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About this newsletter

The Inland Bays Journal is a quarterly publication of the Center for the Inland Bays (Delaware Inland Bays Estuary Program). The Center for the Inland Bays is a private, nonprofit organization and a member of the Association of National Estuary Programs.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information on issues related to Delaware's Inland Bays. For more information or inquiries about this publication, please contact our offices at (302) 645-7325, or visit the website www.inlandbays.org.

From the desk of the Executive Director

New CIB Building Will be Environmentally-Friendlier

By Ed Lewandowski
Executive Director, CIB

"First we shape our buildings, and then they shape us."

- Sir Winston Churchill

Recently, staff members at CIB have given a lot of attention to the words Sir Winston Churchill spoke on rebuilding the Houses of Parliament following the bombings of WWII.

Certainly, the Center is not reconstructing a symbol of our nation from amidst the rubble and ruins of war. But, the words do resonate with us as we strive to renovate a facility to serve as the public face of our mission and objectives.

The CIB believes that by serving as an example of environmentally-friendly design, we can influence and encourage others to also construct sustainable buildings that have minimal impacts on our ecology.

Green architecture is not a style, trend or a vernacular. It is a climatically, geographically and culturally appropriate way of architecture and building. It combines the best of both old and new technologies, which has at its core, the principle of respect and caring for the earth.

There are a number of issues to consider when constructing a green building. These include environmental responsiveness, resource efficiency, energy consumption, community and cultural sensitivity, healthy and non-polluting materials, etc. These considerations manifest in many different ways and often reinforce each other.

While safeguarding the future of generations to come, green design results in reduced operating costs for both buildings and landscapes and with better health and productivity of workers. Studies have also shown that "green" buildings increase property values as well as occupancy rates.

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Unfortunately, CIB did not fully consider green design when the new headquarters project was initiated. However, one important consideration was achieved simply by the selection of the building site. By renovating the former USCG barracks at Indian River Inlet, the CIB was able to restore an **existing building and its infrastructure** and use the original building "foot print" without disturbing additional land. Recently, the CIB has renewed its focus on "green" design and has attempted to incorporate additional environmentally-friendly features into the building.

One critically important element is **energy efficiency.**

We have heard the warnings that global warming is amongst one of the most urgent environmental problems that challenges us. Our near complete dependence on fossil fuels to power our buildings, industries and transport systems together with various polluting activities are currently perpetuating a rise in the planet's temperatures. As part of an overall strategy to curb our reliance on fossil fuels and linked to the conservation of energy, there is a need to find ways of using energy much more efficiently.

An Energy Star audit is being conducted at the new facility to achieve superior energy efficiency. This audit ensures that the duct work is contained within the building's envelope where possible and that the building is sealed and secured to prevent energy loss to the external environment.

Use of **renewable energy sources** is also a critical consideration in green design. CIB is considering a number of options, including the use of photovoltaic cells to produce energy as well as installation of a wind turbine to generate electricity.

While investments to achieve this end may initially be higher, the longer-term effect is one of considerable savings both to the environment and financially, with reduced running costs. The Center is also considering numerous other options including **use of alternative materials,** such as bamboo flooring and recycled material countertops. In addition, we're exploring the **reuse of water** by collecting roof runoff utilizing rain barrels. CIB will also build a **recycling** station into the casework in the kitchen. Finally, the site will include **native landscaping.**

There are many other green features available and we are hopeful that we can implement as many as practically possible. If you would like additional information about our efforts to "green up" our new facility or are interested in green design for your own project, please feel free to call our office at (302) 645-7325.

Too Many Deer

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area. Because we are the only predator left in our ecosystem that is able to kill and consume whitetail deer, we may have some responsibility to fill this role.

Traditionally, deer management and hunting tradition has often dictated that the hunters harvest bucks and leave does in the population to reproduce. Unfortunately, this methodology has left an unbalanced and unhealthy herd, with a skewed sex ratio and lack of age structure among male deer, which triggers a myriad of other problems.

Recently, another management strategy has emerged, based on the latest research that has come out of the top wildlife research universities in the country, and the management style that has been utilized throughout South Texas and the southeast over the past couple of decades.

This approach, termed Quality Deer Management (QDM), focuses on the aggressive harvest of does, allowing young bucks to survive to maturity; collecting and recording data; and creating and improving habitat. Through collection of herd and harvest data and interpretation of this data to determine herd health and dynamics, the landowner is transformed from a mere consumer to a steward.

Rather than arbitrary harvest of deer, specific segments of the population are targeted in order to restore balance and health to both the deer population and the ecosystem in which they exist.

Unlike traditional deer management strategies of the past, QDM is based on solid biology rather than the whims of the hunters and the general public. *In areas where QDM has been implemented over several years, landowners and the public are reaping the benefits as deer damage to fragile ecosystems and agriculture fields is decreased,* collisions with vehicles have dropped dramatically, forests have begun to regenerate, and biodiversity has begun to increase in the ecosystem.

QDM is not without its opponents, however, ranging from hunters in favor of high deer densities to animal rights groups that are opposed to any harvest of wildlife. But, it is not humane or responsible to base our management decisions on the convictions of uninformed or self-interested parties.

Many people don't understand that many of the non-game species they love to watch suffer from loss of habitat and food sources when deer populations crest the habitat's carrying capacity. Over-population creates the circumstances for winter starvation, where deer suffer from no fat and poor coats to stave off the cold, and vulnerability to painful disease and death. Other approaches, such as experiments with deer contraceptives have proven to be ineffective as well as cost prohibitive, and often have detrimental side effects.

Too much is at stake. Our poor management of existing ecosystems and intense development of our remaining resources threaten to permanently mar the fragile ecosystems of the Inland Bays watershed without a science-based approach to addressing these issues.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, Oct. 22: Pig Roast/Chicken Benefit; noon to 4 p.m.; James Farm Ecological Preserve; Cedar Neck Road, Ocean View, DE. Call the CIB office at 645-7325 to purchase your tickets!

Friday, Nov. 4: Science and Technical Advisory Committee; 9 a.m.- 12 noon; Cannon 104; College of Marine Studies, Lewes. Open to the public

Wednesday, Nov. 9: Beaches, Bays & Beyond: Packaging and Marketing Nature-based & Heritage Tourism; 8:30 Registration; 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. Wine and cheese networking reception; workshop cost $25; Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center; Rehoboth Beach.

Thursday, Nov. 17: Community Advisory Committee; 4 p.m. Millsboro Town Hall; Open to the public.

An IB Journal reader writes

"What does your logo mean?"

The logo is of our native horseshoe crab *Limulus polyphemus,* one of the most ancient creatures on earth. It was here 100 million years before the dinosaur, and it survived the demise of the dinosaurs!

The largest concentration of Horseshoe Crabs in the world are found in Delaware Bay and are a common sight in our Inland Bays as well. They are a critical part of the food web here. They lay their eggs around the first full moon in June, precisely timed for the arrival of the migrating shore birds making their long journey from Argentina to their Arctic nesting area. The survival of many of our shorebirds are tied to the availability of an abundance of horseshoe crab eggs to feed on. They are harmless to humans as they neither bite nor pinch. They are, in fact, not related to crabs at all, but to spiders.