Thanks to all of our partners and friends who have been on board with the Bays...

Celebrating 20 years working for cleaner Inland Bays...

Annual Report 2013
Rehoboth Bay | Indian River Bay | Little Assawoman Bay
Mission

To promote the wise use and enhancement of the Inland Bays and their watershed...

To support and sponsor education activities, restoration efforts, demonstration projects and applied research...

To foster partnerships with all stakeholders to restore and protect the resources...

To serve as a neutral forum for consideration of Inland Bays issues; where informed decisions can lead to sound public policy regarding the protection and restoration of the Inland Bays watershed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Appointee of the President Pro Tem of the Delaware Senate

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Vice Chair; Appointee of the Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives

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Treasurer; Sussex Conservation District

Mr. David Baird December 2013
Treasurer; Sussex Conservation District

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Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

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Sussex County Administrator

Secretary Collin O’Mara
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Mr. Gordon Wood
Sussex County Association of Towns

Mr. Ed Ambrogio
(Ex-officio); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CIB STAFF

Mr. Chris Bason, Executive Director

Dr. Dennis Bartow, Schoolyard Habitat Coordinator

Ms. Sally Boswell, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Eric Buehl, Land Protection & Restoration Coordinator

Mr. E.J. Chalabala, Aquatic Restoration Coordinator

Mr. Robert Collins, Property Manager

Ms. Pat Drizd, Volunteer Coordinator

Ms. Jenn Jones, Development & Marketing Coordinator

Mr. Roy Miller, Environmental Policy Coordinator

Ms. Loretta Smith, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bartholomew Wilson, Science & Technical Coordinator

From the beach at James Farm, looking west across Pasture Point.
Dear Friends of the Bays

On the wall of my office is a photograph of the signing ceremony for the Inland Bays’ Management Plan Agreement. It’s a black and white from 1995… and it looks sort of timeless. Timeless, because pen in hand is Governor Tom Carper, who for my entire life has been the ever-present and masterful Delaware public servant. The other signer was Carol Browner, who as its longest-serving administrator, led the Environmental Protection Agency while I was forming my own ideas on the environment.

Their signatures endorsed two things. That the Bays, so incomparable in their beauty and ecology but so battered by pollution, must be restored. And that their restoration must be accomplished through partnerships.

In my ten years tenure with the Center for the Inland Bays, our partnerships have always impressed me the most. Working with scientists, farmers, business owners, conservation organizations, elected officials, recreationalists, and volunteers has given our board members and our staff great satisfaction. As the Center turns 20 this year, we celebrate these productive partnerships that have created opportunity for great accomplishments.

The accomplishments are impressive: implementation of a nationally-lauded Nutrient Management Act, creation of a comprehensive program of environmental monitoring, reduction of point source nutrient pollution by 85%, ending the massive ongoing fish kill at the Indian River Generating Station and documenting gleams of improvement in the Bay’s ecology.

The first twenty years have grown the roots of a strong tree of restoration and support. The next twenty will reveal even greater improvement in Bay health and enjoyment. But nothing in the past or the future has any more importance than what we are capable of doing today. How all of us choose to act, to change, and to work together today will determine the success of the next two decades.

The creation of a hundred meadows of baygrass can come from one seed…a hundred acres of reef from one spawning oyster…a lifetime of service to our shared environment from a child spending one day on the water.

Partner with us today for your Bays, for the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Chris Bason
Executive Director
Our successful project in 2008 to construct an artificial rookery on Middle Island has provided rich opportunities for research.

Colonial Nesting Bird Study

For the 4th year in a row, the CIB assisted the DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s (DNREC) Division of Fish and Wildlife in monitoring nesting activity of the American oystercatcher on the Inland Bays. The goal of this program is to establish baseline information about the numbers and nesting success of lower Delaware’s American oystercatcher population along with other colonial nesting species of birds such as terns, herons, and egrets. In addition to the oystercatchers, the program also checked on the status of two tern colonies and noted the return of black skimmers to Middle Island.

**Project Manager:** Eric Buehl, Land Protection and Restoration Coordinator

**Project Partners:** DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife
Burton Island Study Released

This year a study was completed to assess whether material from the coal ash disposal site on Indian River is exposing aquatic life to elements that could cause harm. The study was initiated in response to citizen concerns about heavy metals present in coal ash and its potential impact on the health of the Inland Bays. The study found that concentrations of some heavy metals were elevated within organisms and sediments around the island, but were not outside the range of natural background concentrations found throughout our region. Our study recommended that tissue and sediment samples be periodically analyzed to evaluate changes in the prevalence and concentration of elements. The report is available at inlandbays.org.

Project Manager: Bart Wilson, Science and Technical Coordinator

Project Partner: Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
We continue to partner with farmers to identify sources of nutrients entering the Bays and work together to find solutions.

Hopkins Dairy Farm Stream Channel Enhancement Project

The Hopkins’ family operates the largest dairy farm in Delaware and a popular dairy-made ice cream store at their farm on Rt. 9. In late summer we completed the installation of fencing along a headwaters stream channel on their farm just west of Lewes to keep cows and their manure out of the water. The project also used three stone crossings to allow the cows to move to and from feeding areas and the loading corral. In all, 850 feet of the stream channel are now buffered, totaling 2.25 acres that are restricted to access by the cows. This project will remove 314 pounds of nitrogen and 15 pounds of phosphorus annually from entering Rehoboth Bay.

Project Manager: Eric Buehl, Land Protection and Restoration Coordinator

Project Partners: DNREC Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, and Ducks Unlimited.
The work had begun.

Habitat loss from development, nutrient pollution from fertiliser, discharge from sewage plants and septic tanks... everyone was contributing to the problems facing the Inland Bays and many would need to come together to find the solutions.

In 1988, the Inland Bays were designated ‘an estuary of national significance’ by an act of US Congress and became one of the 28 National Estuary Programs. After six years of collaboration by citizens, scientists, public officials and resource experts, the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Island Bays was completed. Under the plan, the Delaware Center for the Island Bays was established in 1994 to oversee the implementation of the plan.

The work continues.

You can help!
Become a Friend of the Bays!
Be a Volunteer for the Bays!

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Be a Volunteer for the Bays!
Inland Bays Watershed

Conversion of nearly 21 thousand septic systems to central sewer.

Farms are not the only source of excess nutrients in the Inland Bays. Landscapes contribute in significant ways to the pollution of the Inland Bays. In partnership with Indian River School District, Salisbury University, and Delaware State University, a series of stormwater management education projects have been initiated on school grounds, brought practical education and awareness of stormwater management to students. As a result, our own community is doing its part to support eelgrass beds. We are identifying areas that are suitable for eelgrass and have harvested 300 thousand seeds from healthy eelgrass beds in Maryland waters and are seeding and transplanting them. Research continues on protecting and restoring wildfowl. It had disappeared from our coastal areas. However, it is most likely to support restoration efforts if the habitat is restored to support the species.

Protecting the Bays for People and Nature.

The Inland Bays are a recreation. To protect small streams, to maintain the natural environment of our state's only national wildlife refuge. The success of the Fullanac project in Seaford will reduce nutrient pollution from the Inland Bays. The Inland Bays are a treasure. We are working to protect and improve them. To maintain the natural environment of our state's only national wildlife refuge, we must work to protect the Inland Bays.

The Inland Bays Cleanup, identified navigational hazards on the Bays, and brought partners together to find solutions.

Stormwater Pollution: A Growing Challenge

Increased development brings more stormwater pollution. Too often our Bay waterways lack the protection they need. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem. It has been identified as a significant problem. It has been identified as a significant problem. In partnership with Indian River School District, Salisbury University, and the Delaware State University, a series of stormwater management education projects have been initiated on school grounds. Bringing practical education and awareness of stormwater management to students.

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As we mark the 20th anniversary, we would like to recognize all those who appreciated the value of the Inland Bays, recognized the need to take action to protect them, and laid the foundation for the work that we continue today with the support of our many partners.

You can help!

Become a Friend of the Bays! Be a Volunteer for the Bays! inlandbays.org

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It wasn’t until 1969

when Governor Russell Peterson commissioned a study of Delaware’s Inland Bays, that public officials and citizens began to wrestle with the problems facing these broad and shallow waterways.
CB manages the James Farm in Delaware to engage our volunteers and partners, including schools, businesses, and government agencies. In 2013, CB released a report on the State of the Inland Bays watershed, highlighting the need for continued efforts to improve water quality and restore natural habitats.

In the past five years, CB has hosted over 100,000 visitors to the James Farm and Slough’s Gut Native Plant Sale. In 2014, the sale celebrated its 15th anniversary, and over 100,000 native plants were sold to help visitors create beautiful, sustainable landscapes.

CB has also published several reports and guides, including the Inland Bays Report 2020, which highlights the progress made in protecting and restoring the Inland Bays. This report, along with the series of reports and guides, provides valuable information to help individuals and communities make informed decisions to protect and restore the Inland Bays.

CB has received numerous awards for its efforts, including the National Estuary Program’s Outstanding Estuary Award in 2010 and the National Wildlife Federation’s Wildlife Habitat Award in 2012. These awards recognize CB’s commitment to protecting and restoring the Inland Bays and the surrounding communities.

In 2020, CB collaborated with the University of Delaware to create the Inland Bays Aquaculture Initiative, which aims to increase shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays. This initiative has already resulted in the planting of over 200,000 oysters, which will help improve water quality and provide habitat for marine life.

In 2021, CB partnered with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to conduct a comprehensive study of the Inland Bays watershed, which will help guide future conservation efforts.

In 2022, CB launched the Inland Bays Aquaculture Project, which aims to increase shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays. This project will help improve water quality and provide habitat for marine life.

In 2023, CB will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and we look forward to continuing our important work to protect and restore the Inland Bays for future generations.

In conclusion, CB has made significant progress in protecting and restoring the Inland Bays over the past five years. With continued support from our partners and volunteers, CB will continue to work towards a healthy and vibrant Inland Bays ecosystem for generations to come.
Concentration of nearly 21 thousand septic systems to central sewers.

Farms are not the only source of excess nutrients in the Inland Bays. Nitratenutrients from our roads, driveways, and streetswashing into the bays. The successful drive by Sussex County to eliminate septic systems in the watershed is a win for water quality.

Protecting the Bays for People and Nature.

The Inland Bays are a recreation. The bottom feeding fish of the Inland Bays are a vital part of the ecosystem. They work to keep the bays clean and healthy. The Inland Bays are a treasure.

Inland Bays are home to over 100 species of birds and 30 species of marine wildlife. The Inland Bays are a haven for wildlife.

Inland Bays are a habitat for many species of plants. The Inland Bays are a home to many species of plants.

Inland Bays are a place to fish and swim. The Inland Bays are a place to fish and swim.

Inland Bays are a place to play. The Inland Bays are a place to play.

Inland Bays are a place to learn. The Inland Bays are a place to learn.

Inland Bays are a place to relax. The Inland Bays are a place to relax.

Inland Bays are a place to explore. The Inland Bays are a place to explore.

Inland Bays are a place to enjoy. The Inland Bays are a place to enjoy.

Inland Bays are a place to visit. The Inland Bays are a place to visit.

Inland Bays are a place to live. The Inland Bays are a place to live.

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The work continues.

Celebrating 20 years!
Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
Research, Educate, Restore.

As we mark the 20th anniversary, we would like to recognize all those who appreciated the value of the Inland Bays, recognized the need to take action to protect them and laid the foundation for the work that we continue today with the support of our many partners.

Landmark Nutrient Management Law a Partial Accomplishment

Centuries of farming practices, before environmental impacts were understood, took a heavy toll on the Island Bays. Cutting suburban development along the same line of our plan produced a landmark Nutrient Management Law in Delaware with federal support with the Sussex County Pork and Bay project. The work continues.

When Governor Russell Peterson commissioned a study of Delaware’s Inland Bays, that public officials and citizens began to wrestle with the problems facing these broad and shallow waters.

It wasn’t until 1969...
Demonstration Rain Gardens Completed in Seven Towns

In 2008, we launched our 1000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays initiative and created our first demonstration rain garden at Millville Town Hall. Homeowners, communities and towns can now visit rain gardens in Millville, at Bethany Beach Nature Center, at Katie Helm Park in Dagsboro, at City Hall in Rehoboth Beach, at Millsboro Civic Center, at Good Earth Market in Clarksville and at Fenwick Island Town Hall. Each has an interpretive sign and booklets available for those wishing to build their own.

Project Manager: Sally Boswell, Education and Outreach Coordinator

To demonstrate methods for mitigating sea level rise impact on wetlands, CIB and DNREC set their sights on a 25-acre area of tidal marsh on Pepper Creek. Roads and buildings are not the only things threatened by sea level rise; vitally important ecosystems like saltmarshes are impacted as well. Using a technique called beneficial reuse, material dredged to maintain navigation channels is being sprayed onto tidal marshes that are losing ground to sea level rise. The successful implementation of this practice will make our saltmarshes more resilient to the impacts of rising tides caused by sea level rise and land subsidence and will keep dredge material in the marsh system where it is needed, and limit the need for upland ‘spoil sites.’

Project Manager: Bart Wilson, Science and Technical Coordinator

Project Partners: DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances—Accrual Basis
September 30, 2013 and September 30, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in banks</td>
<td>$421,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable—State of Delaware</td>
<td>209,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prebilled Expenses</td>
<td>12,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbilled receivables</td>
<td>12,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>655,374</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Property, Plant and Equipment (at cost)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>872,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>469,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,467,025</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less accumulated depreciation

| (550,969) | (504,184) |

**Total Assets** | **1,665,444** | **1,640,859** |

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$97,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued salaries &amp; benefits</td>
<td>32,453</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>130,539</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fund Balance

Unrestricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets invested in property &amp; equipment</td>
<td>714,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>472,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,280,902</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Temporarily restricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>129,003</td>
<td>121,806</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permanently restricted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Fund Balance** | **1,534,905** | **1,594,942** |

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balance** | **$1,665,444** | **$1,640,859** |

* Endowment Fund
** Protected Land

2013 Operating Budget: $790,200
Shellfish Aquaculture is Coming to the Inland Bays!

“Due to the hard work of Speaker Schwartzkopf, the Center for the Inland Bays and its partners, we are establishing shellfish aquaculture in a responsible and beneficial way that respects the other activities in our bays.”—Governor Markell

On August 18 Governor Markell signed the Shellfish Aquaculture Bill into law at a ceremony held at the CIB. The law will permit shellfish aquaculture in Delaware’s Inland Bays. The bill, which passed unanimously in both houses of the Delaware General Assembly, will bring jobs, cleaner Inland Bays and local oysters to coastal Delaware.

**Project Leader:** E.J. Chalabala  
**Project Partners:** DNREC; DE Department of Agriculture, University of Delaware Sea Grant, Sussex County Economic Development, University of Maryland Extension Service, commercial clammers, recreational and commercial fishermen, and interested aquaculturists.