



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Margaret Enloe ~ menloe@waterfowlchesapeake.org ~ 410.822-4567

Waterfowl Chesapeake Launches New “Community In Conservation” Small Grants Initiative

Waterfowl Chesapeake (WC) is excited to announce the start of a funding initiative to connect financial resources with environmental needs across Delmarva. The new “Community in Conservation” funding effort, supported by restricted proceeds from Waterfowl Festival, offers non-profits and community entities the chance to receive monies for projects and initiatives at the intersection of conservation and community.

“For many years, Waterfowl Festival distributed a portion of its proceeds to projects across the region, with a focus on supporting waterfowl habitat in the mid-Atlantic flyway,” explains Margaret Enloe, Waterfowl Chesapeake Executive Director. “While we will continue to look at supporting larger restoration projects, those are often more complex and take more time to consider. These small grants are a simpler way for us to get local environmental needs supported each year.”

Waterfowl Chesapeake hopes that the broad emphasis on “community”, which draws on the Festival’s long history, will encourage organizations to think creatively about who they can serve and will help generate new ideas to bring people and regional conservation work, research and education together.

Organizations can submit an initial Letter of Inquiry & Support online at www.waterfowlchesapeake.org/community-conserv-funds by July 21, 2017. Requests must align with WC’s focus areas and make the connection between the project or initiative, the community of people engaged and waterfowl-related issues.

WC FOCUS AREAS

- Projects must be or support:
- Initiatives at the intersection of conservation and community - a broad new category meant to allow for new thinking, projects and applicants;
 - Education of current and future generations of enthusiasts, conservationists and educators;
 - Research and scientific work of graduate students, volunteer groups and non-profits that affect waterfowl populations; and,
 - Restoration & conservation projects to benefit waterfowl.

“We are very proud to be able to fund conservation efforts in this new way, since it’s why people of this region created the Festival 47 years ago,” says Chesapeake and Festival Board President, Albert Pritchett. “And combining Waterfowl Chesapeake’s professional conservation focus with the strength of our community and the Festival gives us a very strong partnership for the future.”

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About us *With a focus on communities, stewardship and the waterfowl-related resources and heritage on Delmarva, Waterfowl Chesapeake: Connects financial resources from the Festival and environmental needs in communities, Serves as a neutral convener for events, forums and discussions leading to solutions, and Engages and educates communities about the benefits of healthy waterfowl populations and habitats.*