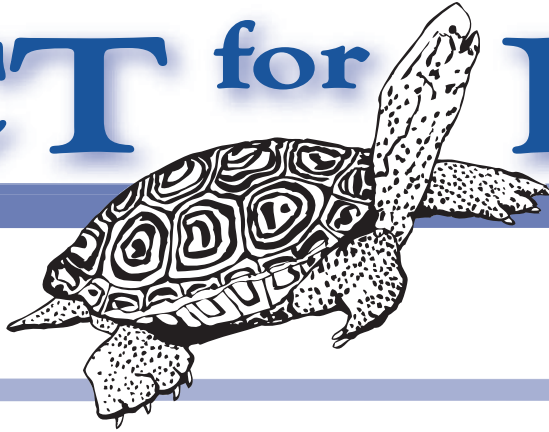


ACT for BAYS



2010 Year in Review
www.ActForBays.org

The newsletter of the
Assateague Coastal Trust

With a Little Help From Our Friends...

2010 has been an extraordinarily challenging year in the area of fundraising, particularly for small nonprofits like ACT that do not accept government funding and depend primarily on foundation grants and contributions from individuals. The national economic downturn of the past several years has caused everyone to tighten their belts, and this is certainly reflected in a marked decrease in donations from our members and friends. Foundations have also experienced significant declines in the value of their endowments, leading to cuts in the number and dollar amount of grants awarded to support our work.

ACT has not been immune to these broader trends, and our revenue stream from all sources (grants, contributions, events) thus far this year has surely slowed. That being said, with some belt tightening of our own and the continued generous support from our most consistent donors and foundation friends, we are doing our best to weather this economic storm and maintain the programs and activities so critical to the health of our waterways



Fall colors on the marsh along Sinepuxent Bay.

and those who depend on them for their livelihood and enjoyment.

The outlook ahead, particularly on the foundation funding front, is not encouraging. Foundation payout trends generally lag a year or two behind broader economic currents, so grant funding is likely to be hard to come by for at least another year.

That is why ACT must continue to rely on the generous support of our members

and friends to fund the operations and programs focused on protecting our precious coastal environment. So please become a member or renew your existing membership, participate in our fundraising events, and give generously to our annual and special appeals.

There's no time like the present! If you received this annual report in the mail, you should have also received our Annual Appeal letter and donation envelope. We urge you to make a generous donation today. If you are reading this on the computer, you can make a donation online through our website at www.actforbays.org.

President's Letter

By: Dr. Tom Jones

Last March, I was elected as the new President of ACT's Board of Directors succeeding the very successful presidency of Jim Rapp who served for four years. Now, after several months of settling into the president's role and becoming involved in all aspects of ACT's mission and management, I look forward to working with all entities of our regional community to protect the quality of Assateague Island and our Coastal Bays environments.

Through Jim Rapp's stewardship and that of our former presidents, Board members and excellent staff, I am pleased to report that I have the good fortune to enter this position at a time when ACT is in good financial health and more active in the environmental welfare of our region than ever!

Our **COASTKEEPER**, Kathy Phillips, continues to intensify her efforts in being on the water patrolling our coastal bays and tributaries monitoring and reporting on water quality and development activities that affect our watershed's quality. Her efforts have been recognized with external funding to support these activities. On the legislative scene, she spent as many days in Annapolis last spring testifying on and monitoring the progress of legislation that would affect our watershed as she did on *(Continued on Page 2)*

Give a Coast Kids Membership for Christmas (or earlier)

Discounted memberships for just \$15.00 are available running December 2010 – April 2011

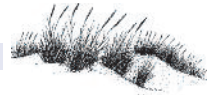
Christmas Membership Includes:

- 4 to 5 free Coast Kids events
- 5 Coast Cards
- 1 Coast Kids T-shirt
- 1 dip net

To sign up, please go to actforbays.org/coastkids

coast kids
ASSATEAGUE COASTAL TRUST





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Steve Farr

Coast Kids Program Director:

Verena Chase

Editor:

Kim Fehrer

The Assateague Coastal Trust

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Non-Profit Organization.

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Donor List

We would like to offer special thanks to the following organizations and individuals who supported ACT with contributions of \$200 or more in 2010:

Foundations & Organizations *Castle in the Sand • Chesapeake Bay Trust • Choptank Electric Trust • Cliff Dwellers Garden Club • Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences • Delmarva Power • E. Bowen & Frances Hyde Quillin Fdn. • Frazier Foundation • Green Room Fine Wine & Cold Beer • International Paper Foundation • Keith Campbell Foundation • Marisla Foundation • Maryland Coastal Bays Program • Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation • Norcross Wildlife Foundation • OC Wasabi PNC Bank • Peninsula Printing, Inc. • SIMA Environmental Fund • Town Creek Foundation Vanguard Group Foundation*

Individual Donations (\$1,000 +) *Robert Dwight • Sandra Frazier • Christopher Johnson & Holiday Phelan • Ken & Elsie MacMullin • Pam & Macky Stansell*

Individual Donations (\$500–\$999) *Thomas Jones • Vincent Smeriglio & Ann Koontz Richard Wechsler & DeWitt Crosby*

Individual Donations (\$200–\$499) *Charles & Voncelia Brown • Rebecca Carbaugh Catherine W. Cooper • Joseph & Kimberly Fehrer • Louise Gulyas • David Harvey • William G. & Christine S. Jones • William & Joleen Killinger • Valerie Murphy • Richard Nieman • Elizabeth A. O'Connor • Kenneth Palmer • Kenneth & Stacy Paulsen • Jeff & Kathy Phillips • Ron & Pat Pilling • David & Kim Quillin • Courtney Schupp • Timothy Thornton • Alice Tweedy*

ACT 2009 IRS 990 can be viewed at <http://www.actforbays.org>

President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)



Dr. Tom Jones with students aboard the Rachel Carson.

her **COASTKEEPER** boat. This fall she was instrumental in organizing two candidate forums to help inform us on our local candidates' qualifications and views on issues that affect our environment. And through legal action, she and the **WATERKEEPER** Alliance continue to press for better nutrient and sediment management within our agricultural and construction industries.

Another individual who has met with significant success this year is our Development Director, Steve Farr. With the quantity and quality of successful applications he has produced recently, long time members on the Board think that Steve has raised more private dollars than anyone in the organization's history! However, while receiving grant funding is vital to enable ACT to expand its ability to meet its mission, I want to stress that expanding our membership base is more important than ever.

We need you who are reading this Annual Report to work with us in increasing ACT's membership. When the **COASTKEEPER** goes to fight for better environmental regulations – whether it's at a county council meeting or at the legislature in Annapolis – having ACT represented by more members (voters) forces the decision makers to pay heed.

I've worked in marine science for over 35 years, with much of my research having been on the Chesapeake Bay and the Maryland Coastal Bays. I, as well as many of you, have been witness to the changes that have occurred in these systems since the 1970s, or earlier. I have seen ecological recovery of damaged environmental systems in my time, but only hard work and perseverance reversed the damages done to those bodies of water. We all must be diligent in finding better ways to live, work, and play without negatively impacting our surrounding environment.

Organizations like ACT, working in conjunction with all other willing partners, can help lead the way to make this a reality for our future generations. Thank you for your support of the Assateague Coastal Trust and its mission.

Assateague Coastal Trust's mission is to protect and enhance the natural resources of the Atlantic Coastal Bays watershed through advocacy, conservation and education.



ASSATEAGUE
COASTKEEPER®

COASTKEEPER's Corner

By: Kathy Phillips, Assateague COASTKEEPER

The COASTKEEPER conducted boat patrols of Assawoman Bay, St. Martin River, Isle of Wight Bay, Herring Creek, Turville Creek, Newport Bay, Chincoteague Bay (MD & VA) from April to October 2010. The weekly patrols consisted of on-the-water monitoring for critical area clearing violations, water pollution, construction stormwater runoff pollution, and observations of general health of these watersheds.

Off the water, the COASTKEEPER spent her year as a participating member of the Maryland Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE.) The CCE mission is to act as a strategic coordinating entity to ensure legislative and policy victories for the environment. This collegial body will share strengths and strategy to maximize legislative and policy successes.

As a second year member of the Maryland Stormwater Consortium, the COASTKEEPER continued her clean water advocacy efforts by attending meetings related to statewide and local stormwater issues, and participated in the county and municipal process of updating local stormwater ordinances in an effort to encourage stronger regulations in the Coastal Bays watersheds.

During the 2010 Maryland Legislative Session the COASTKEEPER provided oral testimony to House and Senate environmental legislative committees on Stormwater regulations, Critical Area regulations, and efforts to enact a statewide ban on the use of Arsenic in poultry feed.

In March of 2010 the COASTKEEPER and ACT filed a Clean Water Act lawsuit in Federal Court against Perdue Farms, Inc and one of its contracted growers, for discharge violations resulting in nutrient and bacteria pollution to the Pocomoke River. The lawsuit survived a motion to dismiss by the defendants and the case will go to trial in early 2011.

In April, the COASTKEEPER filed a Public Information Act Request with the MD Dept. of Agriculture to access public documents related to the State financed 'Manure Management Program.' The request sought a number of records related to large-scale poultry operations, including waste management plans, enforcement records and manure-transport program details. It was the latest action in a continuing effort by COASTKEEPER and ACT to bring some much-needed transparency to Maryland's unaccountable and poorly overseen Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) industry. As of October 2010 MDA failed to produce the documents

and COASTKEEPER filed an action in District Court to force access to the documents.

Shortly after the BP Horizon disaster, the COASTKEEPER began participation in weekly conference calls by US Coast Guard Region Response Team District III (RRTIII) to monitor how the response was being managed in the Gulf and to participate in regional discussions related to 'pre-spill' planning along the Mid-Atlantic Coast should Gulf currents carry the oil into the Atlantic Ocean.

This led the COASTKEEPER to take 40 hours of training in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) to be certified to assist in hazardous waste spills in our watershed. The COASTKEEPER is now part of efforts within RRTIII to improve pre-spill planning and organization on Delmarva, lending on-the-ground (and water!) advice related to designation of sensitive areas to be protected, and volunteer coordination, in the event of a catastrophic oil spill along the Delmarva coastal shoreline.

During the 2010 annual WATERKEEPER Alliance Conference, held in La Paz, B.C. Mexico, the COASTKEEPER was a panel speaker for a CAFO litigation workshop, and participated in various workshops related to water quality monitoring, Clean Water Act litigation, oil spill response training and illicit discharge monitoring. ACT President Tom Jones also

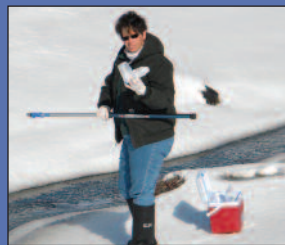
attended the international conference, taking a WATERKEEPER orientation program and attending several workshops. Both participated in a large trash clean up at an environmentally sensitive public beach area and enjoyed a day of snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez with sea lions!

The COASTKEEPER has initiated an effort to assist residents along Herring and Turville Creeks concerned about water quality as a result of commercial operation of an amusement ride-type jet boat in the shallow back creeks off Isle of Wight Bay. She kept water quality monitoring data and presented this to Worcester County and State officials in an effort to find a solution to the problem of marsh degradation and water quality impaired by floating sediment stirred up by the fast moving boats. We are working towards removing commercial jet boat amusement rides from the shallow back creeks and advocating putting them out on the ocean or into less environmentally sensitive areas of the open Bays.

(Continued on Page 5)



COASTKEEPER boat with trash hauled from critical nesting habitat during 2010 Coastal Clean Up.



Assateague COASTKEEPER grabbing water samples.



ACT Board member Joe Fehrer in hazmat gear at HAZWOPER training.



COASTKEEPER (center) at 2010 WATERKEEPER conference with CAFO team members (l-r) Tess Sanders, Robert Kennedy, Jr., author David Kirby, & Rick Dove.





2010 Events & Activities



ACT Worcester County Commissioner Candidate Forum, Snow Hill, MD.



Environmental Site Design stormwater planning and citizen advocacy workshop, held in Ocean Pines.



A rain garden is installed in Stephen Decatur Park, Berlin, to aid in stormwater runoff and flooding.



Helping to install and plant more flooding controls with a rain garden at the Berlin Germantown School project.



ACT and COASTKEEPER displays and t-shirt sales at Coast Day 2010.



ACT volunteers for 2010 Coastal Clean Up activity in Isle of Wight Bay.



Assateague Coastal Trust on display at Maryland Coast Day 2010.

Annual Beach Walk
 January 1, 2011 • 1:00 pm
 Assateague State Park

Welcome to The
Ilia Fehrer & Judy Johnson
Memorial Beach Walk

Please Save The Date



Grow Berlin Green

2010 marked the second year of the Grow Berlin Green (GBG) campaign, an effort to establish our home town of Berlin, Maryland as a model community for participatory environmental protection, conservation and smart growth policy and practice. The campaign is managed by a coalition of Assateague Coastal Trust, Lower Shore Land Trust and Maryland Coastal Bays Program, but it is driven by community education, empowerment and action.

Objectives of the GBG campaign are to:

- Educate and engage citizens and public officials in Berlin;
- Promote and facilitate community action to achieve measurable impact on a range of environmental and conservation priorities;
- Build broad-based community capacity for a sustainable movement to protect, promote and enhance the environmental quality of the Berlin area.

Desired outcomes of the GBG campaign include:

- Increased understanding, engagement and activism among citizens and policymakers in community's environmental challenges and solutions;
- Increased conservation and quality of natural resources;
- Improved natural resources management infrastructure (e.g., stormwater, wastewater);
- Reduced waste stream and increased recycling; and
- Smart Growth principles manifested on the ground (e.g., no sprawl, preserved open space, improved & expanded biking/walking trails, etc.)

2010 has been a busy and productive year for GBG. A sampling of our activities and accomplishments includes:

- Educated the community through meetings, media and community events;
- Distributed re-usable shopping bags to reduce use of disposable plastic bags;



Human powered smoothies on the Blender Bike!



Berlin's new Commercial recycling bin, a GBG initiative.



Berlin Intermediate School students participating in a GBG Learning Service Assembly.

- Built and distributed more than 80 rain barrels for households;
- Led several community cleanup events;
- Installed and maintained four rain gardens;
- Established downtown business recycling program & community Terracycling initiative;
- Promoted energy conservation with local schools, including distribution of compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) to students;
- Contributed to development and advocated for adoption of new Comprehensive Plan for the Town, including proposals for protected open space perimeter "greenbelt";
- Participated in establishment and promoted adoption of Town's first stormwater management ordinance; and
- Commissioned study to explore innovative approaches to Town stormwater challenges.

Underlying all of these accomplishments is a fabric of strong partnerships (with the schools, downtown businesses, municipal government) that has facilitated our work and established a foundation of mutual support and shared interests that will continue to propel the project in the months and years ahead. Our partnership with the Town government is worthy of special mention. Starting with the Mayor and Council and branching out to all of the town departments (e.g., Public Works, Planning & Zoning, Economic Development), the town has embraced our cause as its own and has been a critical resource in virtually all of our activities.

We must also extol the contributions of our volunteers. Whether it be helping to staff our information booths at special events, building rain barrels or pedaling our bike-powered blender, engaged citizens are, and will continue to be the lifeblood of the initiative.

For more information on Grow Berlin Green or to explore volunteer opportunities, please contact Debbi Colley at 410-629-1538 or grow-berlingreen@hotmail.com.

COASTKEEPER's Corner...

(Continued from Page 3)

During the 2010 International Coastal CleanUp, the **COASTKEEPER** and two volunteers removed 200+ pounds of plastic and trash from Skimmer Island, an important shorebird breeding habitat in Isle of Wight Bay. The trash collected was displayed in the **COASTKEEPER** boat during Maryland Coast Day activities on Assateague Island later that day.

COASTKEEPER Projects slated for 2011: Swimmable Bays - a weekly water quality monitoring of recreational areas of the northern Coastal Bays and reporting bacteria levels as a public service.

Operation Medicine Cabinet – a grassroots project to collect unused medications in order to keep pharmaceuticals out of our sewage systems and waterways, and disposed of properly.

Partnering with Food and Water Watch and Environment Maryland in a statewide campaign during the 2011 Legislative Session to ban the use of Arsenic in poultry feed.

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Assateague Coastal Trust & Assateague COASTKEEPER



Assateague COASTKEEPER



coast kids Report & Photo Gallery

ASSATEAGUE COASTAL TRUST

Another terrific year of Coast Kids adventures is coming to an end. Early in the year we compared sizes of whale species, took nature walks at Chincoteague and Milburn Landing, touched live snakes and box turtles shown to us from DNR's Scales and Tales program, and built a rain garden at the Stephen Decatur Park. Then Coast Kids learned how to fish and scoop pond creatures on their first Coast Kids family camping weekend. That night Coast Kids listened to ghost stories and looked at the stars while savoring their smores around the camp fire. Another great event was a visit at Gordon's shellfish farm and crabbing at Public Landing. Fall/winter events will include planting trees and shrubs in downtown Berlin, building nesting boxes for native bees, and taking a tour of the new visitor center at Assateague Island NS.

Thanks to the help of volunteers Lesley Leader and Kim Quillin, and the graphic expertise of M. Scott Oatman, members enjoyed monthly large-format postcards ("Coast Cards") featuring local creatures such as horseshoe crabs, moon jellies, and spring peepers, and habitats such as cypress swamp, and rain garden. For Halloween, the Coast Card presented the "Three Clams Horror Story" illustrating three ways that predators might eat a clam for supper.

It has been a busy and fun Coast Kids year, although membership numbers were lower than in previous years. Next year the Coast Kids program will transform in some ways. In addition to monthly events for members, we will offer school programs to Kindergarten, elementary and middle school age children to reach out to a broader audience.

Thanks to all supporters.

Verena Chase,
Coast Kids Program Director



Ixchel Aguilar-Moore crabbing at Public Landing



Oliver Leader and Katie Mahler sizing up whale ribs.



Lila Quillin jumping from Public Landing pier.



Faith Joyce camping at the Hazel Outdoor Center.



Kersten Paulsen decorating a kite on the beach on Assateague.



Guiliana Cascio & Benny Chase crafting funny bird masks at Coast Day.



Lily Jones feels skin of Eastern Kingsnake shown by the Scales and Tales program.



Meet The Board

(please read full introductions on our website actforbays.org)

K. King Burnett is a partner at the law firm Webb, Burnett, Jackson, Cornbrooks, Wilbur, Vorhis and Douse. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Bar Foundation and its Executive Committee, a member of the Maryland Bar Association, and a Trustee of the Lower Shore Land Trust. Mr. Burnett acts as counsel to the Assateague Coastal Trust and has been a member of its Board of Directors since 1975.

Keith Campbell is President of the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment. Mr. Campbell is an avid fisherman, enjoys surfing off Assateague Island, as well as diving and snorkeling. His interests include estuarine ecology, oysters and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

Joseph W. Fehrer, Jr. is a past President of ACT. Joe now works for the MD/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy as the Coastal and Lower Shore Project Manager, and works to further the Conservancy's strategic goals on the Lower Eastern Shore and along Maryland's coast, including the coastal bays.

Sandra Frazier has a special interest in native plants and wildlife habitat education and implementation. She has worked in human resources and court counseling, and for fifteen years as a psychotherapist in clinical and private settings.

Tom Jones, ACT's current President, is a Professor Emeritus of Biology at Salisbury University (SU). Tom served as the Dean of the Richard A. Henson School of Science and Technology at SU, and was the Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs at SU.

Bill Killinger has lived and worked in Baltimore as a chemist and retired to Worcester County, drawn to the region for its natural beauty and species diversity. He has volunteered his time speaking to school children on a variety of topics including horseshoe crabs, oyster reefs, the Chesapeake and Coastal bays watersheds, and ways that they can protect and preserve natural resources.

Ken MacMullin, ACT Vice-President, worked as a commercial artist and owned a small business. A member of the **COAST-KEEPER** Steering Committee, Mr. MacMullin was instrumental in helping launch the **COASTKEEPER** program in 2002.

Robert K. McIntosh is an attorney in Berlin, MD. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Dickinson College and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. His areas of interest include water quality and habitat preservation. He serves as legal advisor to Assateague Coastal Trust.

Dr. Madhumi Mitra is currently an Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Dr. Mitra is actively involved in research and teaching in the fields of biology, geology, environmental and marine sciences, and pedagogy. Her research on "Seaweeds and Human Health" has received national and international recognition.

Abhijit Nagchaudhuri is currently a Professor in the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences at University of Maryland Eastern Shore and is actively involved in teaching and research in the fields of applied mechanics, robotics, image processing, precision agriculture, geospatial information technology, remote sensing systems and control, and design of mechanical and mechatronic systems.

Richard Nieman worked in the accounting field in Baltimore before moving to Ocean Pines in 1990. He is an active member of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club, the Maryland Saltwater Sportsfishermen Association and was instrumental in helping to pass Maryland legislation to ban hydraulic clam dredging operations in our Coastal Bays.

Mary Ochse is very active in the Ocean City business community. She is a member of Worcester County Concerned Citizens, Concerned Citizens of Church Branch, and the Citizens Advisory and Water Quality Subcommittees of Maryland Coastal Bays Program. Her areas of interest include Ocean City and Worcester County policies related to smart growth and economic and environmental sustainability, and water quality,

Ronald Pilling, ACT Treasurer, has served as President, Vice President and Treasurer of the ACT Board during his 12-year tenure. He earned a B.S. degree in economics from the University of Maryland and a MBA from Morgan University. Pilling divides his time between Bishopville, Maryland, on the St. Martin River, and Baltimore. When not in either of those residences he can be found in Snow Hill, launching paddlers into the Pocomoke River, and building and restoring small wooden boats.

Kim Quillin teaches biology at Salisbury University and is a coauthor of a college biology textbook, Biological Science, published by Pearson. After receiving her B.A. in Biology from Oberlin College and her Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Quillin returned to her family homestead on Sinepuxent Bay. She joined the ACT Board in 1999 and founded the Coast Kids program in 2002, serving as Director until 2009.

Jim Rapp, ACT's Past-President, is the former Executive Director of Delmarva Low-Impact Tourism Experiences (DLITE) and the Salisbury Zoo. His areas of expertise include wildlife management, habitat preservation, and public outreach. Jim enjoys paddling and birding in the coastal bays watershed.

Courtney Schupp, ACT Secretary. Her research and professional experience has focused mainly on barrier island dynamics, shoreline erosion, near-shore geomorphology, coastal engineering, science education, and grant writing. She currently works as a coastal geologist for Assateague Island National Seashore.

Christopher Tilghman is a lifelong resident of Worcester County, studied Marine Biology at Florida State University and is an avid fisherman, surfer and certified PADI diver. He volunteers time and support to the Eastern Surfing Association, Surfriider Foundation, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the American Sportfishing Association and the Ocean City Marlin Club.

Harry Womack is Professor of Biology at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. The coastal bays first became an abiding interest in the early 1980s, when he began working with aquaculture in the Chincoteague Bay. He has led many classes and research projects on the bays and is primarily interested in water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, and regional development impacts. He enjoys fishing, clamming and exploring on the bays and barrier islands.



Assateague Coastal Trust
P.O. Box 731
Berlin, MD 21811

**For Protecting Our Bays, It's All About
Donations, Donations, Donations**

Times are tough and we need your help.
Please contribute to our Annual Appeal.
Send in your donation envelope,
or Donate online at www.actforbays.org.

Stay informed by giving us your email!

For most of the year, we are going paperless,
so if you want to know how we are helping the
bays and how you can keep helping ACT,
include your email address with your donation.



Winter morning on the marshes of Assateague Island.