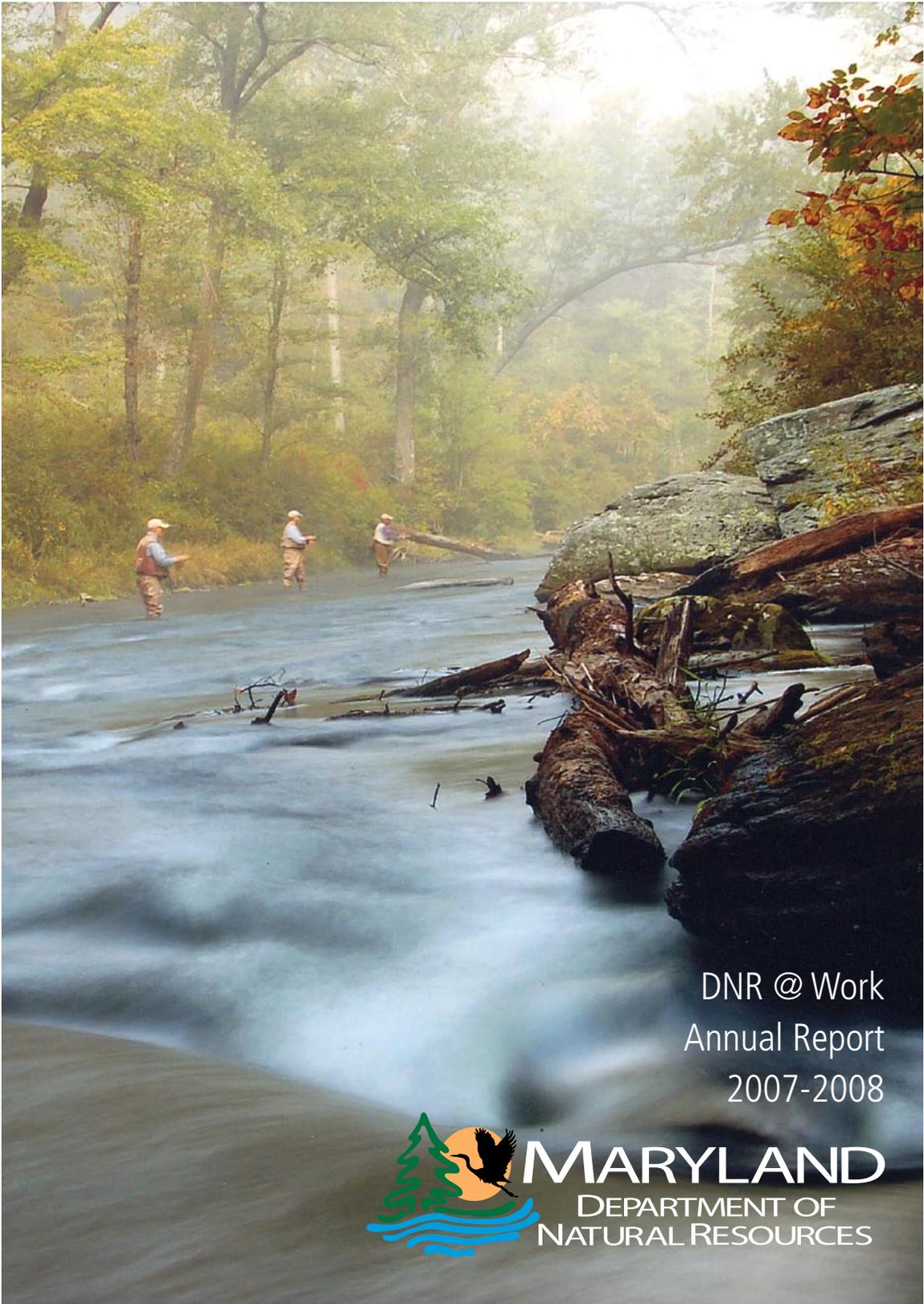


David Mosner



DNR @ Work
Annual Report
2007-2008





Contents

- 3 Message from the Governor
- 4 Message from the Secretary
- 5 Mission and Overview
- 6 Restoring the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays
- 8 Preserving Maryland's Landscape
- 10 Managing Maryland's Fisheries
- 13 Managing Maryland's Wildlife and Heritage
- 15 Serving Maryland's Communities & Citizens
- 18 Inspiring Citizen Stewardship & Connecting Children with Nature
- 20 Celebrating Success & Milestones
- 22 Budget Summary

Message from the Governor

Over the past two years, the State of Maryland has launched an array of innovative programs to help us realize our goal of making Maryland one of the greenest states in the nation, promoting sustainable policies that enhance the quality of life for Maryland's working families. With Secretary John Griffin at the helm, the men and women of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are leading the way.

In order to help us make the best decisions and make us more accountable to our citizens, **BayStat** is helping us track and target our many Bay restoration programs, bringing agencies together to improve planning and coordination so that we get the most out of available restoration dollars. Another exciting new tracking tool, **GreenPrint**, is helping us target land conservation dollars toward our most important landscapes.

Despite a challenging budget, we were able to enhance funding for **fisheries** and for many other important **conservation** programs, such as \$8.4 million for 250,000 acres of cover crops and an extra \$3 million for crab habitats and aquaculture development. Our **State Parks** received a much needed shot in the arm, after years of neglect, through an additional \$4.1 million and 58 new positions. We worked with our legislators to establish the **Chesapeake and Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund**, which will for the first time set aside money each year to focus on Bay restoration. And **Program Open Space** has been recharged, rejuvenated and the program's money is now going where it was designed to go – funding land preservation and local recreation projects.



Under our new **Smart, Green & Growing** umbrella, governments, businesses and citizens are coming together to create the smarter, greener, more sustainable future we prefer.

Our commitment to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and the conservation of our vital landscapes and living resources is a commitment to the health and welfare of Maryland families. Just as important, it is a commitment to the future. Our vision is of One Maryland where the generations who follow us have the same opportunity to enjoy the vast and diverse natural resources that we are blessed to enjoy today.

Thanks to the talented men and women at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, we are making very real progress toward that vision.


Martin O'Malley
Governor

Message from the Secretary

The past two years have brought a number of exciting organizational changes to our agency, changes that are designed to help focus management of Maryland's vast natural resources in a more sustainable way.

Toward that end, we established for the first time the **Office for a Sustainable Future**, an interdisciplinary team charged with creating bold strategies to conserve our natural resources in concert with promoting the quality of life we all prefer, maintaining sustainable economic growth, and promoting citizen action that preserves what makes Maryland special for all of us.



Working with the Governor's office, we undertook a new and improved approach to the state's **land planning and acquisition** to ensure the state is protecting the most strategically important landscapes to provide a lasting legacy for future generations.

Keeping with the interdisciplinary approach, we established three new teams to enhance planning and coordination in key areas. Members of our **Invasive Species** team are now working across program lines to address the increasing threats that alien invaders pose to our ecosystem. Through DNR's new **Children in Nature** team, educators, communicators and outdoor specialists are working to expand efforts to more fully engage Maryland youth, including those in underserved communities, with our great outdoors. Finally, our new **Conflict Resolution** team is working to build stronger relationships with our many and diverse stakeholders.

To strengthen our internal relationships DNR has launched a new **DNR Workplace Mediation Program**, one of the first programs of its kind in Maryland state government.

These organizational changes – along with a variety of new programs developed under the visionary leadership of Governor Martin O'Malley – are enhancing our ability to achieve DNR's mission to preserve, protect, enhance and restore the state's vast natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all its citizens.


John R. Griffin
Secretary

Mission

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) preserves, protects, enhances and restores Maryland's natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens.

Sherrie Lynne Fornoff



Overview

DNR is the state agency responsible for providing natural and living resource-related services to Maryland's citizens and visitors. The agency's dedicated employees manage more than 461,000 acres of public lands and work to protect 17,000 miles of waterways within the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays for maximum benefit to the State's environment, economy and quality of life.

DNR is also the lead agency for Chesapeake Bay restoration — Maryland's top environmental priority. The Secretary of the Department chairs the Governor's Bay cabinet, and DNR professionals staff the Chesapeake Executive Council and the Governor's BayStat team.

Restoring the Chesapeake & Coastal Bays

DNR is the lead agency for the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays and their tributaries — an ecologically fragile watershed of 64,000 square miles that stretches from our Virginia border to the south to our Pennsylvania border to the north.

To advance restoration of Maryland's waterways during 2007 and 2008, DNR...

Worked with environmental groups, sister agencies and members of the General Assembly to garner support for the **Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund**, which will provide up to \$50 million annually for implementing non-point source nutrient reductions.

Worked with the Governor's staff and Bay Cabinet members to develop **BayStat** criteria and begin tracking and targeting program implementation and progress; designed and launched **BayStat website**.

Worked with the Bay Cabinet to develop the **Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change**, establishing a multi-agency, statewide effort to address the cause and effects of global warming and climate change.

Coordinated with regional and State partners from eight jurisdictions to hold the **2007 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting** in Annapolis. Governor O'Malley, the 2007 chair, championed issues such as fostering local leadership, advancing new technologies, and improving program accountability and transparency.

Completed 1,459 acres of **reforestation**, buffer plantings and field plantings on private forest lands on the Eastern Shore.

Held the **14th Annual Maryland Water Monitoring Conference**, attended by over 300 participants.



Maryland has now installed more marine sewage pumpout facilities than any other state in the nation!

Worked with the Governor's office and legislative leaders to strengthen Maryland's **Critical Area Law** for the first time in 25 years.

Certified 17 new **Clean Marinas**, bringing the total of certified marinas and clean marina partners to 133 — more than 20% of the state's estimated 600 boating facilities. All state owned boating facilities are now clean marinas.

Preserving Maryland's Landscape

Maryland's land area encompasses more than 6.2 million acres, including about 2.7 million acres of forests. Empowered by Governor O'Malley's determination to improve the quality of life for all Maryland families, DNR is working to preserve and protect the beauty of the state's natural landscape.

Over the course of 2007 and 2008, DNR...

Developed new **Targeting and Ranking Land Conservation criteria** to ensure the State of Maryland is making the best use of limited Program Open Space funding.

Developed **GreenPrint**, Maryland's new, interactive mapping tool designed to help state and local governments, conservation organizations and individual citizens to guide land conservation and development.

Worked with partners across the State to acquire 9,400 acres of land through State-side **Program Open Space**. In 2007, this included protection of 718 acres of sensitive landscape that had been slated for Blackwater Resorts development.



Rural Legacy Program

Worked with local governments and land trusts to preserve over 8,000 acres of forests and farmland through the **Rural Legacy Program**. 2007 marked the 10-year anniversary of the nationally renowned program.

Protected 8,270 acres of land from future development through the **Maryland Environmental Trust**; from 2006 to 2007, the Trust saw a 33% increase in acres preserved. MET has permanently protected 119,569 acres on 983 properties statewide.



GreenPrint combines cutting edge technology with proven management principles to achieve progress by setting goals and measuring success in addressing Maryland's land conservation challenges.

Completed the **Little Deal Island Wildlife Management Area** breakwater project, protecting a 900-foot long sandy spit from erosion. The 2-year, \$1 million project includes 7 offshore segmented breakwaters using 7,000 tons of stone, sand grading and plantings — 21,000 marsh plants and 315 Groundsel trees. The project will be used to evaluate the use of living shorelines with structural components, offering erosion protection, sediment reduction into nearby navigation channels, enhanced water quality, marsh & beach habitats and increased upland vegetated buffer as established by the Living Shoreline Protection Act of 2008.

Received the fifth certification **audit of the Chesapeake Forest**, to ensure management of these working forests are following international standards established by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Was chosen as the second state in the nation to serve as a **pilot for the USDA Forest Service web-based GIS system WebDET**.

Managing Maryland's Fisheries

DNR biologists manage Maryland's finfish and shellfish to achieve and maintain healthy, abundant, self-sustaining populations for ecological, economic and cultural benefit. These fishery experts work with industry, recreational anglers and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure the health of our aquatic species.

Over the past two years DNR has...

Commissioned a new 17-member **Task Force for Fisheries Management** to assist with developing new strategies to better manage Maryland's valuable fishery resources

Commissioned a new **Oyster Advisory Commission**; the commission's first report was submitted to the Governor on January 7, 2008.

Completed and released for public comment the draft programmatic **Oyster Environmental Impact Statement** in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Army Corps of Engineers; the report is the culmination of a 5-year, \$17 million research study to evaluate native restoration alternatives and the possible effects of introducing a nonnative oyster into Maryland waters.

Worked closely with the State of Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to rebuild the blue crab population, enacting regulations designed to reduce the female **blue crab** harvest by 34 percent. Under the leadership of Senator Barbara Mikulski and Maryland's Congressional delegation, DNR secured \$3million in federal funding to help mitigate watermen's economic losses, while helping to restore the Bay. The program offered environmental restoration work to watermen in need, utilizing their existing skills and equipment to improve more than 1,000 acres of oyster bars.



Diamondback Terrapin

Worked with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to remove the spring quota for **striped bass** for Maryland anglers... the result of nearly a decade of effort, and restructured the commercial striped bass fishery to allow for better accountability and permit transfer.



Each spring DNR fisheries staff stock several hundred thousand rainbow and brown trout into freshwaters across Maryland for fishing enthusiasts.

Worked with Governor O'Malley and the legislature to ban the commercial harvest of **terrapins** and limit their recreational harvest.

Initiated a survey of the Chesapeake Bay's **menhaden** population — in cooperation with NOAA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service — using sensing technology (LIDAR). The goal of the experimental study, funded by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, is to develop a methodology for estimating menhaden abundance in the Bay, which is critically important to the management of menhaden fishery in the Bay and on the Atlantic coast.

Established a **Didymo** monitoring network in Gunpowder Falls and constructed wader washing stations on the Youghiogheny, Savage, Casselman, and North Branch Potomac Rivers to prevent the spread of the potentially invasive algal species, *Didymosphenia geminata*.

Enacted regulations to allow more **yellow perch** to reach critical spawning streams and rivers, while also increasing the opportunity for recreational anglers to catch legal-sized yellow perch.

Enacted **snapping turtle regulations**, creating provisions for commercial and noncommercial harvest.

Enacted **crayfish regulations** that prohibit the catch, use, or possession of live crayfish as bait or while fishing in the Middle Potomac and Susquehanna River basins.

Began **oyster reef construction** on Asquith Creek Reef in the Severn River using recycled materials from the Bay Bridge in partnership with the Maryland Transportation Authority, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and NOAA.



Developed a draft **artificial reef policy** for Maryland waters, recommending a comprehensive location plan for reefs, promotion of nursery area reef development, and implementation of a sound monitoring program. The creation of three-dimensional reefs emulates historic vibrant marine communities, such as northern, hard bottom habitats, which are critical to supporting diverse species of fish that were once prolific along the Atlantic coast.

Recorded landing of the **largest largemouth bass** ever caught in Maryland waters — 11 pounds and 2.88 ounces and measuring 24.25. The previous record was set in 1984.

Managing Maryland's Wildlife & Heritage

DNR manages the State's diverse wildlife resources, protecting Maryland's rare, threatened and endangered species, mitigating or eliminating the effects of exotic, nonnative and invasive species and conserving game birds and mammals and their native habitat.

In 2007 and 2008, the agency...

Selected winning designs for the **Maryland Black Bear and Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamps** from highly competitive fields featuring entries from artists all over the United States. The stamps, which support the agency's research and conservation efforts, are sought after by collectors worldwide.

Proposed 28 changes to Maryland's official list of **threatened and endangered species** based on intensive surveys by agency scientists and review of the biological data, including three animal and five plant species that were proposed for inclusion on the protected list and two animal and nine plant species that were proposed for removal from the list.

Conducted safe and successful **deer, small game, migratory bird hunting and black bear hunting seasons**, generating more than \$6 million annually and playing an important role in DNR's management of these valuable wildlife resources.

Tested more than 900 of hunter-harvested deer and additional samples from sick-appearing deer as part of statewide monitoring for **Chronic Wasting Disease**, which has been confirmed in other states but not in Maryland.



Maryland hunters now enjoy outstanding turkey seasons, with populations in every county due to a DNR state-of-the-art relocation project using wild-trapped birds conducted in the 1980s and 90s. Prior to the relocation project, turkeys were restricted to a few counties in western Maryland and a small population in southern Montgomery County.

Made several exciting discoveries concerning the **State's rarest bat species** during surveys of the Indigo Tunnel in Allegany County: Maryland's first known hibernacula of the silver-haired bat; the largest documented hibernacula of the small-footed bat; and a swarming of the federally-endangered Indiana bat.

Serving Maryland's Communities & Citizens

From unflagging efforts to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to careful stewardship of wildlife and forests, DNR programs have a direct impact on the quality of life of every Marylander and every visitor to our state. Ours is a diverse geography and a diverse population, but we are One Maryland.

In 2007 and 2008, the agency...

Worked with legislators and the Department of Budget and Management to obtain an additional \$4.1 million in annual funding for **Maryland State Parks** and noted an 11 percent rise in State Park **volunteer service**. In 2007, 8,956 volunteers performed 176,588 hours of service, representing an in kind donation of more than \$3.3 million. Nita Settina was appointed Park Service Superintendent, the first woman and non-law enforcement officer to hold the position.

Received Board of Public Works approval to construct the **Harriet Tubman National Historical Park Discovery Center** in Dorchester County in partnership with the Department of Business and Economic Development and the county, a priority of the local community for 20 years.



Each year, DNR provides critical ice-breaking services throughout Maryland waters assisting state and local partners, watermen, marinas and the U.S. Coast Guard. When needed, DNR ice breakers also provide daily escorts to and from Smith Island for the school boat, fuel barges and other means of commerce.

Worked with Queen Anne's County to promote DNR Waterway Improvement Funding of the \$1.5 million **Kent Narrows Channel dredging** project — one of the most heavily-traveled channels in the Chesapeake Bay.

Reopened DNR's **Information Resource Center/Carter Library**, with a full-time librarian to support the public as well as DNR staff and researchers.

Graduated a class of 17 newly appointed **Natural Resources Police** law enforcement officers — the first class since 2002.



Natural Resource Police officer inspecting oyster catch.

Began Round 3 of the **Maryland Biological Stream Survey**, during which staff and stream wader volunteers will collect benthic macroinvertebrate samples in approximately 600 stream sites between 2007 and 2009.

Continued to expand **online services** and electronic information delivery with the launch of DNR's Online Nursery, and the State's BayStat website and e-newsletter. DNR's website receives more than 1.5 million unique visitors each year, and DNR's monthly email newsletter serves more than 12,000 opt-in subscribers.

Released results of a **5-year study of groundwater supply** of the confined aquifers in Southern MD: Water-Supply Potential of the Coastal Plain Aquifers in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland, with emphasis on the Upper Patapsco and Lower Patapsco Aquifers.



During 2007 and 2008, DNR directed \$886 million in Program Open Space funding to Maryland counties and Baltimore City to support 555 local recreational projects and acquisitions, as well as community, parks and playground projects.

Directed 26.2 million in **waterway improvement funding** to 334 local projects across the State and celebrated the completion of several major projects, including **Baltimore City's New Inner Harbor Marina, the Annapolis City Marina** and **Cambridge Municipal Marina** expansions.

Received two **2006 Emmy Awards** from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for **Outdoors Maryland**, a Maryland Public Television program produced in cooperation with DNR.

Responded to 1,205 **wildfires** at locations across the State.

Received National Champion designation for six of Maryland's current **big tree champions** by the nation's oldest nonprofit citizens' conservation organization, American Forests, in the 2008-2009 National Register of Big Trees.

Inspiring Citizen Stewardship & Connecting Children with Nature

Citizen action and commitment are key to the health of Maryland's natural resources. DNR works with public and private partners to develop and support programs aimed at inspiring citizens to become better stewards and providing children with the experiences and education they need to become responsible adult stewards.

During the past two years, DNR...

Co-chaired the **Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature**, created by Governor Martin O'Malley to ensure all Maryland children can connect with and learn about their natural world.

Led the Statewide launch of **Smart, Green & Growing**, a new statewide initiative designed to involve every Marylander in reducing our carbon footprint, preserving our most valuable lands and restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Launched **Marylanders Plant Trees**, an interactive Website to encourage citizens to plant trees on their property, with a goal of 50,000 trees planted by 2010.



In 2008, DNR launched the Civic Justice Corps, a summer jobs program that employs urban youth in Maryland State Parks, teaching conservation service and team building skills. Governor O'Malley spoke at a ceremony honoring 118 graduates and their families.

Launched the **Marylanders Grow Oysters Program**, through which 145 citizen stewards along the Tred Avon River in Talbot County began growing out young oysters from private piers — in cages built by Maryland inmates — for planting in local sanctuaries.

Each summer, DNR staff reach hundreds of thousands of citizens and visitors, through Tributary Team Wade-Ins, State Parks camping and programming, the Maryland State Fair, the Maryland Fishing Challenge and more.



Recognized a record 68 **Maryland green schools** for environmental education and practices in 2007/8, bringing the total number of Maryland schools honored for incorporating environmental education into their curriculum and using model best management practices on their campuses to more than 200.

Launched Park Quest, a free 8-week competition challenging families to complete designated tasks at six specific state parks on Maryland's Eastern Shore; 150 teams participated in the program's first year.

Finalized the **Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserves Management Plan**, setting goals to expand the boundaries of Maryland's three reserves, develop an environmental education center and increase environmental stewardship and sustainable living through scientific research, environmental literacy and coastal management training for local decision makers and stakeholders.

Published the **Maryland Bay Game**, a sponsor funded summer activity book that reaches 250,000 children each year. 2008 marked the 11th anniversary of the popular publication.

Led Maryland's participation in the **International Environmental Poetry & Art contest** for young people, which is affiliated with the Library of Congress Center. Maryland winners are announced each August at the Maryland State Fair.

Celebrating Success & Milestones

DNR's people are its greatest resource and 2007 and 2008 brought well-deserved recognition to our programs and the people behind them.

DNR congratulates...

Dr. David Brezinski of the Maryland Geological Survey, who received the prestigious John C. Frye Award in Environmental Geology at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver. This award is given to the best environmental geology report or research paper published by the Geological Society of America or a state geological survey.

Dr. Gwen Brewer, a DNR scientist, who was honored with the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NACBI) and the Bird Habitat Joint Ventures' 2008 Bird Conservation Award.

Dr. Ron Klauda, Director of DNR's Monitoring and Non-Tidal Assessment Division, who was awarded the Carl Weber award for leadership and vision in monitoring Maryland's waters at the 14th Annual Maryland Water Monitoring Conference.

The **Maryland Conservation Corps**, which received national ECO-Corps honors in recognition of the unique and successful elements of including supportive stakeholder partnerships, high-quality projects, strong corps team and staff leadership, successful budget management and entrepreneurial operation style.

The **Maryland Forestry and Parks Centennial Committee**, which received the Park History Award from the national Association of State Park Directors. The Maryland Forest Service celebrated its centennial in 2007.

Maryland Clean Marina Director, **Donna Morrow**, who received a National Environmental Commendation from Boat U.S. Foundation.



Donna Morrow, Maryland Clean Marina Director

Sean MCGuire of DNR's Office for a Sustainable Future was honored in December by the Maryland and Potomac Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects and The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Baltimore Regional Chapter for his environmental advocacy and promotion of green building.



Patapsco Valley State Park

Natural Resource Police **Corporal John Myszka**, a 19-year veteran, who won the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2006 Guy Bradley Award for wildlife law enforcement.

The **Natural Resources Police**, which celebrated 140 years of service as the oldest law enforcement agency in the state in 2008.

BUDGET SUMMARY

FY '06, FY '07, FY '08

Budget Summary
(\$ in millions)

	FY '07 Actual	FY '08 Actual	FY'09 Actual
Appropriations			
General Funds	75.3	76.5	57.7
Special Funds	386.8	302.8	173.4
Federal Funds	26.1	27.9	30.8
Reimbursable Funds	6.2	8.6	8.1
Total	494.6	415.7	270.0
Units			
Boating Services	N/A	31.6	25.7
Capital Grants and Loan Administration	329.1	N/A	N/A
Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission	2.0	2.3	2.2
Engineering & Construction	5.3	5.0	4.6
Fisheries Service	14.6	15.9	19.4
Land Acquisition and Planning	N/A	220.4	76.1
Licensing & Registration Service	3.7	3.8	3.8
Maryland Environmental Trust	0.81	0.75	0.73
Maryland Forest Service	11.2	11.0	10.5
Maryland Natural Resources Police	40.9	37.9	36.4
Maryland Park Service	32.2	32.1	35.3
Office of the Secretary, et. al.	13.3	14.0	13.2
Public Lands, Policy & Planning	1.3	N/A	N/A
Resource Assessment Service	17.8	18.8	17.8
Watershed Services	12.3	12.2	13.3
Wildlife & Heritage Service	9.5	9.9	10.4
Total	494.6	415.7	270.0
Positions			
Authorized	1,368.50	1,343.50	1358.50
Contractual	386.89	463.82	400.7
Total	1,755.3	1,807.32	1,759.2

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