

MARYLAND IS... SMART, GREEN & GROWING



Conservation Jobs Corps Graduates 261 Students



A graduation ceremony was held at North Point State Park in August.

This summer, the 2014 Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) graduating class — 261 teenagers from six Maryland counties — joined the 1,800 students who have gone before them. Formed in 2008 by Governor Martin O'Malley, this unique summer employment program provides enthusiastic young people, ages 14 to 17, the tools, education and support to take part in building projects, stewardship

activities and conservation services to improve State Parks and other public lands.

CJC crews accomplished a great deal in a short time this year, contributing to projects at seven parks and recreation areas across the State: Assateague, Gunpowder Falls, Patapsco Valley, Seneca Creek and Susquehanna, as well as the Gwynns Falls Trail and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary.

dnr.maryland.gov/cjc

From designing a sensory trail for people with disabilities and planting forest buffers, to creating rain gardens and cleaning-up streams and rivers that feed into the Bay, CJC members were busy and productive. Members also participated in outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing and camping, helping these mostly urban young people build a connection with nature.

State Parks Partner with Green Travel

Thirty-five Maryland State Parks are now *Maryland Green Travel* partners — part of a free and voluntary self-certification program that promotes and recognizes sustainable environmental practices by tourism businesses.

Maryland State Parks have long been community leaders in stewardship. Staff and volunteers frequently host restoration projects such as habitat construction, stream and river clean-up, invasive species removal and tree plantings. They also provide numerous educational programs

to schools, community groups and the general public.

"Our parks are designed to be sustainable, with minimal impact to the natural world around them," said Nita Settina, Superintendent of the Maryland Park Service. "These areas offer a wide variety of landscapes and provide diverse recreation while preserving the ecology, beauty and sense of place of the local area. They are terrific choices for those seeking the best in environmentally-friendly tourism."

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Green Travel Manager Catherine Batavick presents Green Travel Certificate to Sandy Point State Park Manager, Ranger Steve McCoy and Christina Holden of the Maryland Park Service.

Grant Boosts Project to Save Oyster House



Phillips Wharf Environmental Center rendering

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority awarded a \$92,000 grant to the Phillips Wharf Environmental Center — the last waterfront oyster house on Tilghman Island — to transform an aging building surrounded by abandoned boats into a seafood processing, marketing and educational center. In operation for more than a century, this property will undergo measures to preserve the culture of the Island's working watermen, beckon tourists and boost economic development.

For the past 17 years, Maryland Heritage has supported projects that emphasize the State's cultural heritage and contribute to local economies through tourism. While the mix of capital projects and educational activities promote some of the most unique historical and natural sites and cultural events, they also improve resources that contribute to great Maryland communities.

planning.maryland.gov

BayBucks Reward Restoration Action

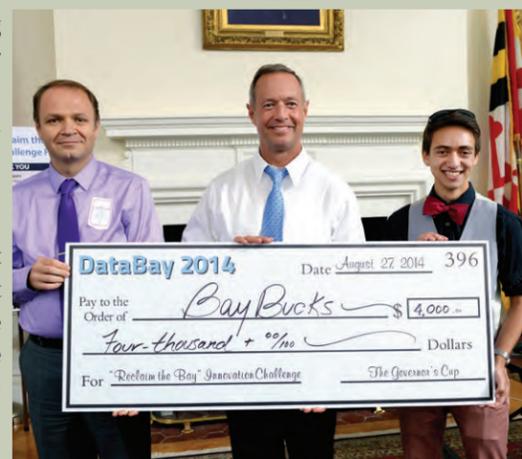
This summer, Governor Martin O'Malley held the first *DataBay: Reclaim the Bay Innovation Challenge* at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. This unique *hackathon* contest brought together more than 80 scientists, programmers, techies and others to collaborate and innovate for Bay restoration.

The BayBucks team claimed the \$4,000 grand prize for creating an app that uses an online reward system to track and encourage citizen contributions to a healthier Chesapeake Bay. With a fun and easy to understand points system, users

receive incentives from participating local businesses in exchange for sustainable actions. For example, a user may receive a discount at a coffee shop for installing a rain barrel in their yard.

According to Governor O'Malley, "The DataBay Challenge brought together some of Maryland's brightest minds and best technologies to create applications that make it possible for every citizen to have a hand in reclaiming the Bay."

databay.splashthat.com



BayBucks creators were presented with \$4000 on August 27.

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