



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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## learn more

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This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.

DNR 01-022818-55 02/2018 #10396



RESTORED  
**2,300**  
ACRES

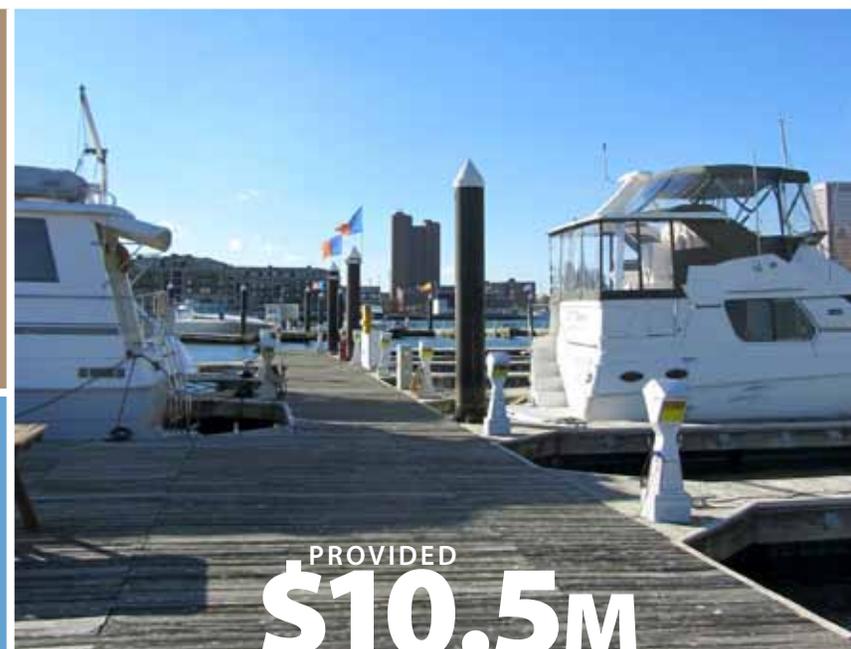
Helped Baltimore, Calvert and Dorchester counties complete projects that increase their resilience and reduce their risk to future damage of weather-related hazards with funding and technical assistance.

Implemented nonpoint source pollution reduction projects that helped prevent 1.7 million pounds of nitrogen, 84,000 pounds of phosphorus and 607 tons of sediment from entering waterways through the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

Completed the restoration of more than 2,300 acres of tidal wetlands in the Pocomoke River watershed. Enhanced 265 linear feet of shoreline to create vital nearshore habitat in St. Mary's County.



**1.7M** REDUCED MORE THAN  
POUNDS OF NITROGEN  
AND PHOSPHORUS



PROVIDED  
**\$10.5M**



FOR CAPITAL  
PROJECTS

Provided \$10.5 million for Fiscal Year 2018 Waterway Improvement Funding to 49 capital projects throughout the state, including dredging, public boating facility improvements and safety vessels.

Began construction on the Western Maryland Rail Trail Phase IV to add 4.7 miles to the 20-mile-long trail, which currently runs from historic Fort Frederick State Park, through the town of Hancock, ending along the Potomac River at the forgotten canal town of Pearre. More than 135,000 visitors rode this popular trail.

BEGAN  
**4.7**  
-MILE  
EXPANSION



Completed Ocean City Beach Replenishment, placing 905,808 cubic yards of sand on the beach as part of a coastal storm risk management project. The state has saved an estimated \$927 million in damage from major storms since the project began in the 1990s.

PLACED  
**905,808**  
CUBIC YARDS  
OF SAND



OPENED  
**12** MILES OF  
OFF-ROAD  
TRAIL

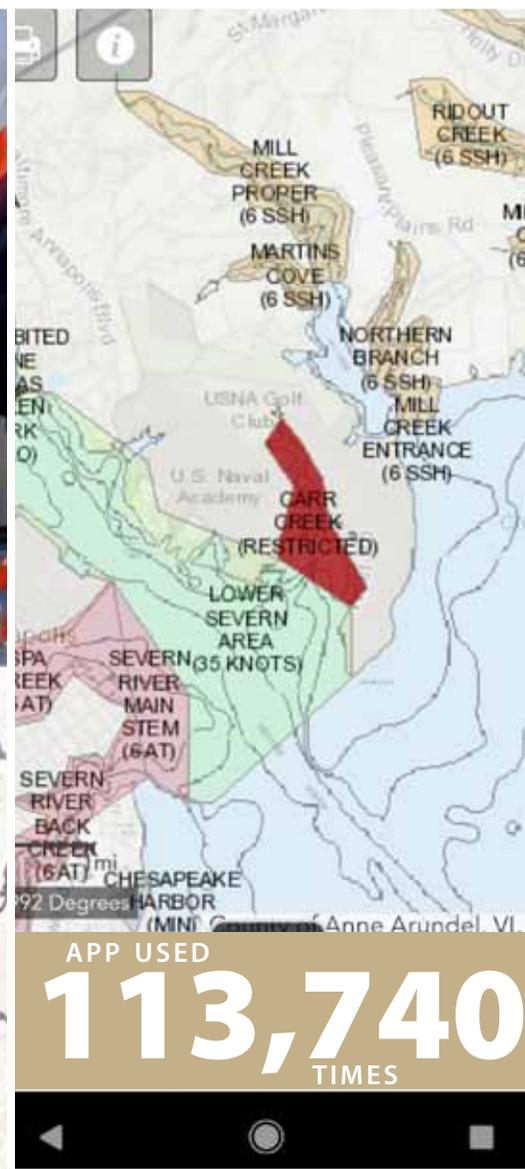
Opened the 12-mile St. John's Rock Off-road Vehicle Trail and campground at Savage River State Forest. Features of Maryland's first-ever purpose-designed and built off-road vehicle trail on state lands include a multisite campground, children's riding trails, technical spur loops and hare scramble style trail sections for all terrain vehicles and motorcycles, and a full size rock crawl for jeeps and four-wheel drive vehicles.



CLEARED  
**80**  
OBJECTS



PLACED  
MARKERS  
**4k**



APP USED  
**113,740**  
TIMES



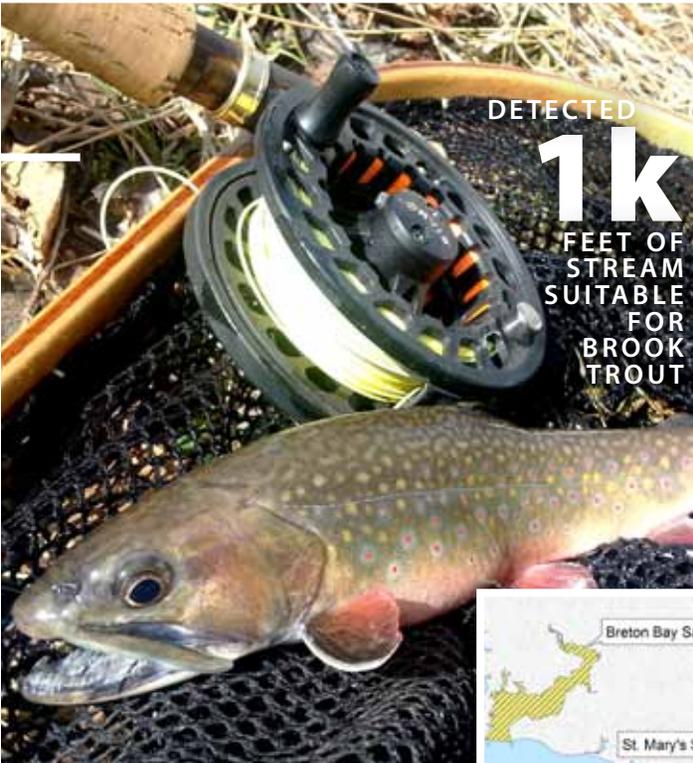
IMPROVED  
**2**  
INTAKES

Abandoned boat and debris program removed 30 abandoned vessels and more than 50 objects causing hazard, pollution and safety concerns on Maryland waters.

Hydrographic Operations placed more than 4,000 buoys, markers and signs that mark state navigation channels and hazards to boaters, as well as delineate natural resource areas.

Developed an interactive speed limit map and mobile application, which were accessed by boaters around the state approximately 113,740 times.

Worked with Havre de Grace to establish an exclusion zone for boat traffic and anchoring/mooring around two public water intakes in the Susquehanna River.



DETECTED  
**1k**  
FEET OF  
STREAM  
SUITABLE  
FOR  
BROOK  
TROUT



TOTALED  
**408**  
SHELLFISH  
LEASES



SELECTED  
**2**  
SANCTUARIES



ACCESS ROAD  
COMPLETED FOR  
**1,200**  
-FOOT SEWER

Received a record-setting 74 shellfish lease applications. Additionally issued 31 new commercial shellfish aquaculture leases totaling approximately 514 acres, bringing the total leases in place to 408 on 6,584 acres. These leases produced nearly 75,000 bushels of market oysters.



STOCKED  
**2.7M**  
LARVAE

Stocked more than 2.7 million American shad larvae and 478,000 juveniles in the Choptank and Patapsco rivers as part of an ongoing effort to restore this iconic species. After seven years of focused restoration efforts, Choptank populations are beginning to indicate successful restoration. The number of adult American shad returning to spawn is increasing, and there are an estimated 1 million juveniles in the system.

Cleared remaining debris from the Bloede Dam removal site within Patapsco Valley State Park. Crews completed an access road on the south side, below the dam where the 1,200-foot sewer line connection will take place. Removal of this dam will contribute to the restoration of more than 65 miles of spawning habitat for alewife, American shad, blueback herring and hickory shad, and more than 183 miles for American eel in the Patapsco River watershed.

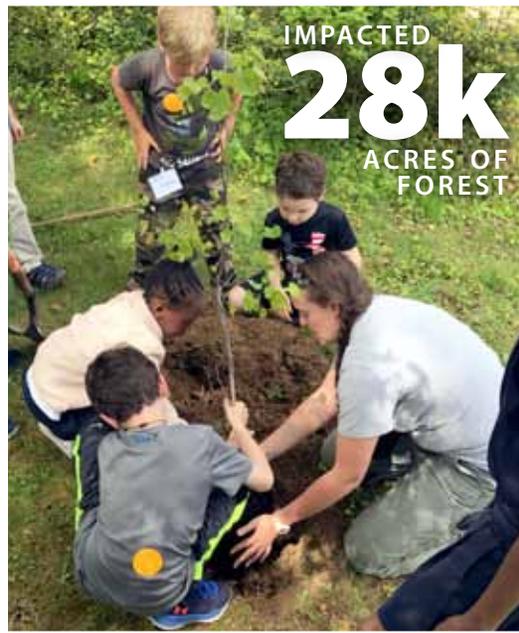
Conducted surveys that detected a fishable brook trout population in the 1,000 feet of stream habitat created after the removal of the Frostburg pond dam, a project funded by \$120,000 in grants and \$178,000 in matching funds.

Recommended Breton Bay and the upper St. Mary's River as the fourth and fifth large-scale restoration oyster tributaries. Maryland will meet the goal to restore five tributaries by 2025.



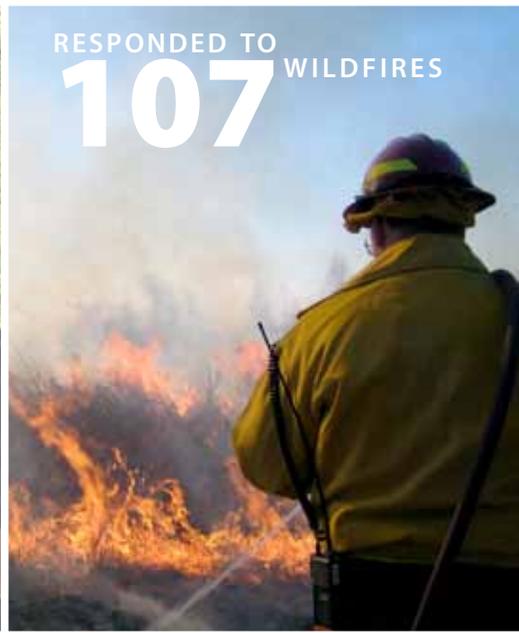
PRODUCED  
**2.5M**  
SEEDLINGS

The John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery produced 2.5 million seedlings for lawn reduction, stream buffers, timber and wildlife habitat. More than 1.3 million were hardwood trees or shrubs. Seedlings continue to generate positive customer feedback.



IMPACTED  
**28k**  
ACRES OF FOREST

Provided one-on-one professional assistance to more than 1,800 family woodland owners, delivering long-lasting guidance impacting in excess of 28,000 acres of forest. This brought our total acreage of private forest under management to 477,000.



RESPONDED TO  
**107** WILDFIRES

Responded to 107 wildfires that burned 2,175 acres in Maryland. Assisted nationally on wildfires with two 20-person crews, 14 single resources, and two Type 6 Engines completing six rotating crew assignments.



PROCESSED  
**116**  
TREMENDOUS ORDERS

Provided residents access to affordable trees to plant on their public lands to restore forests as well as forest canopy in the state through Tree-Mendous Maryland. Citizens placed 116 orders for 3,284 trees and 2,065 shrubs.



AWARDED  
**45** GRANTS

Awarded Volunteer Fire Assistance grants to 45 volunteer fire departments in 17 counties totaling \$102,548. The matching grants completed an estimated \$512,256 in equipping projects. Also supplied six fire departments with \$2,684 in wildland fire hand tools.



RECOGNIZED BY  
**2**  
ORGANIZATIONS

Recognized twice for tree planting efforts: The national Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA award program honored 46 counties, towns and military bases, which touched 4,649,715 citizens. The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Council PLANT awards recognized 81 communities, an increase from 67 in 2016.

APPROVED  
FOR  
**33** PROJECTS, TOTALING  
NEARLY **6k** ACRES



Received approval for 33 Program Open Space-Stateside projects from the Board of Public Works totaling \$25 million and nearly 6,000 acres. Among these acquisitions are the 460-acre OBX Farms parcel in Cecil County (future site of Bohemia River State Park), a 191-acre addition to the Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area in Kent County, and the 2,009-acre North Hills property in Garrett County, slated to become another state park.



Acquired 400 acres through Program Open Space-Local at \$35 million.

Acquired 4,500 acres through the Rural Legacy Program at \$14.5 million.



HOSTED NEARLY  
**14.5M**  
VISITORS

HOSTED  
**100k**  
VISITORS AT  
TUBMAN

Expanded free admission and entrance for both resident and nonresident military veterans.

RECEIVED POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM  
**7,980**  
VISITORS

Opened the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center. It was visited by 100,000 people representing all 50 states, four U.S. territories and 68 countries worldwide.



GAINED **19** NEW RANGERS



Hosted 14,491,549 visitors to network of 72 state parks. (This is up from 13,889,970 visitors in 2016.)

Held Ranger School at New Germany State Park and graduated 19 new rangers.

Received overwhelmingly positive feedback from 7,980 participating visitors: 97 percent felt safe in our parks; 95 percent said it was one of the best ways to spend time with family; 93 percent would visit again; 90 percent considered their visits important to their health.



FLEW  
**224**  
MISSIONS

Natural 1, the aviation unit, flew 224 law enforcement and search-and-rescue missions. K-9 units responded to 45 calls to track missing people, detect wildlife violations and assist in finding crime evidence and murder victims. The dive team received 32 calls for assistance.

Launched a multiplatform safe boating campaign containing a strong "Ride Inside" message aimed at reducing bow-riding accidents. Boating fatalities dropped to 10 from 17 in 2016 and 21 in 2015. Boating accidents with injuries dropped 12 percent. Officers arrested 83 impaired boaters.



REDUCED BOATING  
INJURIES  
**12**  
PERCENT



HANDLED  
**39,323**  
EMERGENCY CALLS

Dispatchers at the 24/7 communications center handled 39,323 emergency and assistance calls, up 18 percent over 2016.



CONDUCTED  
**246**  
SEAFOOD  
INSPECTIONS

Provided high-visibility boat patrols in the Inner Harbor as part of Governor Hogan's crime-reduction initiative in Baltimore.

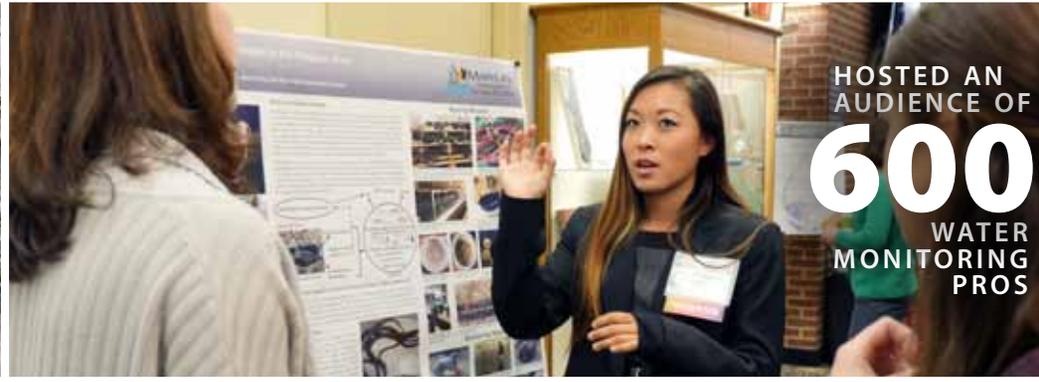
Officers conducted 246 seafood inspections in Ocean City and at BWI Marshall Airport.





COMPLETED  
**20** YEARS  
OF RESEARCH

Completed sampling in a subset of Maryland Biological Stream Survey sites first surveyed 1995-1997. Data will be used to help evaluate the influence of stream conservation and restoration-related management actions taken over the past 20 years.



HOSTED AN AUDIENCE OF  
**600**  
WATER MONITORING PROS

Hosted the 23rd annual Maryland Water Monitoring Conference—arguably the largest in the nation—to a record attendance of about 600 individuals, as well as 70 talks and 42 poster presentations on topics as varied as climate resilience, community engagement and ocean health.



MONITORED  
**175**  
WELLS

Conducted ongoing water-level monitoring in 175 wells in 13 counties and Baltimore City via the Maryland Geological Survey. This work provides information on changes in groundwater levels over time, particularly in the major pumping centers in southern Maryland.



RELOCATED  
**2k**  
MUSSELS

Completed monitoring after relocating more than 2,000 freshwater mussels in Deer Creek due to the potential impacts associated with repairs to Maryland Route 24 in Rocks State Park. Survival of relocated mussels was found to be the same as survival of other nearby mussels, suggesting success.



ANALYZED  
**21** CORES

Analyzed 21 cores and subsequent sediment samples from sites upstream of Conowingo Dam to evaluate the material's potential for reuse strategies as part of Governor Hogan's environmental priority to address the sediment and nutrient impacts of the dam reaching full storage capacity.



ANALYZED  
**6M** SAMPLES

Collected, processed and analyzed more than 6 million water quality records to help guide the management, protection and restoration of Maryland's bays and tidal tributaries.



Responded to more than 1,180 wildlife situations dealing with sick, injured or nuisance wildlife; 108 of these responses involved black bears.



Hosted the 14th annual black bear hunt, where 1,683 hunters harvested 131 bears across Maryland's four western counties.



Received reports from deer hunters indicating 34,000 deer were harvested during the popular firearm deer hunting season.



The Conservation Jobs Corps celebrated its 10th year with its highest ever participation: 465 young people ages 14-17. Members completed 153 projects in state parks and 51 projects in county/local parks. Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford recognized the 404 teens who completed the entire program at graduation ceremony in July.



Staff participated in the launch of Governor Hogan's Project Green Classrooms initiative to promote outdoor experiential activities and environmental education.



Human Resource Services established internship programs with Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to encourage a more diverse intern pool. We placed three interns in the Land Acquisition and Planning unit, Forest Service and Resource Assessment Service.

State Parks hosted six Es Mi Parque events to increase engagement with the Hispanic community. Each event was attended by 50-100 children and their families. Activities included fishing demonstrations, bilingual coloring books and lessons from Splash the Water Safety Dog.



Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve education programs provided 84 professional development workshops for more than 1,900 classroom teachers and other educators, serving more than 61,700 students participating in classroom, field and other environmental education activities.

# licensing & registration services

Opened four combined service centers in Bel Air, Essex, Frederick and Salisbury as part of Governor Hogan's Customer Service Promise in order to better serve Marylanders needing to buy or renew both recreational and vehicular licenses, permits and titles.



MERGED **4** SERVICE CENTERS



DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

PROCESSED OVER  
**580k**  
TRANSACTIONS



## Welcome to COMPASS

Login with COMPASS Account
Login with ID and Birthdate

Username:

For customers this is your email address

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#)

Remember me?

Never Purchased a License from DNR? [Enroll Here](#)

Purchasing a license is more convenient than ever before. This site will allow you quick and easy access to hunting and fishing licenses, regulations and other important information about outdoor recreation in Maryland.



### Using COMPASS you can...

- Purchase a License
- Reprint a License
- Register as a Saltwater Angler
- Sign up for a Lottery
- Report a Harvest



Hunting License Information	Fishing License Information	Vessel & Boating Information	Off-Road Vehicle Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License Information &amp; Fees</li> <li>Game Management</li> <li>Hunting Guide &amp; Regulations</li> <li>Wildlife &amp; Heritage Service</li> <li>Hunter Education</li> <li>Black Bear Lottery</li> <li>Public Hunting Areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License Information &amp; Fees</li> <li>Tidal/Non-Tidal Dividing Lines</li> <li>Fishing Regulations</li> <li>Fisheries Home Page</li> <li>Maryland Fishing Report</li> <li>Fishing Guide</li> <li>Where to Fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renew Your Vessel Registration</li> <li>Boating Safety</li> <li>Registration &amp; Title Requirements</li> <li>Regional Service Center</li> <li>Locations</li> <li>Boating Regulations</li> <li>Boating Tips</li> <li>Pumpouts/No Discharge Zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ORV Use on Public Lands</li> <li>Register Your ORV</li> <li>ORV Trails Open for Public Use</li> </ul>

Offered a catalog of 147 products through our online licensing platform, COMPASS.

Processed 584,228 digital transactions for 435,033 customers, generating \$41.2 million.

Maryland.gov Phone Directory State Agencies Online Services

**SAW 196k** UNIQUE VISITORS

HOME LANDS WATERS PARKS FISHING HUNTING BOATING WILDLIFE TREES

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- About Us
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- Boards and Commissions
- Conservation History
- Education Resources
- Grants and Loans
- Natural Resources Police
- Regulations
- Volunteer

**Quick Links**

- Calendar
- Forms
- Job Listings
- Buy a License
- Licensing Offices
- Boat Registration
- Park Reservations
- Online Store
- Maps
- Tide Table

Maple Syrup Festival

**Youth Fishing Rodeos**

Thirty-eight organizations in 11 counties are hosting rodeos, providing fun and engaging educational opportunities for 5,000 children.

**Preservation and Recreation Survey**

Residents and nonresidents are invited to share their thoughts on land acquisition, conservation and recreation in the state.

**Free Tree Seedlings**

Kent and Queen Anne's County riparian landowners can obtain free tree seedlings to help improve water quality on the Eastern Shore.

Access: DNR February 2018 - Mary

**Customer Service Promise**

**Maryland Fishing Guide**

**Wildlife Stamp Contests**

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**GOVDELIVERY**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**MARYLAND OUTDOOR STORE**

INCREASED SALES **22** PERCENT

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Search Products:  Go

Saw a 22 percent increase in online store sales from shopdnr.com, totaling more than \$50,000.



marylanddnr

50 posts 5531 followers 32 following

Message

Maryland DNR Government Organization

Your guide to e **GAINED 5,531** Instagram Followers

Call Email Directions



Expanded our social media presence to more than 53,000 Facebook and more than 15,000 Twitter followers. A newly launched Instagram account drew 5,110 followers in less than three months.





Two employees were honored by the Hogan Administration with Customer Service Hero Awards: Brian Stupak, a project manager with the Maryland Forest Service and Tom Schisler, executive director at Somers Cove Marina.



The Assataegue State Park beach patrol earned its national certification from the United States Lifesaving Association, which establishes rigorous standards for open water and ocean lifeguarding.



Fred Bedell received the States Organization for Boating Access Outstanding Service Award. Saving the state millions of dollars, he has scanned over 1,500 surveys, cataloged 350 dredging projects, located over 350 tide boards and marked their locations.



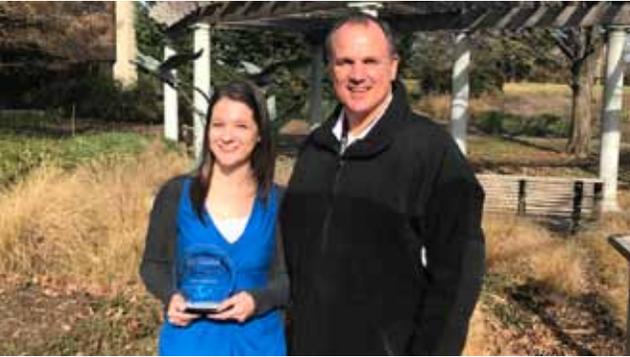
Wildlife and Heritage staff were recognized by the Allegany-Garrett Sportsmen Association for their bear management efforts. Accepting the award were Jim Mullan, western region manager and Harry Spiker, game mammals section leader.



Former director of the Office of Coastal and Ocean Management Gwynne Schultz (retired) received the prestigious Peter Benchly Ocean Award for more than three years' work developing the first Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan.



Communications Director Stephen Schatz and Design & Publications Manager Lauren Mitchell were among several nationwide recipients of the 2017 Granicus Digital Strategy Awards. They were named Communicators of the Year for revamping the department's email communications system, which included improving brand consistency, training department staff and monitoring analytics.



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