Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
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Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage receives DNR Conservationist of the Year Award

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage recently received the Conservationist of the Year award from the Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Wildlife Advisory Commission, established to advise DNR's Secretary on wildlife matters, annually selects recipients from a nominee list assembled the previous calendar year. The list invariably includes many highly qualified and deserving individuals and organizations. "We always receive many exceptional nominations for each category, and I am grateful for the hard work of the commission in conducting their difficult deliberations," Paul A. Peditto, WHS director said. "I am sincerely appreciative of the extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm, and passion that (CWH) has put forth to help us make Maryland a better place for wildlife."

Founded in 1980 and headquartered in the old Railway Station in Easton, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage (CWH), was chosen as the Conservationist of the Year. "Our staff and board are pleased to be recognized by DNR for our dedication to the creation, restoration, and protection of wildlife habitat through cooperation with private and public landowners," said Ned Gerber, habitat ecologist and director of CWH. "Our hands-on work in the landscape gets much needed habitat on the ground," Gerber continued.

CWH manages five core programs to improve habitat and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Care Program builds and restores wetlands and upland buffers on previously converted farmland to filter nutrients and sediment from the surface water before reaching the bay. By implementing sustainable farming techniques, CWH demonstrates that wildlife and profitable farming are not mutually exclusive through the Sustainable Agriculture Program.

The Wildlife Nesting Structure Program builds and installs nesting boxes in appropriate habitats for bird species, such as Eastern Bluebirds, Wood Ducks, Purple Martins, Ospreys, and various species of owls. Through the Education and Outreach Program, CWH advises property owners and community groups on habitat projects that are suitable for smaller sized properties. The Landowner Services Program provides consultation for landowners interested in the long-term preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat while achieving maximum financial benefit and also works to match environmentally sensitive land with buyers interested in permanently protecting it.

In addition to these programs, CWH helps to control noxious weeds through its Phragmites control program. CWH also implements the Waterfowl Festival Goose Sanctuary Program on 18 farms to provide food and shelter for wintering migratory geese.

In 2004, CWH restored 110 acres of wetlands, created over 200 acres of warm season grass meadows, planted 30 acres of woodlands, managed 6,000 acres of Canada Goose Sanctuaries and educated 750 landowners and farmers about their role in restoring and protecting wildlife habitat.

CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE

Habitat works

The newsletter about building habitat for wildlife
Spring 2005

CWH wins Conservation Organization of the Year Award. See page 8 for details.

SUSANNA SCALLION

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage Board of Directors accept the award.

Habitat Works is published by Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to creating, restoring and protecting wildlife habitat and establishing a more sustainable agriculture, through direct action, education and research, in partnership with public and private landowners. We welcome your comments and contributions.

A Walk through the Winter Woods

By Robin Haggie

"They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago. Weather and rain have undone it again, And now you would never know
There was once a way through the woods..."

When surveying stands of warm season grasses for native sparrow use on one particular farm in Talbot County, I have to cross the upper reaches of Peach Blossom Creek in order to proceed from one site to another. On one side the angle is steep and I have to traverse, what in summer I had perceived to be, a natural contour running diagonally up the bank.

All last year, during the warm months, I had negotiated this profile, since it provided the easiest ascent up the bank. It was not until winter, after a heavy fall of snow, that I realized my route was no natural feature. Clearly visible but in shades of white, a trail appeared that was quite discernable from the top as it entered the woods, and which traveled all the way down to the bottom, crossing the stream. Along the track, for that is what it was, I found an old metal axle from a farm wagon, sunk into the ground, rusted, and marking the down slope edge. I had wondered at its origin—had it been cast off following an accident? Could the wheel hub still be found far below, preserved in the wetland muck?

Oddly enough, as days passed and the snow started to melt, other features of the track became apparent. Two parallel depressions, highlighted by a pair of white ribbons on the ground, were quite evident where a generation of wagon wheels had impressed the ground traveling from one side of the creek to the other, bearing their heavy loads of extracted timber; and where the teamsters had urged their charges up the incline, rutting the trail with straining hoof. All were now perfectly revealed by the vanishing snow, soon to be lost again to the camouflage of the leafy ground, the fallen trees and the wooded under story.

(continues on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Where the "old lost road" leaves the woods at the top of the bank, at least until a few years ago, it meets a farm field. Now it is buffered by a belt of warm season grasses, planted by Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage in 2002. Greenbrier, brambles and Lonicera cover the entrance to the old trail, lost to the unaided eye, and now a haven for wintering sparrows escaping a Sharpie (Sharp-shinned Hawk) or some other predator. The white-throated sparrows especially like this edge. They feel safe and rarely venture far into the adjacent meadow.

After the invigorating climb up the trail I stop and look out over the meadow. I stand quite still, observing nothing, seeing nothing, but knowing that I am being watched. Watched by a hundred hidden eyes and ears that remain unseen, unheard, unnoticed.

It is January and the temperature at mid-morning is rising to around 18 degrees. I keep my mittened fingers crossed that a chill wind doesn't pick up, a wind that thwarts so many survey efforts at this time of year. I have dressed warmly, and now after the good climb up the bank, I feel as though perhaps too warmly. I pity the poor souls in the goose blind on the adjacent farm. I imagine them sitting, static and frigid, since I can hear them calling incessantly and aimlessly into the crystal blue sky. I spy a small flock of geese in a nearby field. Their heads go up, they talk, they start to move away, but they do not fly. They know. As I proceed I am careful to give them a wide berth and not disrupt their activity.

I stop again and listen. Again I see nothing amongst the grasses, the grasses that make this winter's landscape for the sparrows a home; cups and lodges from fallen Indian grass and bluestem are roofed in snow; slanted shelters are made by the more wind resistant brome grass and wild rye as they lean away from the prevailing wind; large tussocks of more Indian grass, where it was not planted thickly, allow for protected nooks within which the birds can safely feed; patches of marestail and goldenrod, now just straight stems whipped by the winds of autumn; old carcasses of poke weed, now brittle tubes that crack and pop under a careless foot.

Then I call, ready. The white-throated sparrows fly up from the buffer edge alongside the woods as soon as they hear me and promptly seek the comfort of the embracing greenbrier. They are not fooled by my calls. One or two may call back, but they feel safe amidst mother nature's "barbed wire." From the middle of the grass meadow arise a flock of chipping sparrows. Typically most of them head straight for the trees along the wooded edge and land about half way up, and watch. Some may return to the meadow. A few field sparrows are flushed by my calls, and head off across the meadow to another patch of grasses, looking in flight like bobbing cotton balls trailing a short piece of ribbon. I make my notes.

Further along I stop again, almost treading on a small group of song sparrows. They sit as tight as a covey of grouse, amidst the snow canopy and the lodged Indian grass, until flushed. I am pleased. It means that the meadow is maturing enough for them to feel safe in the grass enclaves, allowing me this close approach. If I continue to call, some may come back; the curious, adventurous ones. They whistle characteristically and then, all of a sudden, disappear. I write belabouredly in a gloved hand.

After waiting for awhile, I train my binoculars along way forwards, near to the edge of the farm field into a patch of leafless materials. They appear to bear seed pods like milkweed, but they slowly move. Savannah Sparrows. They arise from the ground and hop up to near the top of the stems to where they can get a better look at me, the intruder. I take immediate note, for with one further step they are gone.

I continue my way, finally coming almost full circle, and I find the origin of the old trail, a discernable ribbon of white, journeyed now by the softer imprints of a myriad more recent fee—cottontail rabbit and fox,

"As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods…
But there is no road through the woods."

—Quotations from "THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS" by Rudyard Kipling.

A few of CWH's upcoming Habitat Projects for 2005

- 15 acre tree planting, 50 acre native warm season grass meadow and 15 acre cool season grass meadow at Queen Anne's County Recreation and Park's Conquest Beach
- 40 acre warm and cool season grass meadow in Dorchester County
- 50 acre wetland at Pickering Creek Audubon Center
- 70 acre quail buffer on farm in Chester watershed

Thank you to the following members who donated items or services to CWH in 2004:

- Ed & Sylvia Byerly *Monitoring a Bluebird trail*
- Allan Kenzie *Donation of barn space for the nesting structure workshop*
- Vint Lawrence *Donation of seed corn*
- Judge Alfred Burka *Funding for 4 Waterfowl Festival Goose Sanctuary signs and donation of 5 framed duck stamp prints*
- Vernon Stotts *Helping with Adopt-a-Road trash pick up*
- Neaton Tires *Taking used tires for proper disposal*

CWH Welcomes a New Staff Person

CWH welcomes Mary deArmond as our new Accounting Manager. Most recently, Mary served as the Business Manager for the Caroline Country Club for nine years. At the Country Club she was not only responsible for the accounting end of things, but also club membership and human resources. Prior to working in Caroline County, Mary was employed at an Accounting Firm in Easton. Mary received her Associates degree from Anne Arundel Community College. In addition to accounting duties, Mary will perform the function of office manager. We are happy to have Mary on staff and look forward to getting to know her. Welcome aboard!

New CRP Practice Available to Encourage Quail

The USDA has announced a new practice, allowed under the continuous CRP program specifically for bobwhite quail. These beloved gamebirds are declining severely throughout most of their range (80% in MD since 1970 due to changes in land use.) In Maryland they used to be found in most counties but have been extirpated in all but southern and Eastern Shore counties.

CP-33 will now pay landowners to establish 35-120 foot wide buffers on field edges to create quail nesting and brooding habitat which appears to be a limiting factor for them (the other likely limiting factor is thick escape cover like brushy thickets). One of the best things about the practice is that natural succession is allowed meaning that we can manage naturally occurring weed/grass populations where desired instead of planting required seed mixes. However, there are some seed mixes allowed for those who want more control over what grows there.

BOB HINES

Northern Bobwhite

Nesting and brooding quail prefer significant bare ground and the requirements of this practice ensure that they will have it. LANDOWNERS IN THE CP-33 PRACTICE MUST MANAGE THESE QUAIL BUFFERS BY DISCING/ BURNING/SPRAYING EVERY 3-4 YEARS. These techniques will keep the nesting or brooding buffers from becoming too thick for the birds. CP-33 is only for the highly motivated landowner.

CWH can help you perform the required management if you don't have the necessary equipment and/or expertise.

Nesting or brooding habitat is very important as these are grassland nesting birds. While a lot of native warm season grass has been planted for CREP, much of it is too thick to be good quail nest or brood habitat due to NRCS required high seeding rates. CWH is working with interested landowners to thin some of these CREP areas making them better for quail. While our research has shown that thick warm season grass meadows are being used frequently by bobwhites for fall/winter roosting, we don't think that their populations are being limited by a lack of this type of cover.

CWH suggests that even landowners with CREP ground give this CP-33 practice a try to help our troubled bobwhites. Why not take a 100 foot strip of cropland up against your woodland, marshes, and/or hedges and put it in quail nesting cover? Payment rates are competitive with farming and these edge acres are normally the least productive anyway due to shading, moisture competition, and animal damage.

When new landowners (or developers) buy a farm, they often immediately hire bulldozers and/or bushog crews to "clean up" the place. All of the hedgerows and thickets on the property are reduced to lawn or crops and bobwhites vanish because this vital "escape cover" is gone. When pressured by snowy weather, house cats, Sharp-shinned Hawks, bird dogs or other threats, quail will typically flee into almost impenetrable snarls of greenbrier, grapevines, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and the like which afford them protection from elements and predators. When these thicket habitats are removed, coveys quickly die off. Unfortunately, most people like a clean, manicured, park-like ('golf course') appearance which is a death knell for many wildlife species including bobwhites.

The commonly talked about wildlife management success stories are about deer and turkeys which both thrive in relatively clean woodlands or even suburban habitats. Both species were in trouble but hunting limitations, trapping and transplanting wild stock (not game farm animals) into suitable existing habitat brought them back to healthy population levels.

Quail restoration, if it happens, will be a bit different on several levels. First it will require a wild and weedier change which is difficult for many folks to deal with. Transplanting wild quail, even if we could get the stock in good numbers, (which we can't) onto existing Eastern Shore farms wouldn't get us far, as many farms lack good quail habitat. This explains why quail have declined in the first place. Extensive changes in habitat on the farm are required if quail are to flourish. Will farm owners be able to tolerate the "weedy" look of quail habitat?

After better quail habitat is established, then we need areas that already have quail to be connected via habitat corridors to the new vacant suitable habitats. This is a tall order as agribusiness and dense housing developments have greatly reduced suitable corridors and habitat for all wildlife, with the manicuring of 'edge habitat.' Hopefully, this CP-33 practice will at least begin to help restore quail to some core areas from which they may eventually spread if and when more habitat becomes available.

Birding at its Best

An excerpt from the local birding hotline…

The Talbot County Bird Club visited the ponds, woodlands, and grasslands of Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage's Bennett Point Wetlands in Queen Anne's County in early March. Scott Crabtree ably led a group of a dozen birders on an outing that registered a total of 51 species. Highlights included great views of many of the fresh-water duck species (Pintail, Ring-neck, Gadwall, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Green-winged Teal, a brief glance at a pair of Blue-winged Teal leaving the wetland as the group approached) and four Coot. Raptors were overhead, providing sightings of several Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. Sparrow species included Song, Swamp and Field. The Bennett Point Wetlands were established by and are being maintained by CWH.

Following the bird walk, the group proceeded to the home of a Talbot Bird Club and CWH member's house for a delicious brunch. At their feeders beside the Wye River a Purple Finch and several Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen. For more information about bird walks in the area, visit the Talbot Bird Club at www.mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html

Ask Andi

Questions & Answers about wildlife by Andi Pupke

I recently purchased a 100 acre farm that is very hilly and mostly hardwood forest. The problem is an old aluminum mobile home. No wheels, windows broken out, doors off, floor rotted through. The cost to remove this from the forested hillside is prohibitive and would be destructive to surrounding trees as well as erosion issues.

My question is: Is there a way I can use this to benefit wildlife? The trailer is at the intersection of a clear pasture hillside, a shrubby deep ravine and hardwood forest. It's the perfect location for cover, but how to best develop it? Perhaps filling it with brush? Or mounting nesting boxes on it or inside? Right now it is popular with raccoons and stray cats.

What a great question! Though we don't specialize in this 'type' of habitat, if you can call it that, we came up with a few things you could do:

1. Make sure all of the windows and doors are taken out completely, so if a bird goes in, it is able to find a way out. If you have ever seen a bird trapped in a screened in porch while the door is wide open, you'll know that they need numerous spots to escape because they won't see the obvious. Raccoons and squirrels will find their way in and out easily. The worst thing you could do is make the area attractive to birds and it becomes a death trap when they are able to get in, but are unable to get out.

2. If you are located between Connecticut and Nebraska and south to Texas and Florida, there is a NATIVE honeysuckle *(Lonicera sempervirens)* that has beautiful pink-orange blossoms that is a bushy vine. Hummingbirds and butterflies love it—and it is much better than the invasive Japanese honeysuckle that may already be growing around the trailer. If you live in Maryland or nearby, CWH has a list of other great plant species that are native to Maryland that could not only camouflage it, but would provide a food source for the birds and insects that may visit.

3. Filling it with brush might cause it to become a fire hazard, and besides it is already providing 'shelter.'

4. In any habitat, bird boxes and birds houses are ONLY a good idea if you plan to monitor them every week/every other week during nesting season (March-Late August in Maryland). If not, a bird house on the side of it will only attract unwanted species of birds such as starlings and house sparrows, making the area unattractive to other species and in some cases deadly for other birds. By leaving it up to the birds, you may get Wrens, finches, cardinals, barn swallows, nesting there anyway.

5. If cats are roaming around it, you may as well forget it. Cats, no matter how well fed by their owners or friendly neighbors, are the NUMBER ONE killer of hundreds of thousands of birds and small mammals everyday in America. Your nearby Humane Society most likely loans out "Have a Heart" traps. When you catch one, call them and they will often pick it up for you. Then catch another.

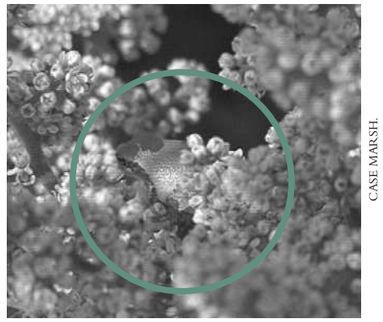
6. Have fun with it! It sounds like it could be a very neat project to watch grow!

SUSANNA SCALLION

HARVEY ZUCKERMAN

Friends of CWH joined Board and staff members to help ring in CWH's 25th Anniversary of restoring, creating and protecting wildlife habitat in Maryland. The evening included a sunset tour of our Barnstable Hill Farm in Chester, MD to view some of the waterfowl enjoying the restored wetlands.

Wildlife Profile: American Green Tree Frog *(Hyla cinerea)*



CASE MARSH

Green Tree Frog *Hyla cinerea.*

An encounter with a Green Tree Frog will certainly peak the curiosity of almost anyone. This amazingly colored frog is usually found in swamps and cattail marshes of the southern United States, Maryland being in the most northern part of their range. Where Green Tree Frogs are plentiful, one can look forward to a grand chorus every year from sometime in May through July.

Considered one of the most beautiful tree frogs in North America, the coat of *Hyla cinerea* is very smooth and ranges in color from a bright leaf green to an olive green with a white to yellow stripe extending along its sides from the jaw to the thigh. Their color can change from the bright yellowish-green color when they are active and singing to a dull green or gray when it is cold outside. Sometimes they will have small gold spots on their back. Males have a greenish yellow throat and are smaller than females. The female has a white throat.

The Green Tree Frog is an inch and three quarters to two and a half inches long and has a very slender form. Its legs are one and a half times the length of its head and body, enabling it to leap distances of 8 to 10 feet. Like all members of the tree frog family, the Green Tree Frog has rounded adhesive discs on its toes. Unlike many frogs, their toes are not webbed which enables the frogs to climb. Another unique characteristic of tree frogs is they have horizontal pupils in their eyes.

By early May adult Green Tree Frogs make their presence known. During the day the frogs crouch motionless in vegetation, tree hollows, crevices and around water, relying on their coloration to protect them from predators. Each evening the nocturnal choruses of the males resound throughout the swamp. Male frogs make a loud GOINK sound. They will repeat this sound up to 75 times per minute. When a group gets together in a chorus (sometimes thousands of frogs at once) it can be deafening. Their chorus has also been compared to the sound of cowbells, and from early May to early August, when the temperature is above 68 degrees Fahrenheit, the frogs chorus in hopes of attracting a female. Night-time is dinner time, so Green Tree Frogs are frequent visitors to windows at night, where they seek insects attracted by the lights inside.

After mating, females propel the eggs backwards, where the eggs adhere to floating vegetation. Within 2 to 3 days the eggs hatch and the young larvae are nothing more then a head with a strong muscular tail. Two common names have been applied to larval frogs: tadpole, which means toad's head, and pollywog, which means wiggling head. The Green Tree Frogs tadpole stage lasts from 4 to 6 weeks. During this time numerous internal and external changes take place as the tadpole metamorphoses into an adult.

By mid-August the breeding pond is silent, the adults have gone, and the developing tadpoles and subadults continue to eat and grow. By autumn the young frogs have moved into grass and woodlands surrounding the breeding area to overwinter. It takes a year for Green Tree Frogs to reach sexual maturity, so by late summer of the following year the young frogs will be able to join the adults in the annual chorus.

As with all Amphibians, commonly used herbicides and other pesticides are suspected of causing severe developmental disabilities. Green Tree Frogs also suffer from the loss of habitat like so many of our wildlife species. Land management choices, such as development or intensive farming severely impact the populations of Green Tree Frogs.

Visit our website at: www.cheswildlife.org

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The following article tells the story of the lengths one person went to protect his personal property from a bird who was just being a bird. Nature is always the sure bet between man and nature—instead of competing with nature, CWH helps people find ways to live with it and then encourages them to simply marvel at it's vitality.

Man vs. Osprey—It's a Draw (Eventually)

The following article, originally printed in Seaworthy Magazine, is reprinted with permission.

Jim Ellis is a smart guy. As president of BoatUS, Jim spends most of his days dealing with dozens of complicated problems and issues that involve America's boat owners. These are big problems. Important problems. So when an Osprey began building a nest on his 25' center console's t-top that's moored behind his house, Jim wasn't especially concerned. He bought one of those big balloons with a menacing eye that is supposed to remind birds of an owl. Birds are afraid of owls.

The Osprey stayed away from his boat for a day or two then apparently decided an owl that teetered back and forth drunkenly in the same place wasn't much of a threat. Soon the sticks began appearing again.

Jim got a rubber snake… the Pile of sticks kept growing.

He strung monofilament all over his boat…The Osprey tiptoed around the lines—carrying more sticks.

Jim is a patient man. He did a little research before finally installing a device—a foolproof device, he was told—that had a fountain of thin wires with weighted balls on the ends. Even a hint of wind or ripples on the water moves the wires in wildly different directions, which scares and confuses a bird.

Sure enough, the Osprey kept its distance. Then after eyeing the bouncing wires for a day or two, it flew in early one morning and dropped a large stick squarely in the center of Jim's gizmo. *WHOMP!* The wires stopped moving.

The pile of sticks started growing. Jim was getting desperate. If the Osprey completed the nest and laid its eggs, Maryland (and federal) law said the "nest" (Jim's Boat) couldn't be moved until the babies grew up and flew away. That would be in late fall, right at the very end of the boating season.

A demoralized Jim debated doing a little "skeet shooting" (wink, wink) but decided that would create more problems than it solved. [illegal too] He reluctantly decided to bring forth his ultimate weapon: He asked his wife Lori for help.

Lori moved the sticks. Without the sticks, the nest wouldn't be built and eggs wouldn't be laid. The Osprey brought in more sticks. Lori moved the sticks again. More sticks appeared. No sticks. More sticks. No sticks. More sticks. This would have worked, eventually, but after many days of removing sticks, Lori complained that her life was now being devoted solely to defending Jim's T-top.

Jim's own life—his boating life—was being ruined by a bird. In desperation, he decided to apply for a permit to build an Osprey habitat, which is a box on top of a large pole. Maybe the Osprey would like the box more than the t-top. A nice man at Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage cheerfully told Jim that processing a permit takes three months—May, June, July—and he could legally place a pole and box in the water. This would be about when the babies on his T-top were growing their adult feathers.

Jim had an idea. He hadn't done such a great job outsmarting the Osprey, but he's always been good at spotting loopholes. It seems there is no rule against placing a box ("It's my dog") on top of a piling so long as the piling is already there. Jim's dock has lots of pilings.

He worked with the folks at Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage to select a tall one at the very end and they nailed a box to the top. Sticks began to appear in the box. Then more sticks. A while later, the mother Osprey settled in and in a few weeks the happy sounds of cheeping babies could be heard on Jim's dock.

As Seaworthy goes to press, the babies are now large enough to stick their tiny heads above the edge of the box. They go cheep, cheep, cheep whenever Jim comes down to his boat. The mother Osprey eyes Jim warily but the two have reached an understanding. He leaves her nest alone and she stays away from his boat.

SUSANNA SCALLION

Osprey Tips

Perhaps some have begun to take Osprey for granted because they are seen all over and around the Bay. Such abundance was not always the case. Back in the 1950s and '60s, pesticides reduced the Osprey numbers in the Bay to about 700 pairs. We are lucky to have learned from our mistakes and helped the Osprey rebound with such force! Every spring CWH receives calls from people with similar stories as the one above. This seemed like a record year for calls! Though I'm sure staff will say the same thing next year!

Here are a few things to keep in mind for next year's Osprey season:

1. The Osprey is federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, making it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird (including the Osprey), including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs. This said, as soon as an Osprey lays an egg in its nest, even though it may be on your million dollar yacht, you can't move it. You can deter Osprey from nesting in unwanted areas by removing sticks that have been placed there, hanging reflective streamers, making the site as unattractive to Osprey as possible. As mentioned in the article above, these things may not always work.
2. Call CWH long BEFORE March 17, the date Osprey typically return to Maryland, to clean off, replace or straighten the Osprey pole. The sooner you call, the more likely CWH staff will be able to fix the platform before the Osprey returns.
3. Keep in mind that a permit is needed from the State of Maryland to place an Osprey platform in the water. The permit process can take up to 3 months, so if you call on March 20th to have CWH install a platform, you will miss that year's nesting season, and the Osprey will continue to use your chimney, boat or gazebo to build its nest.
4. Ospreys would be nesting in trees still if humans had not removed so many of them, so while you are waiting for your osprey platform, you may also want to consider planting a few trees along the waters edge, so in 30 years, the Osprey can nest in a natural nesting spot!

For more information on Osprey platforms visit www.cheswildlife.org or call 410-822-5100.

A Fond Farewell to a longtime Friend and Staff Member

Eleven years ago, CWH welcomed aboard Arlene Seaman as our bookkeeper. Originally from New Jersey, Arlene brought her family from Pennsylvania to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to work for CWH. She and her husband Michael and their twin boys Thomas and Patrick quickly became part of the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage team. Arlene was not only responsible for keeping CWH together financially, but she also served as our Office Manager. She was the "go-to person" when any staff person had questions. A shrewd accountant, Arlene kept all of the CWH staff on our toes both fiscally and organizationally. In March of 2005, Arlene decided that it was time to leave the non-profit business world and enter into the "for-profit world"—a sure a sign of someone who knows finance! We will miss her greatly and wish her the best of luck in her new job. Thank you for everything--you, Michael and the boys will be greatly missed!

☐ *Yes! I would like to join with Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage to help build and preserve wildlife habitat.*

I am enclosing $ _____ as my tax deductible contribution.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

☐ Please send me information on the Planned Giving Program.

Please make your check payable to Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, or charge to:

☐ Visa ☐ M/C Account # _____

Signature _____ Amount $ _____ Expiration Date _____

☐ $30	Individual Habitat Guardian
☐ $50	Family Habitat Guardian
☐ $100	Habitat Protector
☐ $250	Habitat Sponsor
☐ $500	Habitat Benefactor
☐ $1,000	Habitat Conservator
☐ $2,500	Habitat Steward
☐ Other	_____

Please mail to: Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, P.O. Box 1745, Easton, MD 21601

CWH is a private nonprofit organization designated 501(c)(3) by the IRS. A financial statement is available upon request.

CORPORATE MATCHING: Don't forget corporate matching contributions. The company you work for or are retired from may be able to match your donation to CWH. Check with your personnel office to obtain a matching gift form. Mail the form to us along with your tax-deductible donation. We do the rest.