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## News

### Officials announce living shoreline funds

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ST. MICHAELS Local, state and federal officials visited the living shoreline site at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels Friday to announce nearly \$700,000 in grants for Chesapeake Bay living shoreline projects.

This year's 11 grant recipients will use the money to build living shorelines in Maryland and Virginia which will protect against erosion.

"I don't have to tell you the Bay is part of our culture, without it, we lose something of who we are," said U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil, D-Md.-1st.

A living approach to shoreline protection does more than guard the Shore, it creates wetland habitat for fish and crabs, filters pollutants from run-off and engages volunteers and communities, said Dr. Jana Davis, associate director and chief scientist of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Traditional methods of shoreline protection, like big wooden bulkheads and rock sea walls, don't do all of those things.

"It's time to take the armor off," said Peyton Robertson of NOAA's Chesapeake Bay office.

Kratovil and U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md. said they are doing everything they can to protect the Bay.

"Some positive steps have been taken, but there is a long way to go," Kratovil said. "We need to keep doing more."

Legislation passed in 2008 requires that anytime it is possible, a living shoreline should be implemented instead of a traditional protection method, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari Wilson said.

Cardin pointed to the living shoreline project being built at the museum as an example of local communities doing their part to reduce pollution in the Bay.

"We can make a lot of progress with these living shorelines," Cardin said.

"These projects will be demonstrations for the rest of the state," Wilson said.

Peter Byrnes, chairman of the board of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, thanked Kratovil, Cardin and Wilson for their support.

"Your leadership is critical to our ability to restore the health of the Bay," he said.

The \$689,763 in grant money comes from a public-private partnership that includes the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center, the Maryland Department of Environment and the Keith Campbell Foundation for environment.

The Living Shorelines Grant Program started in 2004. Since then, more than \$2 million has been awarded to 45 projects to build more than 20,000 feet of living shoreline.

"We are so excited about the grants and the partnership," Davis said.

Last year, there were three times as many dollars requested in grant proposals as there were available.

This year, Environmental Concern, Inc. received \$60,000 to complete a project in Talbot County and Chestertown and the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council received \$115,000 and \$45,000 respectively to build in Kent County.

Other grantees include the Maryland Coastal Bays Program with \$8,663 in Worcester County and in Anne Arundel County, the West River United Methodist Center with \$89,600, the Loch Haven Civic Association with \$36,500, the Londontowne Property Owners Association with \$75,000, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation with \$50,000 and the Franklin Manor Community Association with \$100,000.

One project in Surry County, Va. won; the South Hampton Roads RC&D Council received \$75,000.

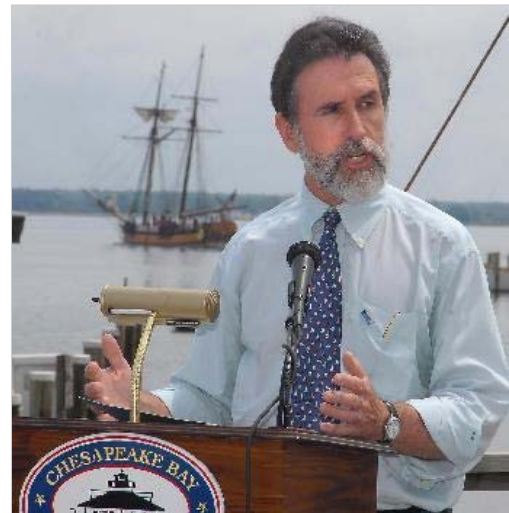


PHOTO BY ERIN FLUHARTY

Stuart Parnes, president of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum talks about the community living shoreline project at the museum.

"We're really in a strong position for leadership and we are honored to be the poster child," Stuart Parnes, president of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, said.

Cardin said he is proud that Maryland is and has been at the forefront of restoring the Bay. Anyone can contribute to the Living Shorelines Grant Program.

"Every Marylander with a Bay license plate is a contributor to this program," Alicia Levi, with the CBT, said.

Looking forward, Kratovil said he would like to do more to address run-off, including looking at Farm Bill funds for environmentally friendly practices and at the Transportation bill for ways to mitigate run-off from roadways.

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