

CIB Board and Staff Directory

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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

Nurturing Eco-Tourism in the Inland Bays Watershed

By Ed Lewandowski
Executive Director

Ecotourism is nothing more than "green greed." I was surprised by the term "green greed" because it was one which I had never heard before. A question followed: "Do you think ecotourism delivers real environmental benefits or is it just a marketing opportunity?"

I am certain that it can work to support both conservation and local economies. It is this belief that has resulted in a number of CIB initiatives to promote ecotourism opportunities in the Inland Bays watershed.

First, the CIB has partnered with EcoBay Kayaking Adventures to offer kayak tours at the scenic James Farm Ecological Preserve, in Ocean View, Delaware. Lisa Daisey, owner and operator of EcoBay Kayak Adventures said, "Tours will focus on educational discovery of Delaware's Inland Bays and their natural treasures." Tours run daily between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, weather permitting and are designed for small groups; private and sunset tours are available.

Included in the tour is a picnic-style lunch served in the James Farm's pavilion. Following lunch, participants will have an opportunity to enjoy the James Farm's observation towers, woodland trails, boardwalks, and sandy beach. A portion of all proceeds from the tours goes towards supporting and maintain-

ing the James Farm Ecological Preserve.

To reserve your space on a kayak tour with EcoBay, please call (302) 258-4562.

The Center is also partnering with the Delaware Division of Parks & Recreation to offer pontoon boat tours of the Inland Bays aboard the 47-foot Sand Dollar. The "Discover Delaware's Inland Bays" tours are scheduled every Thursday through August 25. All tours start at the Indian River Marina located at Delaware Seashore State Park.



LEWANDOWSKI

The Estuarine Ecology Tour runs from 10 a.m. until noon. This tour is a scientific investigation of the Inland Bays' habitat. Participants perform simple water tests, collect and identify plants and animals, and discuss the role humans play in the ecology of our imperiled coastal waters. The tour costs \$15 per person. The Rehoboth Bay Tour runs from 1p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This tour is a relaxing, sightseeing opportunity on the bay. A naturalist is on board to discuss the formation of the Inland Bays, estuarine and salt marsh ecology, and connections between humans and the bays. The tour costs \$10 per person. Groups of 10 or more are asked to pre-register by calling (302) 227-6991.

As the weather turns a bit cooler this autumn, the CIB will continue to support nature-based and heritage tourism when it hosts a training workshop for local ecotourism providers. The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9 at the Atlantic Sands Hotel in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

The purpose of this event is to provide the tools needed by tourism planners, providers, businesses and communities to work together to develop natural and heritage tourism plans and products that will attract and accommodate the tourist while conserving natural and cultural resources and benefiting local people. It will offer the most recent information on natural and heritage tourism marketing approaches and product development for the Delmarva Peninsula. Cosponsors for the workshop include the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce; (DLITE) Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences; Center for the Inland Bays, Maryland Coastal Bays Program; Delaware State Parks, Delaware Tourism Office, Delaware River & Bay Authority, Southern Delaware Tourism Office, and the University of Delaware's Marine Advisory Service. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting training opportunity.

Planning a sustainable future for tourism in the Inland Bays watershed is one of the goals of the Center for the Inland Bays.

Pollution

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of the regulations has been delayed while concerns expressed by affected interests are being addressed. Meetings are occurring with some of the affected groups

in an effort to reach an agreement on an Inland Bays strategy that can effectively be implemented.

Recent legislation (Senate Concurrent Resolution 21) introduced in the 143rd Delaware General Assembly would have created an Inland Bays Task Force to review

the draft pollution control strategies, however, this legislation did not come to the House floor for a vote prior to the end of the session.

A de facto committee now meeting to review the strategies is considered to be a substitute

for the 15-member task force that would have resulted if the legislation had passed.

CIB anticipates that after an agreement on the strategies has been reached, DNREC will report to the legislature and continue the process to enact the regulations.

From the desk of the Chair

A Building for Our Bays is Moving Closer to Reality

It's been a little over one year since major renovations began on the CIB's new home, and what a year it's been! The Center's dream to open "A Building for Our Bays" is moving closer to reality. The transformation of the former USCG barracks to a landmark facility on Indian River Bay has been remarkable. Exterior renovations on the facility are almost complete and the construction manager is getting ready to move the activities inside the building. I am still hopeful that the project will be finished late in the year, the dedication will occur, and we can open the doors to the staff and public in 2005.

Many interested individuals have been following our progress in our newsletter or stopping by the facility for a quick tour. I would like to thank those individuals for their enthusiasm and words of en-

couragement for this project. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many donors who have offered their financial support for the new administration and education headquarters.

It is with great appreciation that the Board of Directors recognizes the following for their contributions: Longwood Foundation, Welfare Foundation, Laffey McHugh Foundation, Sussex County Council, Delaware Community Foundation, Crystal Trust, Ocean Atlantic Agency, Red Hat Society, The Freeman Foundation, The Peninsula at Long Neck, Mariner's Bethel United Methodist Church, The Vinton Family Foundation, Bayside Homeowners Association, Jerome and Sallie Trout, RDM, Inc., Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., James and Janice Perdue, Bay Forest LLC and Eugene and Diana Bayard.

develop Pollution Control Strategies to meet the required Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) for nitrogen and phosphorous in the Inland Bays.

They developed a Saving Our Bays Issue Book, which can be viewed on the CIB website at www.inlandbays.org

Trib Team

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Since January 1999, the TAT has been involved in a coordinated effort with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to



RICHARD W. EAKLE

Calendar of Events

Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Friday, September 9
9 a.m.
Cannon Lab, Room 104
College of Marine Studies
Lewes, DE

The Inland Bays Watershed: Creating a Community Vision

Southern Delaware Academy
for Lifelong Learning
Wednesdays 3:15-4:45
September 14-October 12

CIB Pig Roast

Saturday, October 22
12 noon
James Farm
Ecological Preserve
Cedar Neck Rd, Ocean View