

Nominee: Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Nominee's Address: Philip Merrill Environmental Center
 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403
Phone: 410/268-8816
Nominator: David L. Lycke, FASLA

RE: Chesapeake Bay Foundation LaGasse Medal Nomination

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this nomination of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the LaGasse Medal. In the spirit of Albert LaGasse himself, the CBF has stood resolute in its support of the restoration, protection and stewardship of the great national natural resource that is the Chesapeake Bay.

The land that drains into the Chesapeake Bay covers 64,000 square miles. The watershed is a vast mosaic of cities, suburbs, farmlands, forests, and wetlands that extends across six states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 17 million people live in the watershed; about 10 million people live along its shores or near them. The Bay provides food, water, cover, and nesting or nursery areas to more than 3,000 migratory and resident wildlife species. It is the largest estuary in the U.S.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is the only independent 501(c)(3) organization dedicated solely to restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers. Since its founding 40 years ago, its goal has been to improve water quality by reducing pollution. The CBF motto, "Save the Bay," has been the battle cry for that goal. From the landmark EPA study of the Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s to Virginia's comparable legislative commitment in 2005, CBF has been saving the Bay.

Nitrogen pollution, primarily from agricultural runoff and sewage treatments plants, is the Bay's number one problem. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus cause algae blooms that block sunlight to underwater grasses. When the blooms decompose, they consume oxygen and create "dead zones," where dissolved oxygen levels are too low to sustain marine life. Stormwater and air pollution also add to the problem.

Across the region, open lands absorb rainfall and filter pollution naturally, but they are shrinking as the population increases and development expands. CBF is working to restore oysters, underwater grasses, and other natural filters that once cleansed our waters. Using the principals of landscape architecture to restore natural filters on both the land and in the water, CBF will provide resilience to the entire Chesapeake Bay system to serve as valuable habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic life.

The CBF recognizes that the health of the Bay relies in large part on reducing pollution from cities and communities in its watershed. The organization works closely with public officials, businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizens groups to prevent pollution at the source. From educational programs to grants supporting sustainable design to signage, CBF provides a broad range of activities to inform people about what they can do to save the Bay. In fact, CBF provided a grant to ASLA to track and test stormwater runoff from our headquarters green roof. Many of the storm drains in cities throughout the region sport stickers telling pedestrians that everything that goes down that drain flows to the Bay.

Due in large part to the efforts of the CBF, the Bay is showing encouraging signs of rebounding. However, it is still in critical condition as a result of pollution. CBF's *State of the Bay* index that measures the Bay's health jumped three points between 2008 and 2010, with eight of 13 indicators rising. The indicator for the health of the blue crab population spiked 15 points, as the Bay's population increased significantly last year. Also, underwater grasses showed steady progress for the fourth year in a row. But the overall health index of the Bay is only 31 out of 100, which means it is still a system dangerously out of balance.

CBF fights for bold and creative solutions to the pollution that plagues the Bay and its tributaries. Across the six-state Chesapeake watershed, CBF sets the agenda, serves as a watchdog, and speaks out on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay to business, government, and the public. CBF fights for strong and effective laws and regulations and works cooperatively with government, business, and citizens in partnerships to protect and restore the Bay. When necessary, CBF uses legal means to force compliance with existing laws. It restores the Bay's essential habitats and filtering mechanisms, such as forests, wetlands, underwater grasses, and oysters, through a variety of hands-on projects. Finally, CBF's environmental education program introduces residents to the wonders of the watershed and works to heighten sensitivity, increase knowledge, and empower citizens to take positive action toward the Bay's restoration.

Thank you for your kind consideration of CBF for the LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,



David L. Lycke, PLA, FASLA
Trustee



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

National Advocacy Center
901 E Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington D.C. 20004
202-797-6800
www.nwf.org

Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Members of the ASLA Board of Trustees:

It is my pleasure to write this letter expressing my strong support for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to receive the American Society of Landscape Architects LaGasse Medal.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has an impressive, decades-long track record for protecting the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to being a watchdog and advocate for the Chesapeake Watershed, CBF's environmental education program is introducing young people to the Bay by providing "meaningful watershed education experiences." By connecting children to their watershed and integrating environmental education into schools and in-formal education centers, CBF is ensuring the next generation will feel connected to and care about the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions about this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at (202) 797-6821.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fitzgerald

Director of Education Advocacy
National Wildlife Federation



Board of Trustees
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

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Finally the CBF has demonstrated incredible leadership through their work managing the No Child Left Inside Coalition (NCLIC). The NCLIC is a coalition of over 2,000 The No Child Left Inside Coalition is a national coalition of over 2000 business, health, youth, faith, recreational, environmental, and educational groups representing over 50 million Americans. dedicated to promoting the cause of environmental literacy. The NCLIC has provided tremendous support to me and my office as we work together to promote and pass *H.R. 2587 the No Child Left Inside Act*. The No Child Left Inside Act would increase environment literacy among elementary and secondary students by encouraging and providing assistance to states for the development and implementation of environmental literacy plans and promoting professional development for teachers on how to integrate environmental literacy and field experiences into their instruction.

For their work in restoring the Chesapeake Bay, and for their leadership in promoting environmental education, I am proud to support the nomination of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for ASLA's LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Ostfeld

Sierra Club, Mission Outdoors

202-548-6584

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