



Chesapeake Bay Trust Awards Over 100 Grants to Help the Chesapeake Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annapolis, MD (September 22, 2009) One hundred and nine grants totaling over \$800,000 have been awarded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust to organizations and schools throughout Maryland implementing on-the-ground restoration and hands-on education projects aimed at improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Twenty Maryland counties and Baltimore City received funding for Environmental Education, Restoration, Outreach and Urban Greening projects that will engage residents from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland.

The mission of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, an independent, non-profit foundation, is to promote public participation in the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Last year, the Trust awarded approximately \$4 million in grants to schools and non-profit organizations across Maryland.

The Trust awards grants on a quarterly basis. This round of funding supports efforts to create “green schools” and improve the environmental literacy of Maryland’s students; implement greening plans that increase tree canopy, reduce stormwater runoff and enhance the quality of life in urban areas; and engage Marylanders in projects that improve water quality or enhance natural habitat. A sampling of projects funded includes:

- The Jones Falls Watershed Association, in partnership with the Greater Homewood Community Corporation, was awarded \$33,000 to plant 485 trees in Baltimore City neighborhoods, parks, schools, streets, and other public right of ways. The project will engage over 1000 city residents.
- The Calvert County Public School system was awarded \$26,800 to support teacher training and community partnerships and to certify four new schools as “Green Schools.”
- Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage's "Habitat for the Chesapeake Project" was awarded \$23,000 to restore wetland habitat in Talbot and Queen Anne's Counties.

- The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (Montgomery County) was awarded \$7,500 to engage volunteers to clean up, restore, and install interpretive signage on state land adjacent to the Northwood High School in Silver Spring, Maryland.
- The Alice Ferguson Foundation (Prince George County) was awarded \$12,000 to support the 22nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up which engages over 13,000 volunteers in the removal of over 500,000 lbs of trash.

"Poll after poll shows that Marylanders care deeply about a clean and healthy Bay. But all too often people don't know what they can do, concretely, to help the Bay and their local rivers and streams," said Allen Hance, Executive Director of the Trust. "That's where the Trust comes in: the hundreds of projects we fund each year allow creative individuals, schools, and communities to spark real change at the local level."

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 2008 alone, the Trust's grants helped to **educate** over 87,000 students on Bay related issues, **plant** over 144,000 trees and native plants, **remove** 324 tons of trash and **engage** over 23,000 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 and a complete list of projects funded, visit www.cbtrust.org.

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