

BLACKS OF THE CHESAPEAKE

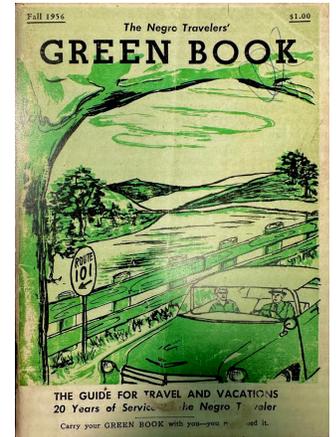
Summer 2023 Newsletter

Our Purpose:

BoCF advocates for improved water quality. We research, document, and fight to preserve the cultural sites, history, and legacy of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) living in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

BoCF Continues to...“Build Partnerships Through Creative Alliances”

A partnership of the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, **BoCF**, Chesapeake Conservancy, the State of Maryland, and The Conservation Fund raised **\$6.5 million** for the purchase of Elktonia Beach in August 2022. The federal government contributed \$2M for master planning, infrastructure, and interpretation for the heritage park. The City of Annapolis holds title to assure public access and ongoing maintenance. In summer 2023, the National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, joined by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), and Chesapeake Conservancy made funding awards to **BoCF** to Elevate Black Voices in the Master Planning and Interpretation for the future city managed public park.



BoCF's 2023-24 Title Sponsor:

Chesapeake Conservancy is a nonprofit organization based in Annapolis, Maryland. They are a team of conservation entrepreneurs. Believing that the Chesapeake is a national treasure that should be accessible for everyone and a place where wildlife can thrive. They use technology to enhance the pace and quality of conservation, and They help build parks, trails and public access sites.



BoCF x BIMS

Blacks in Marine Science is a premier organization enriching science to address the most complex challenges threatening oceans. BIMS' mission is to celebrate Black marine scientists, spread environmental awareness, and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders.

BoCF Moving Forward



By year's end, BoCF will close on the .65 acre "Moore property", adjacent to Elktonia-Carr's beach, including a "cottage" and pier. The cottage will be repurposed as the ***EECHO*** Center:

Environmental Education, Culture, History, and Opportunities.

The Elizabeth River Project's Dominion Energy® Learning Barge is an amazing floating river laboratory and classroom. BoCF envisions the future buildout of Elktonia Beach to include a "water-based" Learning Barge with public education on Climate Resiliency/Land Conservation, History of African Americans in the Maritime, and Seafood Industries.



"We don't merely collect the stories. In the traditions of our African griots (*said to be the holders of African history*) we share your family's memories and community's traditions IF you share with us through interviews, photos, & historical records."

Moving Forward, BoCF Will.....

01

BoCf will host **youth** on historic schooners at the kickoff of the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race hosted in Baltimore & Annapolis. These activities are funded by the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race Education Committee (Oct. '23).

02

Host Regional Listen, Learn, Share, conversations on Climate Resiliency Planning & Adaptive Strategies with funding provided by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters (Nov '23-May '24)



03

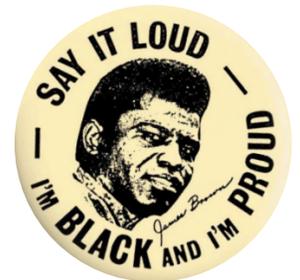
With funding from, and in collaboration with Blacks in Marine Science (BIMS), BoCf will support **eDNA** research with storytelling, and Promote Next-Gen Environmental Champions with funding provided by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (Oct '23- May '24)

04

Provide Technical Assistance & Training to Community Based Organizations to combat Marine Debris, Biota, and Human Impacts with funding provided by the Ocean Conservancy, and Educational Materials made available through Project Wet (Water Education Today) and MD Dept. of Natural Resources (Dec '23 - May '24)



For More Information contact **Dee Strum**,
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