

## **2021 WRNR Voices of the Chesapeake Bay – Report Q-4**

### **10-3-21 Joseph Connor, Lead Shipwright, The New Maryland Dove at the CBMM**

A historic ship that once set sail in Maryland waters and across the world is making a homecoming of sorts. It's called the Maryland Dove - a 17th century merchant vessel that once brought the first European settlers to Maryland. A replica of the ship is usually docked on the Western Shore and used for educational purposes nowadays. But now, President Kristen Greenaway and a crew at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum will be the next hosts of another Maryland Dove replica, constructing from the ground up, a new and updated version of it's 40-year and 40-ton predecessor. Greenaway says it will be a busy next few years for shipwrights at the museum with construction set to begin as soon as this spring. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Greenaway said "This is absolutely stupendous and, from the museum's perspective, this is our biggest exhibition. We were founded in 1965 and this is our biggest exhibition to date." But it won't be easy, lead shipwright Joseph Connor says there's little guidance on how to build a replica because the original Dove was lost at sea. That, and making the boat coast-guard compliant is one of many added challenges. "Obviously we want to build it as unbelievably beautiful and strong and with as great longevity as possible," Connor said. Greenaway says the public can view construction of the Maryland Dove from start to finish. She adds CBMM is currently looking for more shipwrights to help build the Maryland Dove before construction begins likely in June. WBOC Report. Joe Connor and his crew of shipwrights at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum have either restored or built dozens of classic work boats since he joined the CBMM staff in 2013 but he's the first to admit that heading up the reproduction effort for the Maryland Dove might be the most professionally challenging project in his career. Contracted by the state and operated by [Historic St. Mary's City](#), to build the newest iteration of the Dove over the next two years, CBMM's staff and volunteers are preparing for the process to begin in June. And Joe Connor can't wait to begin. The Dove is not only enormous in size, some 76 feet in length, but comes with the extraordinary legacy of being the first trading ship to bring European settlers to the shores of what is now known as the State of Maryland. While these two factors don't necessarily intimidate the master boat builder, it does add to his unique sense of responsibility in getting the work done the right way. *Talbot Spy*

### **10-10-21 MD State Senator Sarah Elfreth, Chesapeake Bay Commission**

Elected in 2018 to represent Annapolis and southern Anne Arundel County, Senator Sarah Elfreth is the youngest woman ever elected to the Maryland Senate. She is passionately committed to serving her constituents both in the State House and in the community. Sarah worked with colleagues across the aisle and around the State to pass 39 bills she sponsored in her first three legislative sessions. These new laws range from creating Maryland's first Office of Statewide Broadband, investing in libraries, small businesses, and critical prenatal care for healthy Maryland mothers, and protecting oysters and clean water. Sarah serves on the Budget & Taxation Committee, Chair of the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation, and as one of two senators representing Maryland on the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Commission. Despite serving in her first term, the Senate President has also given Sarah the leadership roles of Chair of the Pensions Subcommittee, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative, and Legislative Review, as a member of the Senate President's Workgroup on Equity & Inclusion, and as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area. As a member of the Budget committee, Sarah fights to secure millions in funding every year to support local projects and nonprofit organizations serving District 30. These include investments in the Thomas Point Lighthouse, the Stanton Center, the Shady Side Community Center, the Brewer Hill Cemetery, Arundel Lodge, Annapolis Maritime Museum, both the Annapolis and Mayo American Legions, and the YWCA.

(Cont.) Growing up, Sarah learned the values of hard work and public service from her union-member parents and with the benefit of an excellent public school education. Expanding opportunity and access for all - from our natural resources, to quality education, and economic opportunities - are at the center her public service and have been a consistent theme throughout her work. Prior to being elected, Sarah spent her educational and professional career as a tireless advocate for protecting the environment and expanding education opportunities. She graduated magna cum laude from Towson University where she was appointed by the Governor to serve on the University System of Maryland Board of Regents. After earning a master's degree in Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins University, Sarah spent four years as the Government Affairs Director of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, working on legislation to protect our natural resources and increase public support for one of Maryland's largest nonprofit organizations. Outside of the Senate, Sarah teaches political science and public policy at Towson University's Honors College and lives in downtown Annapolis. Sarah received the 2019 Joseph R. Biden Student Ally Award from the National Campus Leadership Council for her work to reform the Board of Regents and support of survivors of sexual assault on college campuses. She is also the recipient of the 2019 Dean's Recognition Award from Towson University and the 2017 Fannie Lou Hamer Award from the Anne Arundel County Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee for her work to make local government more transparent and inclusive. She is a graduate of the inaugural class of Emerge Maryland, an organization dedicated to increasing the number of Democratic women serving in elected office. Sarah was recently named one of Maryland's "20 in Their Twenties" by The Daily Record and received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Towson University Honors College.

#### **10-17-21 April Nyman, Exec Dir & Anne Daigle, Bd Pres, Arts Council of AA County, Annie Awards**

April Nyman's mother had nine brothers and sisters, where helping each other was a way of life. It was instilled in April from a young age that helping others was what you did. Today, April is the Executive Director of the [Arts Council of Anne Arundel County](#), where she lives the spirit of helping every day. She is soft-spoken and deliberate, and both serious and fun at the same time. We had a great time chatting over a glass of wine. When she started her career after college with her BS in Marketing, she worked in the mall and hotel industries. In jobs such as Marketing Director for regional shopping centers, she worked with merchant associations on advertising and funding. She was good at her job and especially good at helping them secure funding. Because she was raised in a culture of helping others, she naturally gravitated towards volunteer opportunities. April was always attracted to the arts. She loved the entire spectrum of arts and artists because she could see their passion and their drive to make their community better. As she began to volunteer and help the arts in various capacities, her corporate management saw the light in her eye and got her on board as a volunteer while still working in her marketing job, where she honed her skills in working with state and local governments to advocate for funds and capital fundraising. Becoming the development person on the board was a turning point for her, and she realized that her role was to serve the arts through funding. In Pensacola, Florida (her hometown) she became the first woman Executive Director for the Fiesta of Five Flags Celebration, a historical festival that included the arts, pageantry, races – a multitude of events. An annual festival, she developed it into a much larger event, bringing festivals from other areas through the Chamber of Commerce to support the funding. As a navy wife, she moved around quite a bit between Pensacola, New Orleans, Coronado, and Atsugi, Japan. Atsugi, Japan was clearly one of her favorites and she glowed when she talked about living there for three years. Arriving with a one-year-old in tow, she had her second baby there. It was vibrant and exciting. "I loved it," April remembers. "The theatre and arts in Japan are amazing." This is perhaps where April's artistry was in the fore: cooking. She taught western cooking and was also an English instructor for corporations. With a broker that scheduled classes for her, they paid well, and she was always busy. She made it sound wondrous. She also loved living in New Orleans; moving away only three short weeks before Katrina hit. She goes back to visit often. "I stay in contact with former students and friends – we share great stories and adventures," April told me. "I've looked at every place I've lived as a learning experience; a once in a lifetime opportunity." April is great at seeing possibilities. Throughout her moves she

(cont.) worked with the Navy League and added many more accomplishments to her resume, so when she arrived in Anne Arundel County in 2007, it was to be the final designation before her then husband retired. She was delighted when she saw the opening at the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County. They took a chance on the unknown and hired her as their Executive Director. The budget was \$400,000 in those days; it is now \$1.3 million. "This year we will distribute about \$800,000 in funding," says April. "My passion is to make sure there is funding so that we can support all of the talent and that it can be delivered to the community to make us better. I am the voice for the talent." The Arts Council has expanded their programs to include Art in Education, providing \$65,000 to support artists for auditorium and residency programs. On the roster is also a workshop for teachers to show them how they can bring the arts into curriculum, because children learn better with the arts. "The test scores prove that it works, Nyman explains. "Kids remember history re-enacted through a play – there are so many tools and techniques that they can make teaching fun." Her goal: To fill the gaps, continuing to provide more and more support in areas of need. The Council's role is to ensure the arts organizations in the area have what they need to support the artists, including a new initiative that will provide professional services to art non-profits like board facilitators, accounting or legal advice. The Arts Council does sponsor several significant juried exhibitions for Anne Arundel County artists: a rotating art exhibit (changes four times annually) at [BWI Airport](#), and a "[What's Up? Media](#)" sponsored exhibit at their headquarters, where the Best in Show artist gets featured in What's Up? Magazine Annapolis. April loves her job, and loves the area. She has three wonderful kids, ages 25, 23, and 20. Her oldest is a musician who does scores for short films among other things; her second child is in Business School, and her third is a sophomore at James Madison, studying to become a teacher. She is enormously proud of all of three of them, and following in their mom's footsteps, they have each volunteered at all of the Arts Council fundraisers and many of their events. April's other associations are many: State Women's Commission for three years, VP for [MD Citizens for the Arts](#) and Chair for [Maryland Arts Day](#) to name a few. I asked if she had anything she would say to sum it up or to add, and she was very clear: "Advocacy is my passion." For which we are grateful. Her efforts are tireless, successful, sustainable, and it seems – never ending. For *What's Up Magazine* by Patrice Drago, 2019.

#### **10-24-21      Bob Musil, President, The Rachel Carson Council, Silver Spring, MD**

Robert K. Musil, PhD, MPH is the President and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council, the legacy organization envisioned by Rachel Carson and founded in 1965 by her closest friends and colleagues. Dr. Musil was named President and CEO in February, 2014 and is only the third head of this historic environmental group. Dr. Musil is also a Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, School of Public Affairs, American University, where he teaches about climate change and American environmental politics. He also has been a Visiting Scholar at the Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy, Wesley Theological Seminary, where he taught about religious responses to global warming and security threats. From 1992-2006, Dr. Musil was the longest-serving Executive Director and CEO of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), winner of the 1985 Nobel Prize for Peace. During his tenure, he nearly tripled PSR's membership, budget, and staff. He is a graduate of Yale and Northwestern Universities and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and has been a Visiting Honorary Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and of Pembroke College, Cambridge University. Dr. Musil received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (LHD) from Mitchell College and joined their Board of Trustees in 2009. In spring 2011, Dr. Musil was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) at Lincoln Memorial University. A Woodrow Wilson Foundation Visiting Fellow since 2006, he is widely sought as a campus and civic lecturer. Dr. Musil has also taught at Northwestern, Temple, St. Joseph's and LaSalle Universities. Dr. Musil specializes in contemporary global sustainability, security, and health issues, as well as Cold War history, culture, and policy. He is the author of numerous articles and [Hope for a Heated Planet: How Americans are Fighting Global Warming and Building a Better Future](#) (Rutgers University Press, 2009); [Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women Who Have Shaped America's Environment](#) (Rutgers Press, 2014) and [Washington in Spring: A Nature Journal for a](#)

(cont.) [Changing Planet](#) (Bartleby Press, 2016). Dr. Musil helped launch PSR's environmental program in the early 1990's and led PSR campaigns for safe and affordable drinking water, clean air, and to prevent toxic pollution and global climate change. Dr. Musil has met regularly and worked closely over the years with leading public figures including Presidents and Vice Presidents, numerous cabinet members, and Congressional leaders. He also initiated PSR's U.S.-Mexico Border Project in El Paso and Juarez, Mexico and has represented PSR at international environment negotiations in Montreal, Kyoto, Johannesburg, Geneva, and elsewhere. A long-time leader of the environmental and nuclear arms control movements, Dr. Musil has also been Executive Director of the Professionals' Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control, the SANE Education Fund, the Center for National Security Studies Military Affairs Project, and CCCO: An Agency for Military and Draft Counseling. He is a former Army Captain who taught communications and policy at the Defense Information School, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. For fourteen years, Dr. Musil was also the Executive Producer and host of "Consider the Alternatives" a half-hour weekly radio program syndicated to over 150 stations with over 2,000,000 listeners. He has been the producer of numerous ground-breaking independent video documentaries and public radio documentary series including "One Blue Sky: Health and the Human Environment." Dr. Musil is two-time winner of the Armstrong Award for Excellence in Radio Broadcasting. From the RCC website.

### **10-31-21 George Reynolds, Cecil Co MD, helped organize the NE Chapter, Archaeological Society of MD**

At the 81<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Historical Society of Cecil County a packed house was on hand as Cecil's heritage-keepers presented the Ernest A. Howard award to George Reynolds. This prestigious honor is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the preservation of the county's historic resources and has faced huge challenges in trying to protect the built environment, preserve folkways, or save scare relics. Soon after George returned home from Navy duty in the Pacific during World War II, he acquired an interest in regional Indian culture and archeology. That curiosity soon turned into a lifetime pursuit involving 60-years of extensive fact-finding, searching for artifacts that showed how people lived in the past. In the coming decade, the young combat veteran helped organize the Archaeological Society of Maryland and start the first local chapter. When the state began talking about building an expressway across northeastern Maryland in the early 1960s, the proposal alarmed George. It wasn't that he was against moving ahead as he has always been a forward-looking person. He worried that once construction on the massive highway got underway, the big earth moving machines, cutting a 300-foot-wide path across Harford and Cecil counties, would destroy all evidence of prehistoric civilizations buried in the soil long before the European contact period. So the Northeastern Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Maryland led by George set out to ensure the corridor was documented before progress obliterated all traces of earlier inhabitants. This involved building support with transportation planners, state officials, politicians, and residents, as well as raising money to support the project. George was successful for he raised \$500 from private sources and with the help of a matching \$500 from the governor the group hired a Temple University professor to help them investigate the route. This experience pointed out to the need for the state to have an archaeologist. "We started a fight for a Maryland position," George remarked. "It took two years of working with our delegates and senators, but we succeeded." Tyler Bastain became Maryland's first state archaeologist in 1964, as George served in leadership positions with the Archaeological Society of Maryland. There were plenty of other advocacy projects as his work was just beginning. In 1976 he helped organize the Elk Creek Preservation Society and was its president for the first 10-years. The preservationist was involved in similar ways when the Cecil Historical Trust was formed and worked on the most current book on county history, "The Head of the Bay." The World War II sailor had some remarks about his strong passion for the past. "I went into Hiroshima, where they dropped the Atomic Bomb. We were riding on a Japanese truck as the ground was too radioactive to walk. The things I saw on that first observation round by the U.S. Navy were so unsettling. . . . I was uncertain about what the

(cont.) future held for the world, so I immersed myself in studying the past.” George’s interest never diminished. Over the decades he’s been involved in all the major digs in the county, including the one at the Elk Landing when the county detention center was being built. A Native-American burial site was discovered there. He has helped reveal much of what had been lost to centuries of time by being an advocate for archaeology and history in Cecil County. He also worked on the frontline, out there digging, and studying the secrets of the soil. The award is named after Ernest A. Howard a man who was especially instrumental in helping to build the strong Historical Society of nearly 1,000 members, which serves the county today. Born in Childs in 1885, this benefactor of the organization was deeply involved in the successful revival of the nonprofit in the 1950s. He worked tirelessly to preserve local heritage and was active in the restoration of several old churches and buildings. In 1955 he was a central figure in the establishment of a modern headquarters for the Cecil County library and donated a wing to the library in part to provide a home for the Historical Society. Howard passed away in 1973. George Reynolds, the energetic 90-year-old, becomes the fourth recipient of this honor.

Article from Window on Cecil County’s Past website.

### **11-7-21 Alice Estrada, Annapolis Maritime Museum, flooding tales**

Alice Estrada, President/CEO, joined the Annapolis Maritime Museum in February 2013. Estrada has been credited with turning around multiple non-profit organizations by implementing her strategic management experience to maximize revenue streams and improve overall productivity and program impacts. In addition to her work with non-profits, Estrada has extensive experience in the private sector including marketing Disney’s Town of Celebration, FL, and as Vice President and Director of Marketing for two commercial developers. An inspired community leader, Estrada served on the Town Council for the historic town of Gettysburg, PA, as well as multiple Boards including Journey through Hallowed Ground, United Way, Four Rivers Heritage Area and the Chamber of Commerce. Estrada is a Certified Marketing Director, a designation from the International Council of Shopping Centers and a recent graduate of Leadership Anne Arundel. She received the national Non-profit Executive of the Year award in 2017 from Non-Profit Pro Magazine. A native Annapolitan, she earned her degree in Business from the University of Maryland, College Park. This interview focused largely on the recent flooding and storms that effected the museum.

Bio is from the Annapolis Maritime Museum website.

### **11-14-21 Lea Capps, Executive Director, The Talent Machine**

A performer since the age of three, Lea Capps has been in such shows as Evita, Singin’ in the Rain and A Chorus Line, and has performed on national television and at the White House. For the past 20 years, however, Lea’s most inspirational role has been to lead The Talent Machine Company – an organization dedicated to giving children the opportunity to experience the joy and power of musical theater. Lea took over as Executive Director after the unexpected death of her mother and Company founder, Bobbi Smith. In addition to her leadership role with the Company, Lea also often serves as director and choreographer for Company productions and supports area middle school theater programs as well. Lea has a degree in psychology from UMBC. The Company produces three full-length, professional-quality musicals each year, and is committed to bringing the joy of musical theater to audiences everywhere, from school fairs and senior centers to community fund-raisers and special events. Many of the children who have performed with the Company over the years have gone on to professional careers as directors, choreographers, composers, and Broadway dancers and actors. The Talent Machine Company, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on ticket sales, grants and donations to share Bobbi’s byword – ENERGY – with its cast members, families, audiences and the entire community. Our vision is a community where all children have the opportunity to experience the joy and power of musical theater to develop creativity, build confidence, and teach the value of commitment and teamwork. A performer since the age of three, Lea Capps has been in such shows as Evita, Singin’ in the Rain and A Chorus Line, and has performed on national television and at the White House. For

the past 20 years, however, Lea's most inspirational role has been to lead The Talent Machine Company – an (cont.) organization dedicated to giving children the opportunity to experience the joy and power of musical theater. Lea took over as Executive Director after the unexpected death of her mother and Company founder, Bobbi Smith. In addition to her leadership role with the Company, Lea also often serves as director and choreographer for Company productions and supports area middle school theater programs as well. Lea has a degree in psychology from UMBC and considers two of her best “credits” her husband, Michael Blonder, and their daughter, Samantha Blonder, a Talent Machine alum and now a marine biologist. To make that vision a reality, we produce professional-quality performances, setting an expectation for excellence and involving as many children and youth as possible from the Central Maryland region.

**11-21-21 Richard Garrett, nursery manager, MD DNR Ayton Tree Nursery, Preston, MD**

The Maryland Forest Service produces millions of tree and shrub seedlings each year for reforestation and other plantings across Maryland and Delaware. The first state nursery, near College Park, was founded in 1914 primarily to grow trees for roadside planting. The state nursery later evolved and expanded to grow seedlings for conservation purposes including wildlife habitat, watershed and soil protection, and forest products. Fred W. Besley, a student of Gifford Pinchot (the father of American forestry), brought forest tree nursery science to Maryland as its first state forester. Besley gained his knowledge and experience from working in 1904 as a superintendent at the first federal tree nursery established in the country, the U.S. Forest Service Tree Nursery in Halsey, Nebraska. During his term as State Forester between the years 1906-1942, Besley established three state forest tree nurseries, all on the property or near the University of Maryland at College Park. With each passing year, productivity increased at the tree nursery from thousands to millions of trees produced annually. In the 1940s, the state expanded operations to the Beltsville Experimental Tree Nursery, while the College Park nursery moved to Harmons in Anne Arundel County and was later renamed Buckingham Tree Nursery. Here, a new tree improvement program propagated superior loblolly and eastern white pine. In 1996, the nursery moved to its present site near Preston, in Caroline County on the Eastern Shore. John S. Ayton, former nursery supervisor at the Buckingham State Forest Tree Nursery, was instrumental in the design and construction, from buildings to grounds and operations, of the present-day nursery which today bears his name. Today the nursery comprises 300 acres of land and is managed by three Forest Service employees throughout the year. Growing seedlings requires attention to nature's schedule. Seed is harvested during late summer and the fall. Planting occurs during the fall and spring. Seedlings are harvested and shipped February through early May. During spring and summer, seedlings are watered, fertilized, and weeded. It's a never-ending cycle of renewal that results in healthy, vigorous seedlings being planted across the state. Customers can begin checking the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website in mid-October when the nursery begins taking orders for the next spring planting season, and products available can be viewed on the DNR website anytime. Richard Garrett is the Nursery Manager for Maryland's John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery. Historic information written by Francis “Champ” Zumbrun. Article appears in Vol. 24, No. 3 of the Maryland Natural Resource magazine, summer 2021.

**11-28-21 Leroy Bupp, no-till, cover crop farmer**

York County farmer Leroy Bupp is a no-till pioneer doing what he can to reduce [polluted runoff](#) locally and flowing down to the Bay. “Did you ever see Mother Nature grow grass or trees by plowing or tilling the soil?” Leroy asks. “It's tillage and oxidation that gets rid of organic matter.” Leroy and his wife Joyce have been using [cover crops](#) and a legacy of no-tillage to improve soil health on the farm that has been in his family for more 240 years. Leroy was in the 12th grade when he bought the farm from his grandfather in 1963. “I paid a whopping big \$45,000 for 140 acres,” he said. “Can you imagine that? You pay that for a pickup truck today.” Today, Bupplynn Farm is in three parcels of about 310 total acres. They have 18 steers and grow corn, beans, and wheat. “I moved from one side of Interstate 83 to the other side, and that's all the farther I ever got in

life," Leroy says. In 1969, his grandfather bought the first planter in the area, and Leroy has been a no-till (cont.) farmer since 1972. "I can see the results of it," he says. "The clear water that ran from our farm for a month after last year's dozen inches of rain in a few days' time reinforced our beliefs in improved soil health, which captures the rain and holds it in the ground for slow release. It is a key factor in working to improve water quality in the Chesapeake watershed," Leroy says. A late-summer weekend [on the Bay with watermen and other farmers](#) from Pennsylvania was Leroy's first true Bay experience. It reinforced his commitment. The 74-year-old went home to York County feeling more strongly connected. "I preach 'Clean up the Bay, clean up the Bay.' Of course I can see why," Leroy says. "It's really nice to see the other side." [B.J. Small](#) Pennsylvania Media & Communications Coordinator, CBF Magazine.

## **12-5-21 John Ebersberger, impressionist & portrait painter**

Out of 2000 international entries, John's portrait, "Avie" won a top honor at the Portrait Society of America's 2012 International Portrait Conference. Held in Philadelphia the conference featured presentations by Everett Raymond Kinstler, Burton Silverman, Nelson Shanks, and other nationally recognized portrait artists. John's painting, "Avie", won the Exceptional Merit Award and was exhibited at the conference alongside the other top 20 entries. The October 2010 issue of American Artist Magazine features a step-by-step portrait demo by John to illustrate Michael Gormley's article, "The Artists Colony". In addition, John's painting "Anna" was a Finalist in the American Artist Magazine's Cover Competition. The winning painting is in the July/August summer issue. Downloadable PDF files of both articles are available on the Publications page of this website. Competing in 2009's Paint Annapolis event in Annapolis, Maryland brought John top honors - "Best in Show" was awarded to "Chesapeake Girl" by juror Ken Backus. John was awarded the Certificate of Excellence by the Portrait Society of America at the 10th Anniversary Art of the Portrait Conference for his portrait, "MacKenzie". The event was held in Philadelphia in April, 2008. Expressing the full spectrum of nature's beauty, John's paintings reflect the twin strains of Impressionism and Classical Realism. After earning a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1977, he began studying under Cedric Egeli, the nationally known portrait painter. It was Egeli who introduced John to Henry Hensche, the master impressionist who had served as Charles Hawthorne's teaching assistant in the 1920s in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Struck by the intensity of light Hensche was able to achieve in his canvases John studied every summer with him until his death in 1992. John's work and articles have appeared in The Artist's Magazine, American Artist, American Art Collector, and Workshop Magazine. Books containing John's work include Capturing Radiant Color in Oils by Susan Sarback, and Painting the Impressionist Watercolor by Lee Boynton. John's work has garnered many national and regional awards including, in 2009 - Best in Show at Paint Annapolis, Annapolis, MD; 2008 - Certificate of Excellence from the Portrait Society of America; 2007 - Second Place Ribbon at the Paint Annapolis Exhibition; 2004 - Jack Richeson Silver Brush Award for Best Figure Painting, awarded by Stephen Doherty, Editor in Chief of American Artist Magazine; and in 2003 - a Capital Region Emmy Award for Maryland Public Television's "Outdoors Maryland" segment "Shades of Winter". John is represented by McBride Gallery in Annapolis, MD; The Troika Gallery in Easton, MD; and Egeli Gallery in Provincetown, MA. He is represented for portraiture by Portraits, Inc. in NYC. Notable collections include The United States Naval Academy, The Federal Reserve Bank of MD, Lockheed-Martin Corporation, and the First Bank of Alabama.

## **12-12-21 Jay Fleming, independent photographer, author Working the Chesapeake, and Island Life.**

It would seem that Jay had discovered his passion for photography upon inheriting his father's hand-me-down Nikon film camera, at the young age of thirteen. Jay immediately developed an affinity to looking at life through the lens of his camera and what ensued was an exciting photographic journey that would eventually lead him to his career as professional photographer. Though beginning under the tutelage of his father, former National Geographic staff photographer, Jay naturally developed a photographic style and identity all his own.

Through experimentation, an incredible amount of patience & preparation, and countless hours spent researching potential photo opportunities, Jay began to capture such awe-inspiring photographs on his own. A pair of Yellowstone Cutthroat trout underwater, the last house on Holland Island reflecting in the rippling water just before it collapsed, and a fleet of wooden Skipjacks against an ominous grey sky are among Jay's most memorable pieces from the early stages of his career. Jay considers himself to be extremely fortunate to have found a livelihood that both satisfies his creativity and simultaneously supports his beliefs in environmental conservation. Jay spent the summers of 2011 and 2012 working in Yellowstone National Park to preserve the park's dwindling population of native Cutthroat Trout. During this time, he was able to explore his surroundings and capture some of the iconic beauty of the park's landscape and wildlife—however, what was most memorable to him was the fact that some of those very photographs directly contributed to raising awareness to the conservation efforts being made. Jay's photographs of these threatened Cutthroat Trout appeared in a National Geographic publication that informed the public of the increasing threat of invasive species. Closer to his home in Annapolis, Maryland; Jay has turned his attention towards the Chesapeake Bay. Jay spent three years documenting all aspects of the Bay's rapidly changing seafood industry for his first book, *Working the Water*, released in the fall of 2016. From underwater photographs of Blue Crabs swimming in lush beds of underwater grasses to incredibly poignant portraits of laborers working in a oyster shucking house, to portraits of workboats leaving the dock before sunrise, Jay illustrated the full spectrum of the Chesapeake Bay's fisheries in *Working the Water*. This title is currently in its third and final printing. Jay's documentation of the iconic seafood industry proved to be an incredibly powerful educational tool in raising awareness for the people and the processes involved with bringing commonly consumed seafood products to market. In the fall of 2017, amidst other photography and video projects, Jay committed to his second book, *Island Life*. Jay after 10 years of making trips to Smith and Tangier Islands - the two only inhabited offshore islands in the Chesapeake Bay - Jay developed an affinity for the environment and the island communities. *Island Life* will explore the environment and the seasonal Chesapeake harvests that provide the rhythm for community life, while documenting the tenacity and determination of the Smith and Tangier islanders who honor their traditions while facing an uncertain future. *Island Life* is expected to be released in October of 2021. Whether it's a dramatic sunrise over the water or a fishermen hauling gear, the passion for his craft and for visual storytelling is obvious in every photograph. Jay's talent is undeniable, his photography is not only beautiful but purposeful.

### **12-19-21      Former MD Senator Bernie Fowler, Broomes Island, Calvert County, MD**

Clyde Bernard Fowler, tireless champion and agitator for cleaning up his beloved Patuxent River and the rest of the Chesapeake Bay, died Sunday at the age of 97. Over five decades of public and private life, the former Maryland state senator known to everyone simply as "Bernie" [never gave up](#) trying to curb the pollution he saw threatening the region's once-vibrant waterways. He pressed for legislative remedies and even joined in bringing a pair of lawsuits when nothing else seemed to be working. He also took his case directly to the public in a way that proved contagious. Starting in 1988, Fowler led an annual "wade in" from the banks of the Patuxent, where he had netted for soft crabs as a young man in the 1940s and '50s, to dramatize the need to restore its clarity and vitality. He frequently recalled that in those days he could wade out into the river and still see his sneaker-clad toes when the water was chest deep on his lanky 6-foot frame. The wade-ins drew media coverage and politicians, and the "sneaker index" — the water depth at which point Fowler lost sight of his feet — became an informal but important yardstick for judging progress or its lack in restoring the Patuxent. "We've lost a real titan of the Bay community," said Ann Swanson, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. Fowler sat on that tri-state legislative advisory body for 37 years, she said, first as a state senator, then as a citizen member and finally as an emeritus. "The wade-in was just a beautiful example where Bernie combined science with community involvement," Swanson said. "He made his sneakers a scientific tool, a Secchi disk. And then he combined it with politicians and music and floats and picnics. Because he knew if you're going to accomplish environmental protection it has to be fun." In an [oral history](#)

[interview](#) for the Calvert Marine Museum, Fowler said the idea for staging the wade-ins came from Tom Wisner, the late folk singer, environmentalist and educator known as the Bard of the Chesapeake. For years, Fowler had been recounting what he characterized as his “corn pone” tale about seeing his sneakers, when Wisner suggested he reenact it to “send a signal to everybody that you are still wading out there looking to find your feet.” So, Fowler donned the garb of his youth — coveralls, blue denim shirt, straw hat and white sneakers. They waded in at Broomes Island, where Fowler had crabbed and run a boat rental business for a while after he returned from serving in the Navy during World War II. The first event drew maybe a dozen people, Fowler recalled, and they picnicked and sang songs afterward. The Patuxent wade-in has grown since then, but retained the same festive flavor, and with encouragement from Fowler it inspired copycat events on other Bay rivers. One politician who joined Fowler for his wade-ins more than any other was Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Democrat who has represented Southern Maryland in Congress for 40 years and now serves as House Majority Leader. He issued a statement calling Fowler a mentor and “dear, dear friend.” “The Patuxent and Chesapeake are cleaner and clearer because he had the courage to stand up to polluters and organized Marylanders to take action for conservation,” Hoyer said. For Fowler, the wade-in was the fun side of what to him was otherwise a serious struggle. He became increasingly concerned through the 1960s and 1970s about the state of the Patuxent, and he reached out to scientists at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons — whom he’d first met, serendipitously, playing in an adult softball league — seeking verification that there was something wrong. “Bernie wanted to become somewhat appropriately educated on the water quality issue because his strong feeling — almost like a gut-level feeling — was that the water was now different than what it used to be,” said Walter Boynton, then a young marine ecologist at CBL, now emeritus. “Quantitatively, he was absolutely right.” But while underwater grasses had disappeared and the river grown increasingly murky, state officials insisted it was fine. The secretary of natural resources even suggested that the nutrients flowing from sewage treatment plants upriver were food for fish. Steaming over the state’s indifference, Fowler, who had been elected a Calvert County commissioner in 1970, convinced the leaders of his and two other Southern Maryland counties to sue the state and upriver counties. “Bernie was a big thinker and fearless,” said Greg Bowen, former longtime Calvert County planner who is now executive director of the American Chestnut Land Trust. Going up against the state of Maryland seemed daunting, Bowen said, but “that was Bernie Fowler. If he believed in something he was going to do all he could.” After hearing testimony from scientists, a federal judge sided with the Southern Maryland counties. That led to a three-day meeting at which state and local officials, scientists and citizens hammered out a new plan for upgrading the river’s sewage treatment plants, with the aim of taking water clarity back to what it had been in the 1950s. That 1981 accord, which for the first time emphasized the need to reduce nitrogen as well as phosphorus, proved to be the forerunner for the 1983 summit between Maryland, Virginia and the federal government, which produced the first Chesapeake Bay restoration agreement. Elected state senator in 1982, Fowler continued to press for cleanup of Maryland’s waters. In 1988, for instance, the same year of his first wade-in, he succeeded in getting a law passed that would fine the state’s counties if their wastewater treatment plants failed to meet their discharge limits. He signed on as a co-plaintiff in yet another lawsuit in 2009, this one brought by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation after the state-federal Chesapeake Bay Program had missed one voluntary restoration deadline and was on the verge of missing a second. The lawsuit sought to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to put the Bay on a “pollution diet” as called for in the federal Clean Water Act. In a settlement, the EPA agreed to a timetable for the Baywide total maximum daily load. Imposed at the end of 2010, it requires the states and District of Columbia by the end of 2025 to take all steps needed to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to targeted levels. Early in his political career, Fowler also sought to dampen the environmental impacts of the sprawling development transforming Calvert County in the 1970s, Bowen said. As a county commissioner, Fowler worked with residents to develop the Pleasant Peninsula Plan, a long-range growth blueprint that emphasized the need to preserve land. Fowler served more than 30 years on the Patuxent River Commission, a legislatively authorized body set up in 1984 to advocate for the restoration of the river he said was in his blood. Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman called Fowler a good friend and ally with whom he worked on multiple issues affecting the river. Tutman said that

shortly after he became the riverkeeper there, Fowler introduced him around the region. Over the years, he added, he sought Fowler's advice repeatedly, particularly for his knowledge of the political landscape. "We'll miss him," Tutman said. "All that institutional memory, all that knowledge, all that history, it's all gone. He knew a lot, and he'd been through every struggle that river encountered." But in recent years, Fowler grew increasingly frustrated that the river wasn't improving as he'd hoped to see in his lifetime. "We've seen some modest improvements in recent years in the river," Bowen said, "but that was a great sadness for Bernie that we were not able to bring the river back as he remembered it, at least not yet." Fowler also expressed impatience with the pace of Bay restoration in general and feared that it was losing steam. "He was horrified with the current condition," Swanson said, "and he was also terrified that once his generation passed, that no one would recall the vibrance he had seen. And so ... he did everything possible to communicate that vibrance to a younger community." One of those younger people was Dia Brown, who met Fowler while in high school in Calvert County, where she helped organize Crochet for the Bay to raise funds for environmental projects. Fowler joined her and some of her classmates for a wade-in in her hometown of Chesapeake Beach, she said, and she got to know him while helping archive his life story for the Calvert Marine Museum. She's majoring in civil engineering now at University of Vermont, where she remains passionate about the environment and hopes to find ways to make buildings greener. This past June, when Fowler waded into his beloved Patuxent for the last time, he lost sight of his sneaker-clad toes when the water passed 34 inches in depth — far short of what he remembered in his youth. The most recent Bay report card issued this year by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science gave the river a D minus. Through the years, though, Fowler repeatedly vowed — and urged others — to "never, never, never give up." Now, Swanson said, with the loss of Fowler and other veteran environmental advocates like Tayloe Murphy, a former Virginia natural resources secretary and legislator who died earlier this year, the Bay restoration is facing a generational challenge. "It leaves a large hole for all of us to fill," she said. A celebration of life service originally planned for Dec. 29 has been postponed because of concerns about the upswing in COVID-19. A new date has not yet been set. This article is by Tim Wheeler of the Bay Journal.

**12-26-21      Brent Lewis, *Stardust by the Bushel: Hollywood on the Ches Bay's Eastern Shore* (2021)**

Hollywood on the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore. One-hundred years of moviemaking on Delmarva, from Easton to Ocean City and Wilmington to Chincoteague. This is the first comprehensive history of the stars of stage and screen who called the Eastern Shore home during (or after) their lives ... as well as major motion pictures produced on location here. Written with meticulous care and infectious joy by Brent Lewis, a tenth-generation Eastern Shoreman known for his mastery of regional history and lore.

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It seems like every part of the Eastern Shore has its own Hollywood story. From Linda Hamilton of Salisbury, Tallulah Bankhead in Kent County, or Talbot County's Robert Mitchum, every region of Delmarva has had its own unique experiences with movies and actors from the dawn of American cinema. But until now, no one has taken the time and research to put this remarkable story altogether. That changed when Queen Anne's County author, Brent Lewis, decided to make it the subject of his new book, *Stardust by the Bushel: Hollywood on the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore*. Brent has painstakingly pulled together these remarkable Tinseltown anecdotes from the filming of *The Whip* outside Centreville in 1917 to more contemporary examples like the box office hit *The Wedding Crashers* which was shot in St. Michaels. From the *Talbot Spy*.