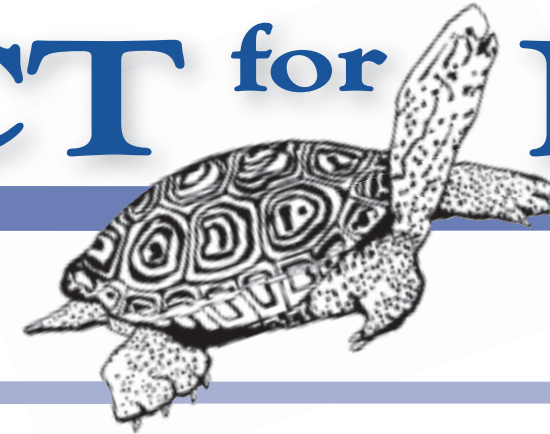




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ACT for BAYS



Winter 2009
www.ActForBays.org

The newsletter of the
Assateague Coastal Trust

Ilia Fehrer & Judy Johnson Memorial New Year's Day Beach Walk

Assateague Island National Seashore Ranger Chris Seymour has led the Annual New Years Day Beach Walk on Assateague Island for over twenty years. This year he has chosen "Change" for the theme of the 2009 walk, which begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Assateague State Park parking lot on New Year's Day.



National Park Ranger Chris Seymour addresses crowd of 300 at Ilia Fehrer-Judy Johnson '08 Beachwalk

If there is a place where the physical landscape reinforces the notion of constant change, and sadly exhibits how the recent impact of mankind does not always produce positive change, one need look no farther from home than to the barrier islands that protect our shorelines.

"It isn't just the high tide line that changes on a barrier island," Ranger Seymour explained. "Witness the growing population of brown pelicans that nests behind Assateague. No one saw pelicans here fifty years ago."

"Also," he added, "We rethink our ideas of how to make the best use of resources like barrier islands. Were it not for folks like Judy Johnson and Ilia Fehrer, for example, Assateague may today be the home to fewer birds and more motels. That was a significant change of mind."

Johnson founded the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island,

dedicated to the preservation of the island as a natural sanctuary. The Committee is still in business, as Assateague Coastal Trust, with a strong mission of environmental activism.

Fehrer was among the state's most celebrated environmentalists. She was the first recipient of the county's Osprey Award, commemorating environmental wisdom and volunteerism.

ACT co-sponsors the annual "Ilia Fehrer and Judy Johnson Memorial New Year's Day Beach Walk" with the Assateague Island National Seashore. In doing so, it commemorates the legacies of these two remarkable women.

Over two hundred walkers typically join Ranger Seymour and ACT volunteers every year and stroll north, stopping along the way to observe the birds and the dunes. The total course is about three miles long, covering both State and National Park Service terrain, but walkers can turn around whenever they wish. When they return they find hot cocoa and cookies waiting.

"This is a great event for beach lovers and nature lovers alike," said ACT President Jim Rapp. "We're looking for a big, enthusiastic crowd this year."

ACT Welcomes New Board Member Ms. Pam Stansell

ACT is pleased to announce that Pam Stansell has joined our Board this fall. Pam and Macky Stansell, owners of Macky's Bayside Restaurant in Ocean City, have both been very active volunteers in the Worcester County and Ocean City communities for many years and Pam's experience serving on local Boards for Coastal Hospice, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program will bring a wealth of resources to Assateague Coastal Trust.

Pam and Macky have donated a slip at the 54th St. marina to the COASTKEEPER® for the past two years, which has allowed us to keep our 24' pontoon boat in the water and available for patrols, education and tours the past two summers.

Pam's commitment to clean water and a healthy coastal bays environment, and her endorsement of the mission of the COASTKEEPER program, has brought her to ACT and we're excited to have her as part of the team!

Assateague Coastal Trust Newsletter Going Paperless

This may be the last ACT newsletter you will receive in the mail. No, we're not going away, we're just going paperless. In order to conserve resources (money and trees), all future newsletters will be posted on our website (www.actforbays.org) for green viewing by all of our members and friends. We will send out email notices when the latest editions are posted to the website so you can get the news hot off the ethereal presses.

For those of you who would still prefer to receive your ACT newsletter by "regular" mail, we will be happy to accommodate you. Just call the office (410-629-1538) or send an email to Steve at development@actforbays.org and tell us that you want it in the mail.

How you can protect the coastal bays watershed:

This is an important time for Assateague Coastal Trust. With increasing environmental challenges in the coastal bays area, we are redoubling our efforts to fight for clean water, open space, and controlled growth. But we can only do this with your help. Please consider joining Assateague Coastal Trust as a member or a volunteer and help preserve our magnificent coastal resources.

How YOU can help protect the coastal bays watershed:

Renew your membership.

Please join Assateague Coastal Trust or renew your membership today by completing the membership form and mailing it to us. We appreciate your support!

Volunteer.

Volunteering time is a great way to make a difference. Just send us an email to mail@actforbays.org or mail in a membership form & let us know what activities you enjoy (gardening, teaching, working with kids, helping in the office). We look forward to working with you!

Yes, I want to join ACT!

- \$30 Introductory (first time individual member)
- \$15 Student
- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$50 Non-profit organization
- \$100 Steward
- \$250 Guardian
- \$300 Corporate
- \$1000 Lifetime
- \$_____ Additional Contribution
- Please send me a membership form for Coast Kids (also available at www.actforbays.org)

Please make your check payable to Assateague Coastal Trust and mail to: **Assateague Coastal Trust**

P.O. Box 731 Berlin, MD 21811

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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The Assateague Coastal Trust is a 501.c.3. Tax Deductible Non-Profit Organization.

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President's Message

By Jim Rapp

For this edition of the ACT President's Report, I would like to feature a column written by Dr. Linwood Pendleton, Director of the Coastal Ocean Values Center. We are working to bring Dr. Pendleton to our region for a month-long residency in summer 2009. The purpose of the residency is to help us collect and analyze data about the ways people use our coastal bays and ocean.

Jim Rapp, ACT President

People have caused great harm to our coastal ocean environment. People also will provide the vision, funding, and know-how to solve these problems, restore and protect the coast and provide a new type of management that will make sure the our coastal environment is one in which people and nature collaborate to maximize the societal value of the coast and ocean.

Despite the obvious role people play in shaping the physical and ecological condition of the coastal ocean, our understanding of how to incorporate human activities into coastal management is primitive. The number of ways people interact and impact the coast is almost uncountably large. Recent initiatives to collect data about the way people use coastal oceans include offshore energy, fishing, maritime shipping, recreation, and conservation. Add to that home values, coastal protection, oxygen production, mining, tourism, aquaculture and mariculture, human culture and heritage values, open space, and climate control – and that's just a start. Even one obvious type of coastal use – beach going – really is a conglomerate of dozens of types of distinct uses: including swimming, beachcombing, kite flying and bird watching. With so many types of human uses, where do we start if we want to collect and analyze good information about human uses for coastal management?

Historically, we have turned to available data to tell us what human uses we should attempt to measure for coastal management. We've asked academia to tell us what analysis we need. While it is important to have a firm grounding in the existing data and tools, this is just a small part of determining what human uses we need to measure and how we want to measure them.

A visionary architect does not look in her tool bag to imagine the house she wants to build. She walks the land, talks to the client, the contractor, the carpenter, and the landscaper; she works with the permitting office and talks to neighbors. The visionary architect understands that what is technically feasible may not be what is most needed; the materials available may not be the materials that build the most cost-effective home. Unfortunately, in most cases, coastal management has used available tools and data to determine how best to incorporate humans into management decisions. As a result, we know a lot about fishing and ports and almost nothing about the local economic impact of nature and ocean tourism, shoreline protection, ecosystem services, and recreation. We've conducted valuation exercises in places where we don't even have a baseline of human activity; we've created complicated ecosystem services models even when we don't have local data on ecosystem uses.

There are promising opportunities to collect and analyze information about the way people use Maryland's coastal ocean ecosystem. We need a broad vision to help determine: what human use data are most needed to understand and manage change in the coastal ecosystem; what human uses will be most affected by management; what uses are most likely to benefit or be constrained by better management; and what societal goals can be best met through better coastal management.

Linwood Pendleton

*Senior Fellow and Director of Economic Research
 The Ocean Foundation, Director of the Coastal Ocean Values Center*

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

ACT Photo Gallery



COASTKEEPER boat used for DNR birding survey.



ACT and Coast Kids at the Berlin Fall Festival.



COASTKEEPER does an aerial patrol of the watershed.



Jim Rapp moderates at the ACT Berlin Candidate Forum.



ACT hosts Gerald Winegrad at SU for water quality lecture.

Calendar of Events

Assateague Coastal Trust wishes all our members and friends a very happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year!

**Coast Kids:
 Build a Screech Owl House**
 Saturday, December 13th, 2008
 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Coast Kids: Christmas Parades
 Berlin Christmas Parade
 Thursday, December 4th, 2008 - 7 p.m.
 OC Christmas Parade
 Saturday, December 6th, 2008 - 11 a.m.

**Ilia Fehrer-Judy Johnson
 New Year's Day
 29th Annual Beachwalk**
 Thursday, January 1st, 2009 - 1:00 p.m.

Walk the beach with National Park Service ranger Chris Seymour. After the walk, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies. The event begins at the Assateague State Park concession building and is free of charge. Bundle up and bring your family and friends, rain or shine!

**Legislative Kick-Off Event
 (formerly called the Environmental Summit)**
 Monday, January 26th, 2009 in Annapolis
 Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis with short VIP Speeches at 5:30, followed by launch of the CCE legislative agenda and concluding with a rally and show of force at Lawyer's Mall at 7:30.

ACT Annual Dinner
 Friday, March 7th, 2009

At the Golden Sands in Ocean City.
 For further information and to make reservations for this exciting event, please contact the ACT office at 410 629-1538 or email staff@actforbays.org

Check ACT's website
www.ActForBays.org
 for details on these events & others.

Join ACT's e-mail list to stay up to date on important news and events.

To join, please send an e-mail to mail@actforbays.org



Development Digest

This is the season, huh? If you're like me, visiting the mailbox during the holidays can be vexing. Oh goodie, ten more catalogs from the same people who sent 'em last week! Ooh, and here are five more solicitations from organizations I've never heard of! Sure, it's better to give than receive, but times are tough and I can only give so much (after I make a donation to ACT, of course).

Philanthrophobia? Donoritis? Call it what you will, but it's a common affliction this time of year. And believe it or not, the affliction is not just limited to the givers. We the askers are feeling it these days too.

Yes, we really do need your support. And yes, your generous donations will be invested wisely to help protect the coastal bays we all cherish. And yes, you probably have already heard (or read) me asking for your help three times since October.

So NO, I'm not going to ask for your money again.....this time. Instead, I'm going to do some giving myself. So in the spirit of the season, here are three things you can do to support ACT's mission (without reaching for your checkbook), make our world a better place, and maybe even save a few bucks for yourself.

Conserve Water And Energy

Stormwater runoff is a leading source of pollution and some of it likely comes from your property. You can help stem this dirty tide by capturing runoff from your roof in a rain barrel, and then using it to water your garden. Place native plant buffers or build a rain garden to absorb stormwater flow before it hits the street or

ditches around your yard. Turn off lights, computers and appliances (or better yet, unplug them) when not in use. Install a programmable thermostat, or just turn the heat down whenever you can. Many more conservation tips and activities will be featured in our Grow Berlin Green campaign set to launch in early 2009.

Get Involved In Local Issues

Citizen participation is more than just voting. It's what public officials do after getting elected that makes the difference and it's our job to hold them accountable. So stay informed about local issues, attend local hearings and make sure your elected officials hear your voice. If we don't already have it, make sure we have your email address and we'll keep you informed about policy matters affecting the Coastal Bays watershed and what you can do to help.

Volunteer Your Time

We will have some great volunteer opportunities in the coming months, including monitoring construction sites for sediment laden runoff under our Get the Dirt Out program (see article in this newsletter) and various conservation activities through our Grow Berlin Green campaign set to launch in early 2009. Just call us at 410-629-1538 and we'll find a way for you to invest your time for the betterment of the bays. If you don't live on the shore, there are sure to be lots of local volunteer opportunities for you to explore.

Okay, I feel better now. Thanks for hearing me out...and for your support!!!

Be a GET THE DIRT OUT COASTAL BAYS Volunteer!

Beginning this winter, the Assateague COASTKEEPER will be launching the Coastal Bays component of a project to tackle contamination of our waterways from polluted sediment runoff associated with construction activities.

Through this innovative project called GET THE DIRT OUT-CHESAPEAKE/COASTAL BAYS (GTDO), WATERKEEPERS from across the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays watersheds will investigate and study Maryland's measures and controls to reduce stormwater runoff from construction sites and the resulting improvement to water quality.

At the core of this project are volunteer citizen monitors who will take the lead in monitoring construction sites in their local areas. *We are seeking volunteers from Worcester County, MD and Northern Accomack County, VA to be trained as GTDO Monitors.*

ACT and the WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE coalition will provide training workshops and educational materials developed

specifically for citizen monitors. During the project, the coalition and its citizen monitors will perform site investigations in targeted areas, documenting Best Management Practices effectiveness, as well as local government and Maryland Department of Environment enforcement.

Local Monitoring Teams will be provided with:

- Training in Maryland's Sediment & Erosion Control standards;
- Training for local monitoring; and
- Field Manual and monitoring reports

You must be 16 or older to volunteer and will need to have your own digital camera, computer and basic computer skills in digital photo files and email.

So help us to keep our waters clean by volunteering as a GTDO monitor. If you're interested, please call the ACT office at 410-629-1538 or email Steve at development@actforbays.org. Training workshops will begin in December or January.

ACT Board Members Appointed to Key County Boards

Bill Killinger, long time ACT Board member, was recently appointed to the Worcester County Shoreline Commission where he will advise and oversee the approval process in this county for piers and shoreline stabilization. His guidance and expertise will be an asset to this important Commission.

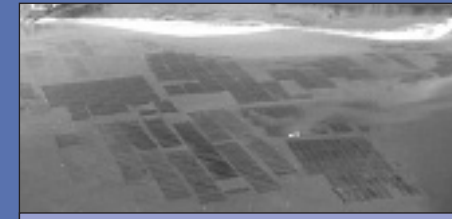
And George Parker, one of ACT's newer Board members has been appointed to the Accomack County Wetlands Board, where he will be involved in county decisions regarding shoreline construction of piers and shoreline stabilization that can have impacts on crucial wetland habitats in the Chincoteague Bay watershed.



COASTKEEPER's Corner

by Kathy Phillips, Assateague COASTKEEPER

During the spring of 2008, the Assateague COASTKEEPER protested two Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) hard clam bottom lease applications. Not because the COASTKEEPER was opposed to commercial aquaculture in the Coastal Bays – indeed the industry should be supported – but rather because we took exception to the process and procedures the Department of Natural Resources had in place to approve bottom leases in the Coastal Bays. There was no management plan and no way to resolve user conflicts along the shorelines of the bays. Protesting a bottom lease application was our only avenue to bring these issues to the forefront.



Clam aquaculture beds in VA coastal bays.

In May 2008 MDNR Secretary John Griffin created the Coastal Bays Aquaculture Development Workgroup (ADW), and the Assateague COASTKEEPER, along with nine other appointees representing current bottom lease holders, government, shoreline property owners, fishing, hunting and environmental organizations, was appointed to the ADW.

The workgroup was charged with recommending strategies to the MDNR to support the development of aquaculture in Maryland's Coastal Bays, specifically to identify the obstacles to aquaculture operations, identify the opportunities to support aquaculture and, most importantly, to provide strategies to minimize user conflicts.

The Coastal Bays of Maryland are listed by EPA as 303d impaired bodies of water. Farming of clams and oysters on the floor of the shallow bays is known to help improve water quality. Aquaculture farming could provide a local industry for Worcester County MD watermen. However, the Coastal Bays support a diverse use of its shorelines from heavy residential development, to vast acres of shoreline preserved in rural legacy programs, to the pristine back country marshes of the Assateague Island National Seashore.

The COASTKEEPER has focused on preserving the public's right to access along the shoreline of the Coastal Bays while encouraging MDNR to develop zones of the State owned bottom that would support commercial aquaculture with minimal user conflicts. The COASTKEEPER has also pushed for a more open process in advertising bottom lease applications and has encouraged MDNR to provide better public awareness of the bottom lease program in order to minimize protests during the application process.

With pressure from Governor O'Malley to build an aquaculture industry in the Coastal Bays sooner rather than later, a draft management plan for bottom leasing in Maryland's coastal bays has been written by MDNR, based on input during only four meetings of the ADW and was presented to the workgroup on October 27. A copy of the plan is posted on the COASTKEEPER's website at www.assateaguecoastkeeper.org.

Unfortunately, most of the workgroup felt the draft did not incorporate enough of our recommendations and we could not endorse the plan. Shoreline setbacks for the leases is still a major area of contention.

ACT and Maryland Coastal Bays Program, as well as several other members of the ADW felt a setback of 150 feet was needed from the

shoreline to allow for recreational clamming, boating and other recreational uses of the water along the shoreline. Potential lease applicants felt this was too far out into deeper water, so a compromise was agreed on to recommend a 100' setback. As you can read in the Plan, MDNR made a final recommendation of 50', which is ridiculously small and will lead to user conflicts and

protests of lease applications.

A representative for duck hunting interests was also on the ADW. The hunters gave input and recommendations on where bottom leases should be located in relation to duck blinds, but unfortunately MDNR ignored these recommendations also, again subjecting the entire program to user conflicts and lease application protests.

Another area of concern was the issuance of bottom leases in areas of aquatic grasses (SAV's) and while the Maryland Coastal Bays Program addressed concerns regarding MDNR's mapping guidance, these issues were not addressed adequately in the final Plan.

The COASTKEEPER had asked for a 'tagging of equipment' regulation so that derelict or abandoned nets, bags, etc could be returned when recovered during routine patrols of the bays. The Virginia Eastern SHOREKEEPER spends a good deal of his time pulling nets out of the marsh before birds and turtles can become tangled in them. Again, the MDNR did not put this recommendation into the Management Plan.

Despite these issues being unresolved, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources disbanded the Aquaculture Development Workgroup on November 10 and shelved the Management Plan, deciding to 'postpone proposing any regulatory changes outlined in the management plan for bottom leasing until moving a lease law reform bill forward.'

The COASTKEEPER will now continue to make comment to the Oyster Advisory Commission and the Aquaculture Coordinating Council as they proceed on a bill that will reform lease law across the state, in order to ask for law that will require bonding of lease applicants to pay for damages done by derelict equipment or abandoned leases (something the ADW was very concerned about but was told this issue was a 'rule of law' and could not be addressed in our regulatory capacity.)

ACT will continue to try and stay involved in the regulatory process too, either through cooperative efforts with MDNR or returning to formal protest of applications, our only avenue to comment, which got us involved in the first place.

NOTE: This October saw the end of hydraulic dredging for clams in the Coastal Bays. A ten year battle to end a practice that was creating environmental dead zones in our bays was led by the Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermans Association (MSSA) and supported by ACT, AMSA, MLCV and many other groups. MSSA activist, and ACT member, Henry Koellein, Jr organized the effort. The COASTKEEPER had hoped her involvement on the MDNR ADW would help the state establish a more productive and less environmentally invasive industry in our coastal bays.



Coast Kids Photo Gallery



Participants of the 12th Annual Maryland Coast Day festival in September helped the Coast Kids program create a school of menhaden fish.



The menhaden fish created at Coast Day will be used to decorate ACT's first Christmas parade float.



Ornithologist Dick Roberts showed Coast Kids how to band birds at the Nature Conservancy's Nassawango Creek Preserve in October.



Coast Kids took a November walk on the beach at Toms Cove, at the Virginia end of Assateague Island.



coast kids **Holiday Membership Offer**

Opportunities make great gifts. Give someone you know the opportunity to attend fun monthly events in the coastal area, receive fun monthly Coast Cards, and more.

The \$30 holiday membership runs from now until spring 2010. Recipients will receive a wrapped membership package and a gift card signed with your name. It's easy!

Send a check for \$30 to: Coast Kids / Assateague Coastal Trust, P.O. Box 731, Berlin, MD 21811

www.actforbays.org/coastkids

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Age: _____

T-shirt size: Youth XS (2-4) -- S(6-8) -- M (10-12) -- L -- XL

Tell us how you would like us to sign the gift card.



In ACT's History

33 YEARS AGO...

A diminutive, but determined, woman took her seat in a United States Senate hearing room, addressing the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Interior Committee. The date was May 12, 1975. She opened her presentation:

"Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Judith Johnson. I live in Towson, Maryland and I am Chairman of the Committee to Preserve Assateague. By request, we have approximately 1,200 people on our mailing list, but when you take into consideration the number of Maryland, Virginia and other state organizations, as well as national conservation organizations, who count themselves as members of our organization, our supporters would run far into the millions."

Judy Johnson was in Washington to urge the passage of Senate Bill 82, "A Bill to repeal certain provisions of an 'Act to provide for the establishment of the Assateague Island National Seashore in the States of Maryland and Virginia.'" The bill was the culmination of five years of advocacy on the part of the Committee, and its passage would end speculation about an island-length paved road and assure that "other development plans should be abandoned." Judy wanted more: She asked for a ban on private motor vehicles on the island during peak visitation months, and called for public transportation from the mainland to the island. She demanded that public camping areas be strictly limited ("We think that showers and such sophisticated amenities are unnecessary in a campground in a

national park.")

Senate Bill 82 passed, though many of Judy's more radical requests were ignored. There are showers on the island, but there is no paved road from the Verrazano Bridge to downtown Chincoteague. One may drive one's Toyota on Bayberry Drive, but one must hike or paddle into the few remote camping areas.

The conclusion of Judy's presentation to the Senators saw beyond the island shoreline and laid the groundwork for the mission of the Assateague Coastal Trust. "We consider Assateague, the Bays and surrounding marshes as one ecosystem, and the whole coastal area needs protection against overdevelopment and the wrong type of development."

Thus our founder dictated that our focus must be on the coastal bays and for the next three plus decades ACT has been true to that vision. Our environmental muscle was strengthened by the establishment of the Assateague COASTKEEPER program, and while our long-term goals are well established our financial future is not. Hopefully, contributions to the Assateague Coastal Trust Founders' Endowment, managed by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, will assure that the dollars will be there when the threats arise.

To learn how you can celebrate the legacies of Judy Johnson, Iliia Fehrer and other prophetic voices for environmental wisdom through a contribution to the Endowment, call ACT at (410) 629-1538 or visit us at www.actforbays.org.

Land Use and Poultry Issues Keep ACT Busy This Fall

ACT has been attending the Worcester County Planning Commission work sessions to listen in as the Planning Commission reviews the Planning Departments' re-write of the comprehensive zoning ordinances.

As we explained in the last newsletter, several key components of the 2006 Worcester County Comprehensive Plan were removed from the comprehensive zoning implementation by the County Commissioners, which severely weakens the once award winning Comprehensive Plan.

Of note, both the Planning Commission and the County Commissioners continue to dodge the matter of the current Estate Zoning (E-1) which can be impacted by coastal flooding and sea level rise, and does not let the county keep subdivision development in the designated growth areas of the 2006 Plan.

At the November 13 Planning Commission work session, while it was agreed that no new E-1 zones would be created, it was decided to not do anything about the current E-1 zoning, except to let the new zoning maps reflect where already approved development had already changed the character of some E-1 zoned areas. On the advice of County Counsel Sonny Bloxom, the Commission members agreed to let the next round of Comprehensive Planning in 2012 finally delete all E-1 zones.

So in effect, the citizens of this county approved a Comprehensive Plan in 2006 that called for the elimination of all E-1 zoning, and yet by the time the new 2012 Plan is adopted and implemented it could possibly be 2016 before we see the E-1 zoning designation removed. Guess how much of our currently zoned E-1 areas will be subdivisions by the time 2016 rolls around?

When the final zoning ordinances for the 2006 Comprehensive

Plan come up for public hearings before the County Commissioners, sometime in February or March 2009 you must make your voices heard. ACT will need the strength of our membership to overturn this ill-advised decision so please keep watching our website for important announcements about forums and community outreach/organizational efforts.

Interestingly, Accomack County is still struggling to find common ground among its citizens in order to implement a set of land use regulations similar to Maryland's Critical Area Law. Opposition to the ordinance makes the argument that a regulation like this is only needed on the Chesapeake Bay side of Virginia's Eastern Shore because it is the Chesapeake Bay that is so polluted, not Maryland and Virginia's coastal bays. Obviously we want to keep our coastal bays from becoming as bad as the Chesapeake, and therefore ACT continues to support the county's efforts to regulate a 100' buffer along all its waterways.

Worcester County, in Maryland, and Northampton County on the south end of the Eastern Shore have both enacted shoreline protection regulations. Accomack County is the remaining piece of the puzzle and must adopt regulations equal to those of Worcester and Northampton so our coastal bays and waterways will be protected.

On water quality issues, the Assateague COASTKEEPER has been participating with other Eastern Shore and Maryland WATERKEEPERS in the public comment efforts to strengthen the Maryland Department of the Environment pending regulations for storage and handling of poultry manure. You can read more about our Public Comments to MDE on the COASTKEEPER's website - www.assateaguecoastkeeper.org