

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays



THE **power**  
to RESTORE the waters  
of people and nature  
of the Inland Bays

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

## MISSION:

**preserve, protect** and **restore**

**DELAWARE'S INLAND BAYS**, the water that flows into them, and the watershed around them.

## CIB STAFF

- Mr. Chris Bason  
Executive Director
- Ms. Sally Boswell  
Education and Outreach Coordinator
- Mr. Robert Collins  
Project Manager
- Ms. Pat Drizd  
Volunteer Coordinator (Volunteer)
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Development and Marketing Coordinator
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Environmental Policy Coordinator
- Dr. Emily Seldomridge  
Watershed Coordinator
- Ms. Loretta Smith  
Administrative Assistant
- Dr. Marianne Walch  
Science and Restoration Coordinator

Cover: This student, from Millsboro Middle School, is one in a thousand students from Indian River School District who attend class at the James Farm Ecological Preserve each year. Hands on! Photo by Dr. Dennis Bartow



## Building the Board for the Work Ahead

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays was created 21 years ago by the General Assembly to protect and restore Delaware's Inland Bays. For two decades, the CIB has supported research and education initiatives that influence policy and decision making. It has fostered consensus building among watershed stakeholders. It has made a difference.

But the CIB could do a great deal more with additional resources. In recent years, public funding for our work has decreased. Each year fewer dollars are available to do more challenging and critical work. However, the human population and the resulting conversion of wetlands and forests to development continue to grow at a staggering rate. And like the rest of the planet, we must deal with the challenges of climate change.

In order to support and expand the CIB's efforts, the General Assembly passed a bill in 2015 that allows for the addition of "up to five citizen members to the Board of Directors... in order to include more citizen representation on the Board and to improve the Center's capacity to procure and administer private moneys secured to fulfill the responsibilities pursuant to the protection and restoration of the Inland Bays watershed."

I am honored to be working with a great group of people on the current Board. Each one of them has gone above and beyond to support the efforts of the great staff, volunteers and citizen committees that are the Center for the Inland Bays. Now we have the opportunity to do more with the addition of more directors to the Board.

I am happy to announce the first new citizen Director, Heidi Gilmore. As a Patron supporter of the Bays, a three-year sponsor of our Deckerd Out fundraiser, and someone who stands up for the Bays in her community, she emulates the kind of active participation needed at this time. I am confident that Heidi's leadership will prove her to be a great addition to the Board of Directors.

A group of people who wanted to save the bays founded the CIB a little over two decades ago. Now we have the opportunity to bolster the work; citizen directors will strengthen the Board by bringing more voices to the collaborative culture of the CIB.

As we head into the third decade of the Center for the Inland Bays I am optimistic that we will, as Governor Russell Peterson said, "Figure out what needs to be done to preserve and protect the Inland Bays, then be bold and do it."

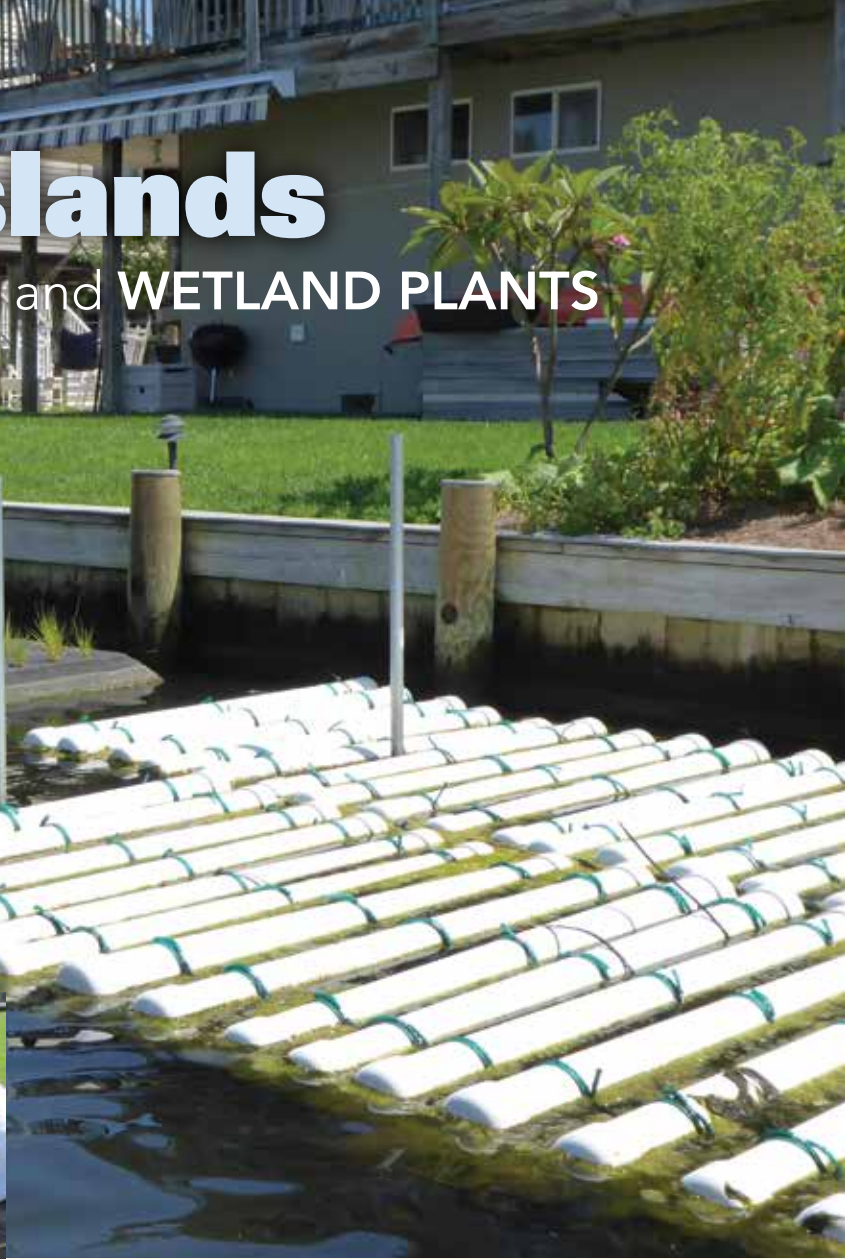
  
Chair of the Board



# floating islands

of OYSTERS and WETLAND PLANTS

Ten homeowners in South Bethany became partners in the project offering space by their bulkheads for 'floating islands.'



For years, communities around the Bays have grappled with how to improve water quality in residential canals.

This year, we moved ahead on a project to test the nutrient-removing power of oysters and wetland plants to bring cleaner water and more marine life to a relatively barren canal.

In May, 200 bushels of oysters in closed cages were floated under rafts made from PVC pipe, and 'floating islands' of native grasses and wetland plants were placed in a residential canal in South Bethany. Monitoring will be done at the test site and nearby canal (which will receive no treatment) for 1½ years to evaluate the effectiveness of the project at improving water quality.

If successful, this project could offer new approaches for achieving cleaner water, less algal growth and more marine life in the 26 miles of dead-end canals throughout the Inland Bays.



# YOUR CREEK project

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS for cleaner creeks

There are fourteen major tributaries that flow into the Inland Bays. Two of them now have 'creek teams' getting to know their creek, and each other, and working together on plans for restoring and protecting their creeks.

**Dirickson Creek Team** Leader, Anna Vonlindenberg, took to her bike to distribute Dirickson Creek Surveys to neighbors on the Route 54 corridor that runs from Fenwick to Selbyville. She believes that, "there are many well intentioned, transplanted residents who sincerely want to learn about and protect their creek." Under her leadership, the team surveyed 370 of their neighbors to gather information on their interests and concerns about the Dirickson Creek.

The **Your Creek project** is all about building relationships at the local level... creek by creek. On Rehoboth Bay, **Love Creek Creek Team** member Dr. Steve Britz logged days in his kayak to collect water samples and survey the plant life on Love Creek. His interest in the rare plants he saw there led to a project with the state botanist. Seeds of the rare *Lobelia elongata* were collected and grown to be used for restoration on Love Creek, Dirickson Creek and other creeks where they were historically found. In the fall, 150 seedlings were planted on Love Creek, and about 50 on Dirickson Creek.



*The State of Love Creek Report was published to provide communities with the latest data on conditions in Love Creek and its watershed.*

# KEEP our shorelines living!

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is taking a page from nature to protect natural shorelines on the Inland Bays from erosion.

Traditionally, unstable shorelines have been 'hardened' with stone rip-rap or bulkhead to stabilize them. But those materials and techniques eliminate sandy beaches, disturb natural marsh areas and eliminate the shallow water habitats that provide nursery and shelter for crabs, fish, terrapins and other marine plants and animals.

The **Loop Canal Project** on the Salt Pond in Bethany Beach was the second of six demonstration **Living Shorelines** projects that are planned to demonstrate innovative materials and techniques to stabilize shorelines while protecting marine life. Through a partnership with Sussex Conservation District, the CIB received a grant to identify and design five additional sites. Demonstration sites, like the Loop Canal Project will provide opportunities for the public and marine contractors to see and learn about living shorelines. In February, a two-day **Living Shorelines Workshop** was held for marine contractors and engineers.



Photo by Michigan State University Extension





*In July, Nature Conservancy LEAF interns helped clean and 'plant' about 20 bushels of oysters on rip rap in Steele's Cove on Indian River Bay. The oysters were grown by CIB's Oyster Gardeners.*

# **oysters** in the Inland Bays could be a **GAME CHANGER**

We envision millions of oysters... 'mini water filtration plants' working nonstop throughout our Bays, filtering nutrients, clearing the water, and creating habitat for other marine life.

Over more than a decade, with help from our university partners and hundreds of volunteers who have grown oysters off their docks as participants in our **Oyster Gardening Program**, we have learned that our native oyster thrives everywhere in the Inland Bays. The introduction of **oyster aquaculture** will accelerate this process and hasten our progress to restore the Bays.

Twelve local restaurants came on board to join **'Don't Chuck Your Shucks,'** to recycle oyster shells for Inland Bays restoration. Thanks to their hungry patrons, more than 1,000 bushels of shell were kept out of landfills in this first full year of the project. "We're very proud to be involved as the biggest supplier of shells to the program," said Tim Haley, owner of the Bethany Oyster House, 'it saves us a ton of dumpster space, and instead we're using them to contribute to our bays."





# thank you

to our generous donors

## \$1,000 and up

Christopher Bason  
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Robin Spangenberg  
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Donna and Phil Rogers  
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Warren and Terri Rumble  
Thomas and Felicetta Ryan  
Paula Schneider  
Charles Schonder

## Who's on board with the Bays?



Left to right: Chris Bason, Executive Director CIB, Bryan Kastor of Waste Industries and Rob Robinson, CIB Board Member

We have many great business partners, but a special thanks goes out this year to Waste Industries. In June, they donated a dumpster for the Inland Bays Cleanup, then sent over more than twenty employees to help fill it. After the Cleanup they presented the CIB with a check for \$2,500 in support of our mission.

**Do you work at a business that cares about the Bays? Contact us to figure out how you can get on board with the Bays in 2016!**

Robert Schumm  
 Emily Seldomridge  
 Charles Skinner  
 Loretta Smith  
 Susan S. Smith  
 Barbara Sorgeler  
 Christine Stone  
 Michael and Donna Thomas  
 William Thompson  
 Francis Tober  
 Dr. Rosalind H. Troupin M.D.  
 Robert Wallace  
 Lori Watson  
 Norine and George Watson  
 James and Gwenn Wells  
 Ann and Chris Whaley  
 Edward Whereat  
 Lisa Wool  
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 Audrey Young  
 Matthew Young

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 Fisher's Popcorn—Fenwick,  
 Bethany and Rehoboth  
 Gary's Dewey Beach Grill  
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 Good Earth Market  
 Inland Bays Garden Center  
 Indian River Seafood Company  
 NKS Distributors  
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 Sovereign Consulting  
 The Starboard  
 State Farm—The Ron Krajewski  
 Agency  
 Sussex County Council  
 Tidewater Utilities  
 Town of Dewey Beach  
 Waste Industries  
 Vickie York at the Beach Realty

**Grants and Contracts**

DE Department of Natural Resources  
 and Environmental Control  
 Division of Watershed Stewardship  
 Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 Delaware Nature Society  
 Sussex County Council  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Town of Bethany Beach  
 Town of South Bethany  
 US Environmental Protection Agency

**Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances—Accrual Basis  
 September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014**

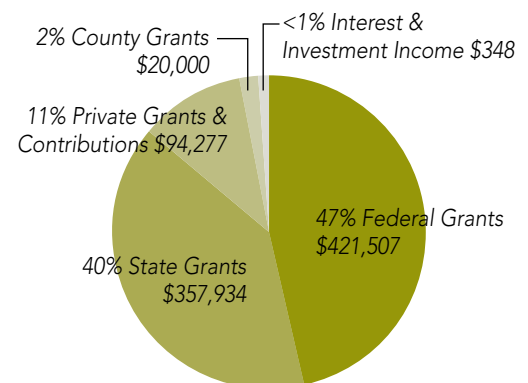
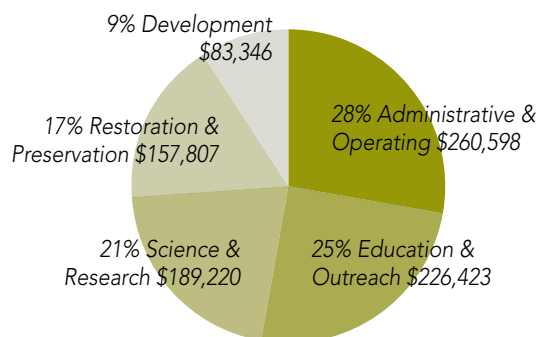
**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Cash	\$ 342,731	\$ 323,647
Grants receivable	198,700	217,411
Prepaid expenses	13,112	15,220
Accounts receivable	3,650	1,510
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>558,193</b>	<b>557,788</b>
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment (at Cost)</b>		
Land	125,000	125,000
Building	885,216	872,508
Furniture and Equipment	327,187	474,840
	1,337,403	1,472,348
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(527,826)	(596,401)
<b>Net Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>809,577</b>	<b>875,947</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
De Community Foundation Endowment Fund	108,076	113,586
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,475,846</b>	<b>1,547,321</b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 17,324	\$ 26,259
Payroll Taxes	1,264	920
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	27,019	37,019
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>45,607</b>	<b>64,198</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted		
Board Designated*	108,076	113,586
Invested in Property and Equipment	684,577	692,328
Undesignated	212,923	240,644
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>1,005,576</b>	<b>1,046,558</b>
Temporarily Restricted	299,633	311,565
Permanently Restricted**	125,000	125,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,430,239</b>	<b>1,483,123</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,475,846</b>	<b>\$ 1,547,321</b>

\* Endowment Fund \*\* Protected Land



**Total Expenses \$917,394**

**Total Revenue \$894,066**



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE  
**INLAND BAYS**  
Research. Educate. Restore.

**Get on board with the bays.**  
[inlandbays.org](http://inlandbays.org)

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Get on board for clean water.  
**[cleanwaterdelaware.org](http://cleanwaterdelaware.org)**

*Photo by Sharon Brumbaugh Printed on recycled paper.*