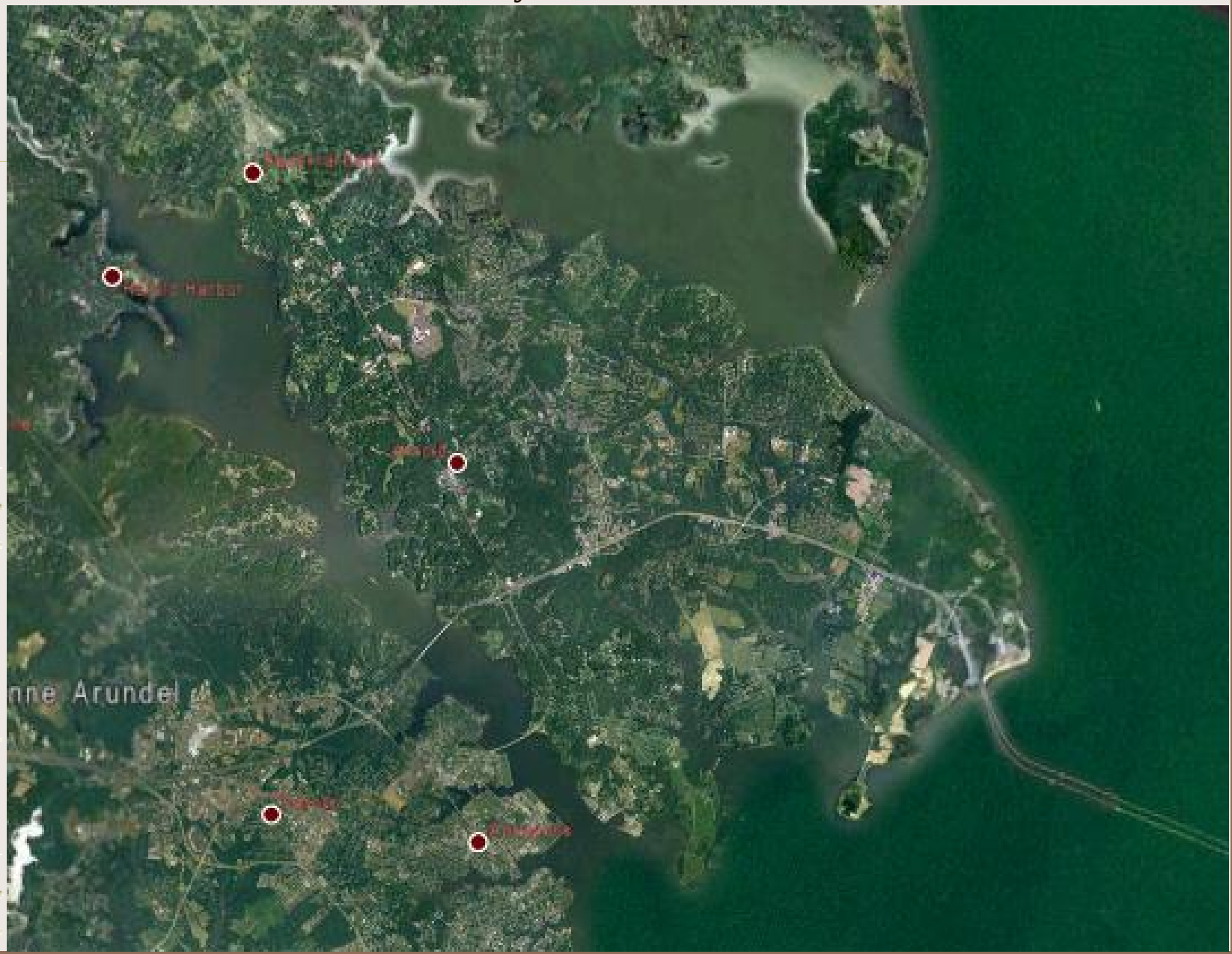
The Chesapeake Bay in Your Community: A Restoration Project

Anne Arundel County

Bay Tributaries



Problems Relating to Bay Degradation

- Air Pollution
- Solid Waste
- Toxins and Oil
- Sediment
- Nutrient Loading

Air Pollution

Human Activities Contributing to Problem:

- Emissions
- Industrial Output

Solutions:

- Regulations
- Improved transportation methods

Solid Waste

Human Activities Contributing to Problem:

- Poor disposal of municipal waste
- Toxic industrial output

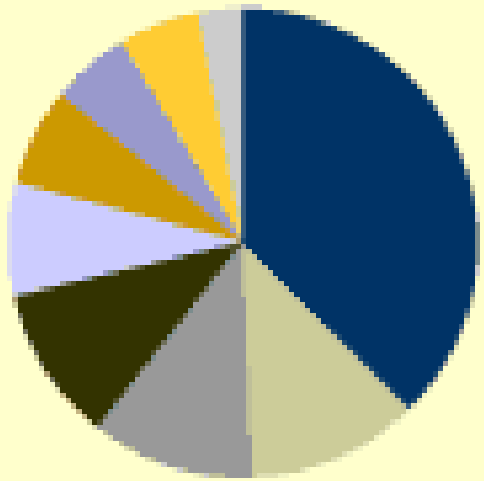
Solutions:

- Recycling
- Regulations
- Reduce use of materials

Solid Waste Statistic

2001 Total Waste Generation–
229 Million Tons
(before recycling)

- Paper 35.7 %
- Yard Trimmings 12.2 %
- Food Scraps 11.4%
- Plastics 11.1%
- Metals 7.9%
- Rubber, Leather, and Textiles 7.1%
- Glass 5.5%
- Wood 5.7%
- Other 3.4 %



Toxins and Oil

Human Activities Contributing to Problem:

- Leaking oil
- Illegal disposal
- Accidents

Solutions:

- Recycling oil
- Community action

Sediment

Human Activities Contributing to Problem:

- Agriculture
- Development
- Erosion

Solutions:

- Regulations
- Vegetation

Potomac and Patuxent Rivers

Nutrient Loading

Human Activities Contributing to Problem:

-Agriculture
-Domestic Pets

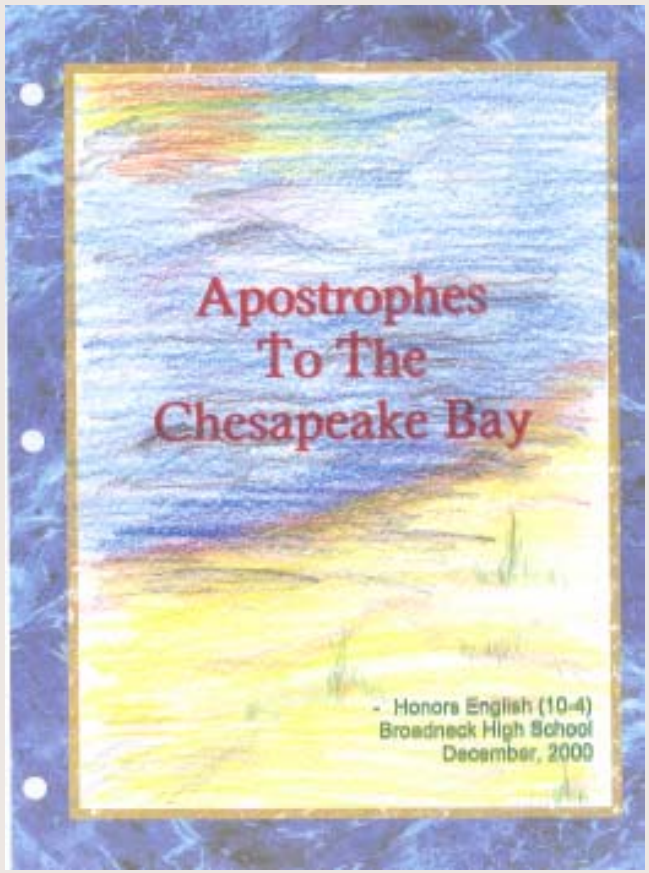
Solutions:

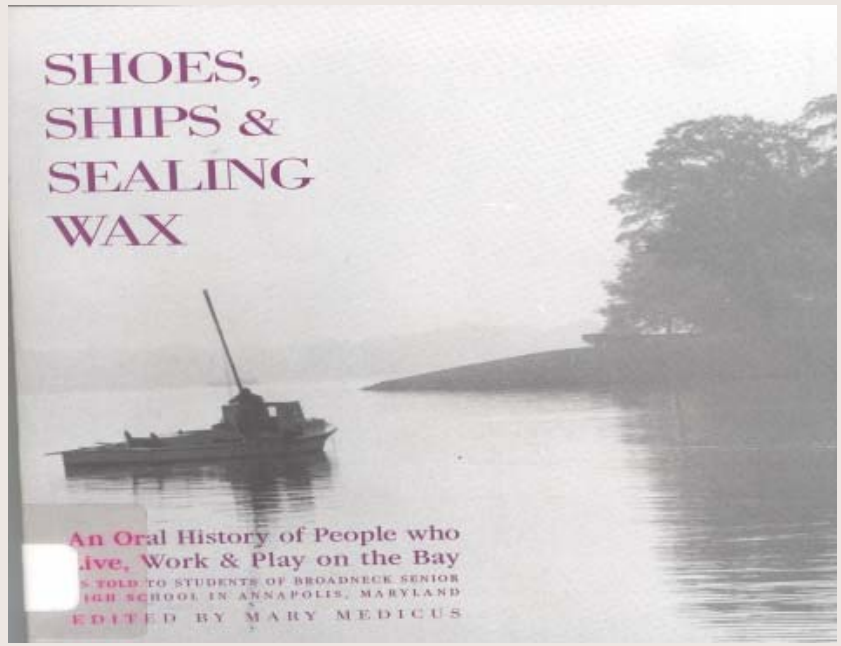
-Buffer Zones

Students Activism

- Organized planting
- Environmental projects
- Bay Day

Students Activism





Students Activism

Students Activism

Broadneck Students Visit Smith Island

by Allison Peterman

Friedrich Nietzsche asserted that what does not kill a man will make him stronger. Virginia Woolf believed that every woman needs a room of her own in order that she may have a quiet place to think. The character of Smith Island lies somewhere between.

Smith Island, which has approximately 40 minutes from the nearest town on Maryland's Eastern Shore, has nurtured a special way of life since English sympathizers sought refuge there during the American Revolution. Nestled between the Chesapeake Bay and the Tangier Sound and isolated from the rest of the world, Smith Island is a quilt stitched from love for the water and love for family. "We're all pretty much kin here," says Captain Denny Bradshaw. "If one person's in trouble, we're all in trouble," goes a popular saying on the island.

From September 27-29, 15 Broadneck speech students were fortunate enough to experience the rigor, compassion, and love so central to life on Smith Island. Funded by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) generous Bay Schools grant, the students stayed in two-earth friendly CBF houses in Tylerton, one of Smith Island's three towns. To conserve water, students could not shower and followed stringent bathroom rules, but they considered this peripheral.

As the waterman maintains a covenant with the water, CBF guides Dave, Sally, and Denny planned a number of activities to help the students understand the waterman's lifestyle and mimic it on a smaller scale. The students dropped crab pots, went scraping, which entails dragging a net from a boat to find crabs, and tried "pregger," as the residents call it, a practice of finding interesting fishers and jetsam washed up on shore or buried in the sand.

The objective of the trip centered around recording residents' lives in oral histories for certain Broadneck eleventh grade speech classes. Initially, most students expected another typical field trip: they would miss school, have fun, and go home. Instead, students came home with an awe for the Islanders and a new vision for how they could live their own lives. Speech teacher Mary Mathews says, "I feel blessed not only because I could meet these people with such a rich culture, but also because I could share it with my students."

In fact, the students were so moved that they are compiling four collections of their oral histories for publication—three concerning men and women who make their living from the bay, and the other focusing specifically on the men and women of Smith Island.

A strong sense of history and community said the island. The dates on the island stay unlocked, out of inherent love comes inherent trust. Residents welcome strange school children who knock on their doors and ask questions. Several years ago, a recent high school graduate from Tylerton drove his boat during the night and was killed when his boat collided with that of his best friend, but the Islanders speak of the collective spirit that has helped them through their ordeals.

Stella Bruce, one of the oldest women on the island and a subject of the students' oral histories, attended school until the seventh grade, when her mother died of a brain tumor. She says resolutely, "I'll never forget what I've been through if I'm 1000," only hinting at the hard lives Smith Islanders face.

Their kind demeanor can be deceptive. Smith Islanders work hard. During the crabbing season in the summer months, the men wake up as early as 2:30 a.m. and come in only for meals. They face unpredictable temperatures and weather, as well as a multitude of new crabbing regulations. The balance of regulations, nature, finances, education, health, happiness, and all of life's other intricacies are all the more delicate on Smith Island. When the men take their boats to catch oysters during the winter months, they brave icy Chesapeake waters and do not see their families for months.

The women work as hard as the men. Tom Horton, author of *An Island Out of Time*, describes the women as the backbone of Smith Island. Think Ms. head from *The Grapes of Wrath*: these women know themselves. Several decades ago, Norma Marshall began the time-honored tradition of picking meat from the crabs. During the crabbing season, the women wake between two and four a.m. and begin picking at the crab co-op. They return home to make their husbands

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Students get a feel for the bay

By JESSICA R. TOWHEY
Staff Writer

A line of 10 blindfolded Broadneck High School freshmen snaked its way through the sand at Sandy Point State Park.

Led by their teacher and stumbling with their hands on the shoulders of the student in front, the freshmen inhaled the Chesapeake Bay air, felt sand kicking up against unsure feet, and occasionally flinched as an errant tree branch whipped past a cheek.

"It helps you see things in a different way, and that's a good thing," said Lee Zhang of having to sense the bay without being able to see it.

She and 219 classmates spent Thursday at the state park working in a Chesapeake Bay Foundation program that takes students out of the classroom and into the real world. Using a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Lee and the other freshmen learned that even algebra has a practical use.

BROADNECK

"It makes things that are intangible tangible," said Pat Neidhardt, a Broadneck science teacher and one of the program's coordinators at the school.

"They're not just reading about the bay, they're seeing it. They're seeing the changes."

Three years ago, when the foundation chose Broadneck High as one of nine Bay Schools, the potential to take students into the environment loomed large in the minds of teachers like Ms. Neidhardt.

Last year, students from every grade went to Sandy Point for lessons similar to what half the freshman class took part in last week. This year, though, the number of activities was reduced from six to four, in part to reduce the amount of preparation needed and give students more time at each station.

(See BAY, Page C2)

Freshman Michael Stevens holds the bottom of a tape measure below water at Sandy Point State Park as he and Erica Webb, left, Jenna Van Dyke and Katie Whittaker, right, take measurements to determine the rate of beach erosion.