will include planted sidewalk

strips, rain barrel construction / installation, and a runoff workshop. They will receive almost \$25,000 from the Trust in support of this effort.

In Garrett County, the Savage River Watershed Association was awarded almost \$25,000 by the Trust and our partner the FishAmerica Foundation. This stream restoration project will restore 1,000 linear feet of shoreline along a Savage River headwater stream.

“Our work is supported by over 400,000 Marylanders, who contribute annually to the Trust’s work as a grant-maker either by making donations through the *Treasure the Chesapeake* license plate program and the State’s income tax check off program for the Bay, or by participating in a funded project,” said Allen Hance, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “Funding provided to local communities by the Chesapeake Bay Trust is an important tool in the effort to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and to more fully engage Maryland residents in environmental stewardship activities.”

Marylanders participate in the Trust’s grant making mission by purchasing the popular *Treasure the Chesapeake* license plate (www.bayplate.org), contributing to the *Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund* on the Maryland State income tax form, and making individual donations to the Trust. The Trust brings in additional funds for its grant programs through partnerships with private foundations, corporations, and state and federal agencies. In 2009 alone, the Trust’s grants helped to **educate** over 86,000 students on Bay related issues, **plant** over 220,000 trees and native plants, **remove** 429 tons of trash and **engage** over 36,000 volunteers.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust:

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is an independent, nonprofit, foundation. Funding provided by the Trust sparks on-the-ground change in communities throughout Maryland and works to cultivate a new generation of Bay stewards. Since its inception in 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$30 million and engaged hundreds of thousands of Marylanders in projects that have a measurable impact on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Maryland *Treasure the Chesapeake* license plate, donations to the *Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund* on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal and state agencies. Fully 90 percent of the Trust’s expenditures are directed to its Chesapeake Bay restoration and education programs.

For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Trust, visit www.cbtrust.org.

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