



# The Army's Chesapeake Review

Summer 1998



## Federal Agencies Committee Meeting Highlights

The Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) held two meetings this summer. They met on May 27, 1998 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USF&WS) Chesapeake Bay Program Field Office, and they met on July 9, 1998 at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) in Annapolis, Maryland. Announcements and highlights from these meetings included:

- The District of Columbia hosted Science Day on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the day was landscape change and forest fragmentation, focusing on ways that it is possible to grow while maintaining a green infrastructure.
- The Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) held a three-day meeting in June to identify key objectives for 2000-2005. One objective identified was to achieve sustainable development in the watershed through community-based planning and management, as well as coordination of federal, state, and local infrastructure development policies and programs.
- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) signed a Chesapeake Information Management System (CIMS) Memorandum of Agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Program at the FAC meeting, making USGS the first federal agency to sign a CIMS agreement.
- The Special Panel on Combined Sewer Overflows and Storm Water Management in the District of Columbia has developed draft recommendations that emphasize wet weather pollution prevention and control, including developing and implementing storm water management plans at federal facilities.
- The U.S. Postal Service is preparing an 18" by 24" poster on Bayscapes that will be distributed to all Post Offices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- A draft of the Federal Plan for Riparian Forest Buffer Implementation was presented to the FAC for review and comment.
- The Executive Council (EC) will meet at the Baltimore Aquarium on December 8, 1998 and the theme of the meeting will be education.
- The Federal Science Conference is scheduled for December 9-10, 1998 at National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge. It will provide a forum for federal scientists; program managers; and federal, state, and local natural resource managers to identify and communicate science needs and results, opportunities for technology transfer, and examples of projects that have made significant contributions to federal science.

## Implementation Committee Meeting Highlights

The Implementation Committee (IC) met twice this summer. The first meeting was held on June 4, 1998 and the second meeting was on July 16, 1998. Both meetings were held at the CBPO. Announcements and highlights from these meetings included:

- By the end of 1998, 635 stream miles of fish passage will be open to migratory fish and by the year 2001, an additional 598 more miles of stream are expected to be open. This will bring the Chesapeake Bay Program close to achieving the 1,356 mile goal by the year 2003.
- At the June 1998 meeting, it was announced that in 1997, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) increased by almost 6,000 acres, dissolved oxygen levels in the Bay were on the rise in the early summer, and nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the Bay decreased.
- At the June meeting, the Bay Program allocated \$650,000 to the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program to fund 37 projects. Of these projects, non-profit organizations received funding for 20 projects and local governments attained funds for 17.
- The EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are trying to establish a cost share agreement to refine the hydrodynamic and water quality model. The states of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania are prepared to consider continuing the 50/50 cost share for fiscal year 1999 through 2003.
- A Chesapeake Bay Basinwide Monitoring Strategy is being developed to consolidate the various monitoring programs within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and airshed and establish an integrated monitoring system. The workgroup is in the process of establishing a framework within which all the Chesapeake Bay Program partners and their monitoring programs will operate and co-evolve in the next 5-10 years.
- During a June retreat, the PSC identified three major questions that must be answered to prepare the Chesapeake Bay Program for the upcoming millennium: "Are we adequately addressing forests?", "Are we adequately addressing transportation and resulting development?" and "Are we positioned for new technologies?"
- The Modeling Subcommittee recently reviewed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Quality Model for the lower Virginia tributaries to see if it sufficiently addressed nutrients. They found the model to be more accurate than the main-Bay models and attributed this to an improvement in the hydrodynamic portion of the model. The group hopes to finish a Bay-wide model by the year 2003.
- Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) has increased by over 500 acres in each of the following areas: Lower Potomac River, Gunpowder and Middle Rivers, Susquehanna Flats, Lower Chester River, and Eastern Bay. Current SAV areas of concern include the Upper Potomac River and the Tangier Sound area.
- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is developing a web page, <http://www.acb-online.org/bayscapes.htm>, that highlights BayScapes projects completed to date.

# Fort Meade Goes Wild with BayScapes

By Susan Phelps

On May 20, 1998, the mid-day sun shined brightly on Fort Meade as more than 130 volunteers dug into the parched, stubborn earth with trowels and shovels to plant the Maryland installation's first BayScapes garden. Fort Meade invited area schoolchildren, local gardening clubs, area residents, and federal, state, and local officials to participate in the event and create a garden that will not only beautify the landscape but help save the Chesapeake Bay.

BayScapes is a program sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay that promotes the use of native, low maintenance vegetation for landscaping practices. The result is a garden that provides multiple benefits to both the gardener and the environment.

To begin with, BayScapes uses plants that are native to the area.

As a result, these plants require less maintenance. They are often more resistant to diseases and pests and, as a result, require less pesticides. They thrive on the natural soil and climate and, therefore, use less water and fertilizers. This low maintenance regime means less work for the gardener, less water use during the summer season when rivers run driest, and decreased amounts of nutrients and toxins polluting local waterways and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. BayScapes also

provides food and habitat for wildlife. As a result, butterflies and birds can often be seen among the flowers.

"We're planting this garden here today as a part of Fort Meade's continuing and growing commitment to restore and protect the environment, particularly the Chesapeake Bay of which we are all a part," said Garrison Commander Col. John D. Frketic during the opening ceremonies of the planting event.

Bruce de Grazia, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Quality) emphasized how important the Bay has been to the military throughout history as a source of food, shelter, and training grounds and how these resources are still important to the military today. "The Chesapeake Bay serves as a vital component of the military's training and readiness mission," he said. With more than 50 installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Department of Defense is one of the largest landholders in the region and has been actively involved in the Bay's cleanup since 1965. With clean water a top priority of the Clinton Administration, Mr. De Grazia said that the Defense Department is placing greater emphasis on the relationship between water quality and land use. Programs, such as BayScapes, are important to this effort because they are a land use that helps improve water quality.

According to Mr. Bill Matuszeski, director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program, "BayScapes is not only important for what it does and for the way it is going to help the Chesapeake, it's also important for the example it sets." He proceeded to thank Fort Meade for setting an example that the EPA will follow. The agency is in the process of building a \$50 million research laboratory on the installation. As a result of Fort Meade's efforts, the EPA has revised the building's landscaping plan to fully BayScope the site.

Mr. Jaime Geiger, USF&WS assistant regional director for Southern Geographical Area Region 5, commended the participants for their successful partnerships and emphasized the importance of synergism – where the overall product is greater than the sum of its parts. "What you do to reduce excess nutrients here today," he said, "is going to be multiplied in a synergistic manner to improve the overall quality of water in the Chesapeake Bay for the fish and wildlife species, the critters, the habitat, and ultimately the people who enjoy this fine area."

Retired Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler talked about his 30-year fight to convince the state government and local citizens that the Bay needed help. According to the senator, no one took him seriously when he first starting talking about the Bay's ailments. Over the years, though, as environmental studies and

public education took hold, people began to take notice and get involved. "I feel great today because my concerns are being addressed," said Fowler.

To help draw public attention to the Bay, Fowler conducts an annual "sneaker index" where he wades out into the water of the lower Patuxent River and sees how far he can go before losing site of his white sneakers. The measurement is a homemade version of the Secchi disk that scientist use to measure water clarity. Fowler has noticed

definite improvements since he began the sneaker survey in 1986. Those first measurements were only 11 inches. Last year, he waded out to 44 inches before losing site of his sneakers.

Fowler attributes the significant improvements in the sneaker index to the Bay Program's cleanup efforts. He said that programs, like BayScapes, will help further restore the Bay, which is so vital to the people who live in the State of Maryland. "The heart of Maryland is the Chesapeake Bay," he said. "If anything happens to the Bay, the heart of Maryland will stop beating."

Following the opening ceremonies, the volunteers dug 2,800 holes and filled them in with 35 different types of grasses, plants, shrubs, and trees. According to Bill Harmeyer, environmental scientist with Fort Meade's Directorate of Public Works (DPW), this will not be the installation's only BayScapes site. In the near future, the post plans to plant a wildflower meadow near the first demonstration site; a butterfly garden on the golf course; and a conservation landscaping area, complete with educational signs, around the DPW office. The goal of these demonstration sites, said Harmeyer, is to help educate people about the beauty and benefits of



native plants and encourage them to use native plants when they are planting a garden around their home.

## State of the Bay Update

### Anacostia River

To many people, the Anacostia River conjures up images of a highly polluted and degraded waterway. To the Anacostia Watershed Society, the river is “the jewel of D.C.” Although portions of the river have become polluted over the years, the waterway still has some beautiful areas to canoe, kayak, and fish.

On May 27, 1998, the Chesapeake Bay Program Communications Subcommittee held a meeting at the Anacostia Watershed Society office in Bladensburg, Md. As part of the meeting, the subcommittee took a 5-mile canoe trip down the river and learned about the society’s efforts to restore and protect the Anacostia.

The Anacostia Watershed Society is working to make the Anacostia and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by the year 2000 and to involve the public in the process. From 1989 through 1997, the society mobilized 12,622 volunteers to remove 214 tons of debris and 4,907 tires from portions of the river that flow through Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties and the District of Columbia. The society preserved a wilderness area and planted 8,841 trees with the help of 2,380 inner city youths. To prevent pollution, the society started a program to stop parking lot run-off.

The society is currently offering canoe trips to help people become more aware of the river’s beauty and to give them opportunities to explore and enjoy this natural resource. To find out more about the Anacostia and the society’s diverse programs, contact the Anacostia Watershed Society at (301) 699-6204.

### Pfiesteria

Harry Marshall, Old Dominion University (ODU), talked about Virginia’s pfiesteria program at the June 4<sup>th</sup> IC meeting. He said that prior to last summer’s outbreaks, the state been conducting a water sampling program since 1986 and monitoring 11 other potential toxin producers. As a result of the North Carolina pfiesteria outbreaks, the state had developed safety protocol in 1997.

From June through October 1997, fish with lesions were observed at 42 sites. One hundred forty-four water samples were taken and screened for pfiesteria. Of these, samples, four locations contained members of the pfiesteria complex, but were not toxin producers.

Virginia has since developed a Response Policy that includes three levels of response. The state has expanded its sampling protocol. ODU has dedicated facilities toward pfiesteria research and hopes to develop a toxic bioassay facility.

Robert Magnien, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, discussed Maryland’s pfiesteria program. He said that the state’s program includes varying levels of response. These responses include deploying emergency crews to reported sites, closing suspected tributaries, conducting risk assessments on selected tributaries, and building on existing programs, such as water quality monitoring and fish surveys.

Magnien said that the state is developing molecular probes for pfiesteria research. These instruments include antibody probes,



lectin probes, gene probes, and biosensors. The state has also established a hotline (1-888-584-3110) and a website ([http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fish\\_health.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fish_health.html)).

### Fishery Stocks

At the July 16<sup>th</sup> IC meeting, Bess Gillelan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and member of the Stock Assessment Committee spoke about the status of the Bay’s fishery stocks. The Stock Assessment Committee split the stocks into one of three categories, thumbs up, thumbs down, or waffling, based on population data. Three of the species, blue crab, striped bass, and Atlantic menhaden are in the thumbs up category indicating that their populations are healthy.

While blue crab numbers are not at an all-time high, data suggests that the numbers of crabs being removed through fishing are not preventing the crab population from sustaining itself over the long-term. The committee will be keeping close tabs on the blue crab population to ensure that it remains stable.

A survey of striped bass juveniles indicates high recruitment to adulthood in recent years. This is good news because it shows that the conditions in the Bay are allowing a healthy population of breeding adults. Current fishing pressure on the striped bass is equal to the target that the Chesapeake Bay Program set for the species. The target could potentially be set higher due to a large population.

The Atlantic menhaden population is currently healthy, but the committee is concerned about recent poor recruitment. The maximum spawning potential percentage is above the 3% target, which means that there is a good spawning stock this year.

Among the twelve species that received the thumbs down are the American oyster and the American shad. The oyster population is severely depleted, but restoration efforts are promising. In recent years, the committee has recorded a number of high oyster spat sets. However, few of the young oysters are being recruited to adulthood. The shad population in the Bay is very depressed, but appears to be stable due to the Bay-wide harvest moratorium.



# USACEHR Develops Sentinels to Help Combat Chemical Contamination

Since 1982, the U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research (USACEHR) at Fort Detrick has been developing a variety of sentinels to create screening tools for hazardous substances that are unique to the military. The basic idea behind the sentinels is that non-mammalian, lower vertebrate animals show physical signs of stress when exposed to chemical contaminants. Such warning signals often indicate negative impacts to the environment that could, in turn, affect human health.

The development of an assay, or test, involves several steps. These steps include working with researchers to refine existing technologies, developing protocols and procedures, testing the assay to ensure sensitivity, accuracy, and reproducibility, establishing standard methods and guidelines, and validating the assay in the field to ensure that it can be applied to real-world situations. Regulatory agencies require standardized, validated assay systems before allowing data to be used for regulatory purposes. They accept these data from the assays to make more informed decisions on chemical impacts on the environment.

USACEHR has several assays that are in varying stages of development. Each assay is designed to detect a specific toxicological impact, such as respiratory, reproductive, teratogenic (birth defects), carcinogenic, and neurological effects. The assays use a variety of non-mammalian vertebrates that demonstrate sensitivity to a particular toxic environment.

•**Automated Fish Ventilatory Biomonitoring System:** This system monitors the breathing patterns of fish to determine water quality. The system uses bluegill fish that characteristically prefer to “stand still” in the water. Eight fish are placed in an individually chambered box. As water passes through the chambers, electrodes monitor the electrical impulses given off by the fishes’ muscles as they breathe. A sudden change in breathing rate signals a change in water quality and prompts an automated water sampler to collect a sample that helps scientists pin-point the source of contamination.

•**Frog Embryo Assay (FETAX):** Developing embryos from South African clawed frogs are exposed to an environment or chemical of concern to monitor for birth defects. As the embryos transform into tadpoles over a 96-hour time period, scientists follow their development, growth, and survival rate to see if any abnormalities or death result from the exposure.

•**Honey Bee Sentinel System:** Bees make excellent soil, air, and water samplers because they are electrostatically charged, so dust in the air and soils becomes attached to them as they forage for food in a characteristic half mile radius of their hive. Scientists test the pollen and monitor the hive’s reproduction, growth, and productivity to see if there are any biological or behavioral changes that reflect a potential problem in the environment.

•**Rapid Toxicity Assessment Test Battery:** This assessment uses a combination of assays to test a variety of sites or areas of a site and quickly screen the environment for toxicants of concern. A wide spectrum of test organisms is used, including bacteria, algae, rotifers, crustaceans, killifish, tadpole shrimp, and lettuce seed. If toxicity is found, the assay helps scientists determine which sites should be cleaned up first. Some assays use African annual killifish and tadpole shrimp whose eggs can be dried and stored in containers for up to one year and 14 years, respectively. The scientists add water to the eggs 15 minutes before they are ready to conduct an assay and hatch instant fish or shrimp.

•**Japanese Medaka Assay:** USACEHR is developing a carcinogen assay using Japanese medaka fish. The eggs of these fish

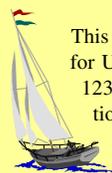
can be made to hatch at the same time, providing fish with a uniform age. The newly hatched fish are exposed to the environment of concern and monitored to see if and when they develop cancer in their nine-month life span.

The frog embryo assay and the fish ventilatory system are the two most developed assays that are ready to be applied to a variety of situations. Aberdeen Proving Ground, for example, built a permanent fish ventilatory system in its groundwater treatment plant. The plant treats contaminated groundwater flowing from a disposal site that contains different types of degrading munitions. The fish are used to monitor the water quality at the end of the treatment process to ensure that the facility is operating cleanly and efficiently. The Maryland installation also used the frog embryo assay to ensure that contaminated groundwater flowing into a nearby stream was not a threat to human or environmental health. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is using the frog embryo assay to try and determine the cause of malformed frogs in Minnesota lakes.

The sentinels are an added tool to a hazardous assessment that make the process more efficient, more effective, and less costly. Through the sentinels, scientists can set up permanent facilities or a temporary network of specially designed mobile trailer labs that enable them to continuously monitor the environment of concern and detect potential problems as they are developing. The continuous data stream and monitoring help scientists learn more about chemicals and how they interact with the environment. They allow the scientists to respond to a complex mixture of chemicals in an integrated fashion and are providing a more effective method for determining the appropriate amount of cleanup efforts necessary for a contaminated site.

The assay’s data can result in significant cost savings. Aberdeen Proving Ground’s use of the fish ventilatory system resulted in a cost savings/cost avoidance of \$4 million to \$5 million. The use of the technology also speeded up the Record of Decision process and eliminated the requirement to conduct costly studies to assure the safety of the treatment facility’s effluent. In addition, the public could understand the relationship between fish health and environmental health and so more readily accepted the treatment facility’s results.

USACEHR wants to expand the use of the assays to other military facilities and applications. In FY98, Aberdeen Proving Ground plans to use the honey bee assay to help determine if its phytoremediation project, which uses hybrid poplar trees to naturally pump and treat contaminated groundwater, is transpiring contaminants into the air. In the meantime, USACEHR continues to refine and upgrade the Army’s latest troop of soldiers in the fight against chemical contamination.



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# Fort Monroe Hosts Steering Committee Meeting

By Shana Wales

June 16 marked the Army's 1998 Chesapeake Bay Initiative (CBI) Steering Committee Meeting, which was hosted by Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia. The CBI Steering Committee includes representatives from the Department of the Army's Office of the Director of Environmental Programs (ODEP), the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Army Major Commands, and five installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The committee was established to facilitate active participation by representative Army activities in recommending Army policy, programs and procedures in support of the CBI.

Robert Anderson from the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, the principal tenant headquartered at Fort Monroe, welcomed the Steering Committee members to the installation and gave a brief overview of Fort Monroe's history.

The committee discussed riparian forest buffers and the proposed golf course at Fort Story before discussing the agenda items. Aileen Smith, the Department of Defense's (DoD's) Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, mentioned that the *Federal Agency Commitments to the Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative* specifies the attributes that a riparian forest buffer must have to count toward the Chesapeake Bay Program's goal of restoring 2,010 miles of riparian buffer by the year 2010. Richard Muller, USACE, mentioned that the process of gathering public comments on the proposed golf course at Fort Story began on July 16, with the first public meeting.

Janmichael Graine of USAEC updated the committee on major Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) activities that have taken place since the last Steering Committee meeting. His discussion began with the Small Watershed Grants Program, which was established to encourage DoD installations to begin or augment streamside restoration programs. An installation can receive up to \$5,000 toward a restoration project through this program. He also discussed the D.C. Storm Water panel, a blue ribbon panel formed in 1997 to improve wastewater treatment and storm water management in Washington, D.C. The recommendations made by the panel will affect the DoD facilities in D.C. Mr. Graine also told the Steering Committee about the Federal Workplan on Riparian Forest Buffers, which is currently in draft; the two Riparian Buffer Workshops that DoD hosted last year; and the Businesses for the Bay Program, which will soon be extended to DoD.

Mr. Graine described the proposed FY 99 CBI Workplan, which includes the following projects: the *Army Chesapeake Review* newsletter, a Bayscapes workshop and demonstration project, a Bayscapes or habitat restoration project, CBI assistance visits and a CBI in-progress (IPR) review meeting, DoD Chesapeake Bay Conference Support, Earth Day event support, environmental

education for school children, maintenance to the CBI homepage, production of an installation CBI pamphlet or brochure, riparian

forest buffers, SAV, site assessments and a watershed initiative to establish a watershed approach for an installation.

Aileen Smith described the projects that were funded through the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program for FY 98. One project of interest was the riparian forest buffer project, which is being implemented to contribute to the CBP goal of restoring 2,010 miles of riparian buffer by the year 2010. For this project, USAEC is working with 15 DoD installations to plant 10,000 seedlings over five miles of riparian area. Ms. Smith also discussed projects that were submitted for FY 99 funding. These projects involve the following initiatives: invasive plant species management, riparian

forest buffers, SAV, stream assessment and restoration demonstration, as well as technical workshops.

Helene Merkel, Horne Engineering Services, Inc., gave a presentation on the Bay Partner Federal Facilities Awards Program. This program was established by the Federal Land Stewardship (FLS) Workgroup to form a land management demonstration and stewardship role for federal lands. The FLS Workgroup is working with the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

to extend program eligibility for the Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities Program to federal land-holdings since DoD installations are much like communities. The Bay Partner Communities application is being revised to better reflect planning and development activities at the federal level. Pending the Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) and LGAC approval, the application will be distributed to DoD installations.

Shana Wales, also of Horne Engineering, led a discussion on the Federal Facilities Site Assessments. To date, assessment teams have made visits to Fort Eustis, Fort Belvoir and Fort Lee. This August, an assessment team will visit Fort Monroe. Common issues that assessment teams have been asked to evaluate include shoreline and stream bank erosion, storm water issues such as paved drainage ways and unusable storm water pollution prevention plans, as well as off-site issues such as development and public road expansion.

Susan Phelps, Horne Engineering Services, Inc., spoke on the habitat restoration program. The program is coordinated through the FAC Habitat Restoration Workgroup. During its November 1997 meeting, the workgroup developed the concept for technical teams, established criteria for priority projects, and decided to offer habitat restoration assessments as part of the Federal Facility Site Assessments. They will assist in seeking and attaining sources of funding.

As the meeting closed, Ms. Phelps gave an overview of the BayScapes planting that was conducted at Fort Meade on May 20, 1998. BayScapes is the use of low maintenance vegetation for



landscaping practices. Because BayScapes uses locally native plants, they require less maintenance, water, nutrients, and pesticides while providing food, shelter and nesting sites for wildlife.

## Workgroups Making a Difference



### Habitat Restoration Workgroup Makes BayScapes a Priority

A Habitat Restoration Workgroup Meeting was held after the May 27<sup>th</sup> FAC meeting. The meeting focused on successfully implementing BayScapes at federal facilities. BayScapes is the use of native plants for landscaping practices. Representatives from the different federal agencies talked about their BayScapes efforts and provided recommendations to improve the federal program.

Several BayScapes demonstration sites have been established on Navy facilities. Fort Meade (Army) installed a site on May 20<sup>th</sup> (see attached article). Recommendations to improve the overall program included developing BayScapes specifications and incorporating them into DoD's landscape design principles, establishing a wide array of Bayscape garden varieties (from wild to sculptured landscapes), finding ways to overcome funding difficulties, considering all the costs of the process, and involving the installation's Gardening Club.

The Postal Service originally committed to developing four BayScapes projects. The agency has achieved this goal and is now working to establish four BayScapes sites every two years. The agency also included BayScapes in its generic grounds maintenance plan and created an Environmental Achievement Award for schools that participate in BayScapes projects.

The Department of Transportation has built BayScaping into its planning process and will host a BayScapes workshop for its Region 3 states.

The USF&WS is developing a native plants database. The service is focusing on helping agencies and communities establish demonstration sites and teaching them how to plant BayScapes sites so that they can do it themselves and teach others. USF&WS wants to encourage communities to develop community-wide BayScapes plans.

The federal agencies concluded the meeting by discussing a federal goal for the upcoming 1998 Federal Agency Agreement. The representatives recommended that the new goal include establishing guidelines, setting a numeric goal, and evolving the philosophy into a broader conservation landscape approach.

### Quality Management Board Meeting News

The Department of Defense (DoD) held its quarterly Quality Management Board (QMB) meeting on June 11, 1998, at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. The following issues were discussed:

- The Army is planning to host two workshops in the coming year – one on BayScapes and the other on storm water management. The BayScapes workshop will focus on conservation landscaping and will include a demonstration site.
- Fiscal year (FY) 1998 Legacy funds are being used to develop an SAV monitoring program at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Eustis, the U.S. Naval Academy, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and Langley Air Force Base. SAV restoration will be conducted at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head.
- Proposals for FY99 Legacy funding for the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program were discussed. This effort includes proposals for riparian forest buffers, SAV, five workshops, invasive species eradication, and stream assessment. Themes for the five workshops include conservation landscaping, operations/land management, integrated pest management certification, toxics, best management practices for sediment and erosion control, shoreline stabilization, stream assessment, and integrated natural resource management plans in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Maryland Partners in Flight has established a Legacy project to evaluate the application of management guidelines for neo-tropical birds on military installations in Maryland.
- The development of the 1998 Federal Agencies Chesapeake Bay Agreement was discussed. The representatives talked about a variety of goal-related issues, such as whether to have generic or specific goals, funding, involvement on tributary strategy teams, goals for persistent toxic chemicals versus non-persistent, and related agreements (Clean Water Action Plan).