new faces changing landscape

DELAWARE CENTER for THE INLAND BAYS annual report 2014
Dear Friends of the Bays,

As I write this, a nor’easter has just pushed the waters of Rehoboth Bay over Coastal Highway. Traffic is creeping through saltwater now, and I cannot help but think: what will this scene look like when the sea has risen another couple of feet?

In 2014, the Center celebrated the achievements of the past 20 years to restore the Inland Bays. Now it’s time to look ahead. The flood today is a harbinger of the environmental challenges that face us in the next 20 years.

When the Center was created in 1994, sea level rise was not much of a concern. Now we are planning for 3 to 5 feet of sea level rise by the end of the century. Delaware has the lowest average elevation of any state in the nation, and the lands around the Inland Bays are some of the lowest in Delaware. There is no doubt about it; sea level rise is the biggest challenge facing our community.

To ensure that the resources of the Bays are protected as sea level rise accelerates, the Center pledges to cooperate with all stakeholders to:

• Protect natural areas that are vulnerable to sea level rise, so that dynamic ecosystems like saltmarshes and sandy beaches may persist by migrating inland.

• Provide a neutral forum where science can guide the deliberations of all stakeholders on adapting to sea level rise.

• Educate children and new residents about the Bays: how they are dynamic and constantly on the move; and that as sea level rise increases, they will move inland even faster.

At the same time, the challenges that the Center was created to address are still with us. We must find more efficient ways to keep pollution out of the water, to restore fish and shellfish populations, and educate about the importance of clean water and healthy Bays.

Success over the next 20 years rests on two things: your support and participation in this important mission. Please read on to see the work we have accomplished this year.

At the Center for the Inland Bays, we focus on igniting people’s passions about the water by imparting knowledge and involving people in its restoration. Every day, there are little things that we can do as a community and in our own lives that can have an immediate difference on the water that we love.

Thank you for your support,

Chris Bason, Executive Director
James Farm Ecological Preserve

Preserving a wild place requires a plan

In 1992, the last direct descendant of the James family gave the family farm in Ocean View to the people of Sussex County. What a vision Mary Lighthipe had... Cedar Neck was still rural. Today the James Farm Ecological Preserve is an oasis of open space amid resort development.

Since 1998, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays has managed the 150 acre Preserve for recreation, education, research and restoration.

Last year, the Preserve felt the footsteps of 10 thousand visitors...many with their four-legged friends. We also welcomed nearly a thousand students for ‘hands on, waders on’ day of watershed education. But, we need to plan for many more visitors. According to projections, the population in Sussex County will increase 35% to 271,326 people by 2030. And many of them will discover the wonders of James Farm.

Preserving the forests, marshes, beaches and wetlands AND accommodating the growth in visitors each year is the challenge that led us to create a Master Plan for James Farm.

The James Farm Master Plan was completed in summer 2014 with Oasis Design Group and BioHabitats. It will guide us in accommodating the needs of visitors while protecting and preserving the plant and animal communities that make James Farm unique. It identifies facility needs such a restrooms and parking, storage for equipment and education programs, trail improvements and interpretive signage, and provisions for special events. The Plan also anticipates the impact of sea level rise, and makes recommendations to preserve undisturbed areas for wildlife.

The James Farm Master Plan can be viewed at inlandbays.org/visit-us-james-farmecological-preserve.

The James Farm Ecological Preserve belongs to all of us, and it will take the support of many people and partners to realize the vision embodied in the plan.

Some of the priorities that we will seek early support for are:

- Re-design the parking area to serve more visitors.
- Improve facilities and spaces for education activities.
- Provide secure and weather-proof space for the equipment needed to care for the Preserve.
- Build state-of-the-art composting restrooms
- Create named trail loops to better organize the trail system and add interpretive signage.
- Enhance signage and trails to welcome more visitors to lesser used areas of the Preserve.

Proposed plan for the re-design of the entrance to the James Farm Ecological Preserve.
Living Shorelines

It has been said that ‘today’s flood is tomorrow’s high tide’

Coastal communities and homeowners have generally defended their shorelines from erosion by hardening them with stone rip-rap, or with wood or metal bulkheads. But these techniques have an environmental cost—they eliminate sandy beaches and salt marsh habitats that are so important to many marine animals, and they don’t filter pollutants from surface runoff.

In 2014, the CIB worked with partners to convene a statewide Living Shorelines committee of scientists, educators and managers.

Together, we are working to bring Living Shorelines to all of Delaware’s rivers, creeks and bays by creating demonstration projects, educating coastal residents, offering training to marine contractors so that they can offer living shorelines to their customers seeking solutions to shoreline erosion, and working on standards and regulations that promote and facilitate the use of living shoreline practices.

This is an approach to shoreline stabilization that uses plants, sand, and limited use of rock to provide erosion protection while also maintaining valuable habitat.

James Farm Education Program

Nowhere can you see the growing diversity of Sussex County better than in our schools

Since 1999, we have partnered with Indian River School District to offer middle school students a day of watershed education at James Farm, an outdoor learning experience to show first-hand the concepts that are hard to demonstrate in the classroom.

For many of them, it is their first experience on the Bays and more than a few exclaim that it is their ‘best day ever!’

Each school year about 1,000 students haul seine nets, test water quality and collect data on the flora and fauna of the salt marsh at James Farm, instructed by our teaching staff whose passion and knowledge inspire these future leaders of coastal Sussex.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, it’s just one of the ways that the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is investing in educating future decision makers to be stewards of the Inland Bays.
**Oyster Shell Recycling**

**Local restaurants are saving their ‘shucks’ for the Bays**

For years, oyster shell has been used to build roads, driveways and houses, with unused shell going to landfills. But today, the shells are an increasingly scarce natural resource for restoration, and we are banking them for future use on the Inland Bays. Last summer, the CIB partnered with local restaurants to recycle oyster shells from their raw bars.

Oyster shell…an investment oysters can grow on!

Oysters can’t grow on the soft bottom of our Bays—they need hard bottom to form reefs, and oysters like nothing better than attaching to oyster shell. Oysters are like mini-water treatment plants, each one filtering up to 50 gallons of water a day, and removing nutrients that are the greatest pollution threat to the Bays. Oyster shell is also being used instead of rock in living shoreline projects to reduce wave energy and decrease shoreline erosion.

**Your Creek**

**Community-based action creek by creek**

Many who live around the Inland Bays grew up in other places and don’t know the rivers and creeks in their communities.

**Last year, we launched Your Creek, an initiative to introduce people in the watershed to their local creek.**

We began in 2014 with Love Creek, a tributary of Rehoboth Bay. Led by a volunteer team leader, the Love Creek Team worked with CIB staff to conduct surveys of residents to gather information on the concerns, opinions, and understanding of local creeks by residents and property owners and to disseminate information to the community on factors that are affecting water quality in Love Creek.

Each creek watershed is distinctive; it’s condition affected by surrounding land use, its size and salinity, and its natural features. Over the next few years, the fourteen major tributaries that flow into the three Inland Bays will each have a team. Work continues on Love Creek, the Dirickson Creek Team on Little Assawoman Bay is just underway, and later in 2015, the Vines and Pepper Creek Team will begin their work.

To learn more about your creek or get involved, go to inlandbays.org/projects-issues/your-creek.
Thank you to our donors

Grants and Contracts
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Clean Water Advisory Council
Community Water Quality Grants Program
Non-point Source Pollution Program
Universal Recycling Program
Delaware Nature Society
State of DE, Division of Motor Vehicles
Sussex County Council
The Nature Conservancy
Town of South Bethany
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
University of Delaware Sea Grant
College Program Sustainable Coastal Communities Development Initiative

Event Sponsors
Aqua Tech Water Specialties
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Banks Wines and Spirits
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Clean Delaware
Delaware Beach Life
Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Sea Grant
DelMarVa Board Sport Adventures
Delmarva Power
Dewey Beach Lions Club
Dogfish Head Craft Brewery
Fisher’s Popcorn—Bethany, Fenwick and Rehoboth Beach
Good Earth Market
Harry Caswell Plumbing and Mechanical
Joanne Shipley Graphic Design
Meris Properties, LLC
NKS Distributors
NRG Indian River Power Plant
NV Homes
Perdue Farms
Royal Farms
Samplers Revisited
State Farm—Ron Krajelewski Agency
Tidewater Utilities
The Starboard
Town of Dewey Beach
Town of South Bethany
Vickie York

Businesses for the Bays Members
16 Mile Brewery
A. Morton Thomas and Associates
Aqua Tech Water Specialties
Artesian Water Company
Atlantic Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
Baird, Mandalas and Brockstedt
Banks Wines and Spirits
The Bayville Package Store
Beazer Homes
Bethany Blues
Cardno
Carl M. Freeman Companies
Chesapeake Utilities
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Delaware Beach Life
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Perdue Farms
Royal Farms
Samplers Revisited
State Farm—Ron Krajelewski Agency
Tidewater Utilities
The Starboard
Town of Dewey Beach
Town of South Bethany
Vickie York

$1000 and up
Chris Bason
Cedar Shores Condo Association
Ann G. Riley and Thomas M. Bouchelle
Becky Brewer and Greg Pfister
Dogfish Head Craft Brewery
George and Barbara Junkin
Anne and Bill Lowe
Austin Okie
In Memory of Ike Weaver

$500–$999
Susie Ball
In Memory of Ed Chalabala
Dr. Cynthia Flynn and Deirdre Doyle
Royal Farms
Rehoboth Bay Foundation
State Farm—Ron Krajelewski Agency
Carl P. Leubsdorf and Susan L. Page
Clare Herring and Laurence Platt
Suzanne Schwartz

$250–$499
Jennifer Adkins and Andy Cloud
Hans and Norma Banziger
Beverly Corelle
Dan Costello
Richard and Wanda Drnic
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Michael and Cynthia Headman
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Pete Keenan
Gregory and Mary Koral
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Thomas and Kathleen Lewis
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Stephen and Susan Souls
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Ann and Steve Piron
Gail and Bob Russell
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David Carroll and John Sappington
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Mayor Pat Vovers

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Beth Shank
Joanne Shipley
Ron Smith
Marybeth Sorady
Susan Stringfield
Ray Sander and Sheryl Swed
Michael and Donna Thomas
Jan and Greg Thompson
Carole Toomey
Joan Wallace
E. Lanie Muffin Waters
In Memory of Martha Williams
Lord Baltimore Women’s Club
Bay View Park Association
Fenwick Island Society Homeowners

Up to $75
Colin and Elizabeth Anolick
Geoffrey Bock
Walter Bradford
Bob Brooks
Lawrence A. Brown
Allan Cairncross
Jeffrey Chandross
Glenn Christman
William Cooper
Violette Cousseau
Diana H. Cowell
## Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances—Accrual Basis
September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2013

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in banks</td>
<td>$323,647</td>
<td>$421,575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants receivable—State of Delaware</td>
<td>217,411</td>
<td>209,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>15,220</td>
<td>12,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbilled receivables</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>12,404</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>557,788</strong></td>
<td><strong>655,373</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Property, Plant and Equipment (at cost)

- **Land**: $125,000 (2014), $125,000 (2013)
- **Building**: $872,508 (2014), $872,508 (2013)
- **Furniture and equipment**: $474,840 (2014), $469,517 (2013)

**Total Property and Equipment**: $1,472,348 (2014), $1,467,025 (2013)

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

#### Current Liabilities

- **Accounts Payable**: $26,259 (2014), $97,226 (2013)
- **Payroll taxes**: $920 (2014), $859 (2013)
- **Accrued salaries & benefits**: $37,019 (2014), $32,453 (2013)

**Total Current Liabilities**: $64,198 (2014), $130,538 (2013)

#### Fund Balance

- **Unrestricted**

**Total unrestricted**: $1,358,123 (2014), $1,409,905 (2013)

- **Permanently restricted**: $125,000 (2014), $125,000 (2013)

**Total Fund Balance**: $1,483,123 (2014), $1,534,905 (2013)

* Endowment Fund  ** Protected Land

### EXPENSES AMOUNT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative &amp; Operating</td>
<td>$239,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$116,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>$210,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restoration &amp; Preservation</td>
<td>$443,688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Research</td>
<td>$191,940</td>
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</table>

**Total Expenses**: $1,201,497

### REVENUES AMOUNT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>$561,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>$434,404</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Grants</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$126,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Investment Income</td>
<td>$7,529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue**: $1,149,715

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*Endowment Fund  **Protected Land*
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Photo by Dennis Bartow
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