Historic gift creates unprecedented momentum for a healthier river

Initiatives expanding in Norfolk, Portsmouth and Chesapeake, thanks to you.

Norfolk couple who are longtime supporters have now made the largest gift in the history of Elizabeth River Project - $2.1 million. In appreciation, our cutting-edge environmental center, coming soon to North Colley Avenue, will be named for them as the “Pru and Louis Ryan Resilience Lab.”

The Ryans’ is the lead gift for what is now a runaway capital campaign with extraordinary momentum, given the context of an excruciating pandemic. Launched last year with a goal of $8.6 million, the Next Wave Campaign has now raised nearly $12 million. A new goal of $13 million will achieve a broad array of projects to accelerate river restoration and education efforts region-wide.

Louis Ryan, vice president of the board of the Elizabeth River Project and retired general counsel for Landmark Communications, co-chairs the campaign. He says he and his wife, Pru, invested in it for “the opportunity for the Elizabeth River Project to project itself and its mission to a much larger audience.”

“A really great idea”

Having sailed and rowed the Elizabeth from the days when people considered the river hopelessly polluted, and having served as a longtime board member, Ryan said the Elizabeth River Project has made “remarkable” progress but has not yet achieved commensurate community awareness.

“I thought the whole campaign, and maybe particularly the Resilience Lab, represented a really great idea,” he said.

The Resilience Lab is in final design for Knitting Mill Creek where it will demonstrate how to redevelop in the urban floodplain in ways that are responsible for both humans and the ecosystem as sea levels rise.

Additional Next Wave projects include a new home port in Chesapeake for the Elizabeth River Project’s Dominion Energy Learning Barge; doubling the size of our education headquarters at Paradise Creek Nature Park in Portsmouth, and expanding river education and restoration programs river-wide.

Pent-up longing

The response to the campaign reflects the community’s pent-up longing for a healthy home river, never felt more keenly than during COVID-19 when the outdoors has become the refuge of choice, says Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, Elizabeth River Project’s Executive Director. “People have rarely been more desperate for a great turn-around story, especially when it promises for them, personally, a nearby escape to beauty and wonder,” Jackson said.

Louis Ryan, meanwhile, downplays the importance of his and Pru’s gift compared to the imperative to keep giving levels strong for Elizabeth River Project’s efforts over the long term.

“A single gift for a single campaign is not really the measure of what’s important,” he said. “I’m hoping that the momentum we’ve gotten going and the excitement we’ve created will spill over to increase the funding we’re able to raise on an annual basis.”

Keep the momentum strong – give today at elizabethriver.org or return the enclosed card.
From the Executive Director

The phone call of a lifetime for a healthier Liz

F ew non-profits can have begun more humbly or cautiously. Elizabeth River Project started as four citizens around a kitchen table. Our budget the first year was less than $1,500. We spent it on a survey to see if anyone cared about the infamous filthy Elizabeth River or would support cleaning her up.

So imagine my joy nearly 30 years later when Louis Ryan called me to say that he and his wife, Pru, would commit $2.1 million as the lead gift to the Elizabeth River Project’s new campaign, the Next Wave, which promises a whole new level of region-wide engagement in the river’s revival. This being the era of the cell phone, Louis’ call came as I was getting out of my car at home. I flung down right there on the driveway everything I had in my arms – purse, folders, notebook – and began such leaping about, phone to ear, that my husband came out to see what was going on.

I’m proud that our iconic new facility on North Colley will be named the Pru and Louis Ryan Resilience Lab. Louis is a lawyer we value on our board because he is both cautious of pitfalls and an eloquent champion of promising possibilities. The campaign and Resilience Lab are simply “a really great idea,” he says.

It’s also clear to me that he and Pru deeply love our river. Posing for photos at the future site of the Ryan Lab, on Knitting Mill Creek, they told story after story of river wildlife they encountered when they lived blocks away (they still live on the Eliz, just downtown Norfolk). An ill otter they rescued, back when the wildlife rescue team at first wouldn’t believe it could be an otter in this urban river. Baby ducks for whom they built a ramp over their swimming pool lip. Dolphins they approached so quietly, rowing, they bumped one.

In this, the Ryan’s are no different than you and I who love Liz. Please know how much each more modest donation still means. In fact, it is your collective caring that has brought us this far. She’s no longer infamous. Join the campaign to make her famous for her glorious rebirth.

Marjorie Mayfield Jackson
Executive Director

Please consider a special donation with the enclosed card. You can also add to the Next Wave momentum at elizabethriver.org/thennextwave

Mission – To restore the Elizabeth River to the highest practical level of environmental quality through community, business and government partnerships.

Mudflats is the newsletter of the Elizabeth River Project, a membership-based non-profit working to restore the Elizabeth River through citizen, government and business partnerships.

Email Jessica Pinsky, jpinsky@elizabethriver.org, for membership questions.
A small beach on the Elizabeth River at 49th Street is one of Evelyn Page’s favorite spots. On good days, the high school sophomore and a friend collect sea glass and watch the wildlife.

Then there are other days.

“Sometimes we see dolphins and horseshoe crabs… Other times, the water is too nasty to wade in,” Evelyn says in a video she made for Elizabeth River Project’s third annual Youth Resilience Expo, held virtually April 24.

As with 1,075 students from 22 schools across the region, Evelyn, of Norfolk’s Granby High School, took action with Elizabeth River Project’s assistance to analyze and address the river’s problems, then documented her results for the Expo. Thank you, supporters, for making our education efforts possible even in the most challenging times.

In Evelyn’s case, she enrolled in a program we began last spring offering free water monitoring kits to keep students engaged after schools shut down. She jumped at the chance to “use my love of chemistry and nature” to understand the ups and downs at her river hangout. Among her findings: Low oxygen, high bacteria. Her video theorizes causes, then identifies solutions, including Norfolk’s planned improvements to sewer lines and people picking up after pets. “We all love our dogs, but their poop belongs in the trash, and not the river.”

This year, every Expo project won a special award. Efforts ranged from reducing flooding, runoff pollution and greenhouse gases to spreading messages of resilience and hope. Camelon Elementary School in Chesapeake won “Above and Beyond.” Students there not only created four raised garden beds for native plants, but also planted native trees, installed rain barrels and provided reusable water bottles to students.

Aimee Batten, chair of our board’s Public Relations and Education Committee, recommends watching the recorded 30-minute Expo to see all the student projects: elizabethriverproject.wixsite.com/kids/youth-resilient-projects. “It will give you hope for the future.”

Participants also included the Hague School, Blair Middle School, Western Branch Intermediate, West Ghent Middle School Group (representing Blair Middle School, Rosemont Middle School and Academy for Discovery at Lakewood), Greenbrier Intermediate, Callen Tynch (Christopher Academy), GW Carver Intermediate, Deep Creek Elementary School, Sail Nauticus, Portsmouth CHROME Clubs, Truitt Elementary School and the Nauticus Youth Discovery Crew. Funders included the Barbara Upton Wilson Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration B-WET grant.

Plan your youth resilience project for next year - email Sarah McBride, smcbride@elizabethriver.org.

Virtual Youth Resilience Expo participant Evelyn Page of Granby High School shares her winning project.

“It will give you hope for the future”

Thanks to you, students take action for the river despite COVID-19

Our new Learning Barge programs unstoppable.

Our new Learning Barge on Wheels travels wherever students are, thanks to Elizabeth River Crossings, Dominion Energy and YOU, generous member. Far left, Christopher Academy students (L-R) Eleanor Jones, Allie Moses, Levi DeShazo & Peyton Moore.

Finances
The Elizabeth River Project Statement of Activities
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020

Unrestricted revenues and other support
Grants and contributions 3,979,535
Program income 105,151
Membership dues 63,968
Other income 105,295
Interest income 17,528
Change in provision of uncollectible pledges (12,970)
Net assets released from restrictions 153,126

Expenses
Program services 1,778,136
Management and General 526,382
Fundraising 122,522
4,412,233
Change in net assets - no donor restriction 1,985,193
Support, revenue and gains with donor restrictions
Grants and contributions 4,270,251
Contributions to endowment funds 16,000
Gain (loss) from beneficial interest in assets held by others (1,603)
Net assets released from restrictions (153,126)
4,131,522
Change in net assets with donor restriction 6,116,715
Net assets - beginning of year 1,244,686
Net assets - end of year 7,361,401

Program services Management and General Fundraising
The Elizabeth River Project Statement of Financial Position
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020

Current Assets
Cash without donor restriction 504,718
Cash and cash equivalents with donor restriction 4,377,792
Contract receivables 281,971
Promises to give - net 299,913
Prepaid expenses 560
Total Current Assets 5,464,954

Property and Equipment - Net 1,087,782

Noncurrent Assets
Noncurrent promises to give - net 599,070
Other non-current assets 4,500
Beneficial interest in assets held by others 639,156
7,795,462

Current Liabilities
Accounts payable and accrued expenses 155,586
Current portion of long-term debt 25,000
Refundable advance on conditional grant 221,900
Total Current Liabilities 402,496

Long-term Liabilities
Long-term debt - less current portion 31,565
Total Liabilities 434,061

Net assets
Without donor restrictions 315,924
Without donor restrictions, board designated 934,196
Without donor restrictions, invested in property and equipment 1,087,782
Total Net Assets 2,331,902

Total Net Assets with donor restrictions 5,023,499
7,361,401

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 7,795,462

Last 12 months
Nesting pairs coming back
Bald Eagles
Branches of the Elizabeth where dolphins sighted: ALL
20 acres of oyster habitat restored.
11M lbs pollution reduced by businesses
6,065 River Star Homes

The Barge on Wheels has booked almost 100 trips helping reach more than 2,000 students with our hands on programs

15,435 sq. ft. restored marsh

494 acres of wildlife habitat restored or conserved

ALL THIS DESPITE COVID!
Thank you to the community that takes care of our home river, no matter what.

Overall Grade: C*
Most Improved Score: Indian River (F to C*)
At first it seemed this would be a lost year in terms of businesses able to voluntarily reduce pollution to the Elizabeth River. With a sad heart, Pam Boatwright, program manager, cancelled our annual in-person River Star Businesses Recognition Luncheon, usually a packed ballroom with more than 300 community and business leaders. “We thought surely there would be little to recognize, as businesses turned their full attention to surviving and adapting to the pandemic,” Boatwright says.

What a testament to the renewing qualities of river restoration work, that 23 businesses, non-profits and government facilities in fact documented stellar results, recognized at a virtual event Jan. 21 instead. “And I mean stellar,” Boatwright continued – as in reducing pollution voluntarily by 11 million pounds and restoring or conserving 494 acres of wildlife habitat, despite COVID-19.

“I should’ve known that businesses along the Elizabeth River wouldn’t be stopped by a little thing like a pandemic,” said Jamie Mitchell of HRSD, mistress of ceremonies for the celebration.

Highlights include Norfolk Southern’s “living shoreline” – three football fields long, helping the railway win Inside Business River Star Hall of Fame. The railway’s Lamberts Point terminal installed one of the largest privately funded living shorelines anywhere, controlling a steeply eroding bank through natural measures including wetlands and oysters. The company saved 75% over the cost of traditional erosion controls.

“I continue to urge others to adopt Elizabeth River Project’s approach of forming close partnerships with businesses who want to do the right thing for the environment. It is such a constructive approach and it has produced amazing results for the Elizabeth River,” said James Squires, railway CEO.

In its mission to create the most iconic urban waterfront trail in America, the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation earned three stars as a River Star Business with wildflower meadows, a new kayak launch, and original river art among other efforts.

Also earning three-star, Model Level recognition, awarded by peer review, was the Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads-Lafayette Annex, for constructing an oyster reef and much more.

Two-star, Achievement Level recognition went to Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists, Lady Fern’s Native Plants, Pender & Coward, and the Retreat at Harbor Pointe. And welcome to incoming Commitment Level River Stars Living River Trust, Sacred Heart Church, and Tidewater Staffing!

One great thing about virtual events is that they live on. Watch the recognition event for yourself at https://elizabethriver.org/rsevent.

Now that’s star power.

The Elizabeth River Project launched River Star Businesses for organizational partners in 1997. Since then, River Star Businesses have become the finest environmental stewards on the Elizabeth.

Cumulative results:

- Pollution reduced: 367 million pounds
- Wildlife habitat restored, conserved: 2,377 acres.
- Other materials reduced, recycled or reused: More than a billion pounds

Results are voluntary (above and beyond compliance) and must be documented for peer review. Find out more: RiverStarBusinesses.org, or contact Pam Boatwright, pboatwright@elizabethriver.org.
Resilience Lab already leads new data monitoring
State begins most comprehensive tracking ever of Elizabeth River health.

When dead fish washed up last summer on the banks of Knitting Mill Creek, confusion reigned for days over the creek’s condition and potential contributing factors. As of this spring, though, a new monitoring station on the creek, at the future site of Elizabeth River Project’s Ryan Resilience Lab, measures river health continuously and reports results live to the public.

The station, installed by Virginia Institute of Marine Science, is one of two representing the first ongoing, real-time monitoring of Elizabeth River health. The other also was added this spring, on the Eastern Branch at Grandy Village Learning Center.

The new monitoring stations are just one example of the most comprehensive data collection program yet for the Elizabeth River, launched this year by Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The Virginia General Assembly funded the program, thanks to lead patrons Sen. Lynwood Lewis and former Del. Matthew James, at the request of the Elizabeth River Project to improve scientific understanding of river conditions and pinpoint restoration needs.

Other efforts through the new program range from trawl surveys of fish to sampling for contaminants and tracking of the indicator fish, the mummichog.

The attention to river health is in sharp contrast to early days of efforts to improve the Elizabeth, said Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, Executive Director, Elizabeth River Project. Back then, in the early 1990s, “the Elizabeth was written off as a dead sewer. Regular monitoring had almost stopped.” She thanked Elizabeth River Project’s members and partners for achieving a dramatic turnaround in concern for our home river.

Live data for visitors
Meanwhile at our coming Ryan Resilience Lab, the live data will be displayed in the lobby for visitors as well as on-line. In fact, the site is already becoming a data hub. Norfolk State University interns this summer will help analyze results and maintain the instruments. More instruments will be added to track weather and tides and Old Dominion University plans to follow the numbers for related class studies.

Next time Knitting Mill Creek experiences a significant drop in dissolved oxygen, posing a potential fish kill, “we’ll be able to get out there right away” to work on solving the problem, said Joe Rieger, Elizabeth River Project’s Deputy Director – Restoration.

Keep the momentum going when you return a special gift to Elizabeth River Project with the enclosed card.
$500,000 & Above - Organizations
Aimee and Frank Batten, Jr. Foundation
Goode Family Foundation
Perry Family Foundation
TowneBank Foundation
$500,000 and Above – Individuals
Anonymous
Aimee and Frank Batten, Jr.
Jane P. Batten
Joan Brock
Mr. and Mrs. Louis and Prudence F. Ryan
$100,000 - $499,999 - Organizations
Alison J. and Ellis W. Parsons Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation
Bradley Family Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation
Hampton Roads Community Foundation
Harvey Lindsay Family Foundation
HRSD National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
National Geographic and Atmospheric Administration - Project Blue Crab
Shea Family Foundation
$100,000 - $499,999 - Individuals
Carolyn and Richard Barry
Conrad M. Hall
William E. King
$50,000 to $99,999 - Organizations
Birdsong Peanut Corporation
Dollar Tree Foundation
Katherine and John Wynne Family Fund
The Windward Foundation
$50,000 to $99,999 - Individuals
David and Helen Bernd
Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Meredith, Jr.
W. Sheppard and Georgina R. Miller III
Mr. and Mrs. Chris R. Neikirk
Jim and Karen Jones Squires
$25,000 to $49,999 - Organizations
Bank of America
Dominion Foundation
Sentara Healthcare
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
$25,000 to $49,999 - Individuals
Ms. Deborah H. Butler
Susan and Norman Colpitts
Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Janet Covington
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Karen Fine
Mr. and Mrs. Buddy and Kathy Gadams
Mr. and Mrs. Josh S. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Keilty
Oriana McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Meredith
Mr. and Mrs. Gil Minor
Lynn Cobb and Warren Richard
Betty and John Trinder
$10,000 to $24,999 - Organizations
BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair, Inc.
Elizabeth River Crossings
The Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Dwight and Jane Scharbach Donor
Advised Fund of the Suffolk Foundation
Ray Schraub Memorial Foundation
Wilbanks Smith & Thomas
$10,000 to $24,999 - Individuals
Dottie Ballard
Jane Marshall Bashara
Mr. J. Robert Bray
Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Susan Daniel
Dee and Harry Lester
Mr. and Mrs. Colin and Patt McKinnon
Capt. and Mrs. Michael Nickelsburg
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Scharbach
Cynthia Faschini and Andrew J. Wallach
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Warden
Mr. and Mrs. Ashlin and Wayne Wilbanks
Blair and Jane Wimbush
$5,000 to $9,999 - Individuals
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Bonnewell
Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce and Lilly Bradley Cogdillon
Dr. and Mrs. Brian and Melissa Deutsch
Alan Golilhue and Elizabeth Lane Killam
Mike Kirsch
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Meredith
Barbara McCreary Parrish
Steve and Judy Perry
Gina and Jack Ruffin
Randy and Leila Graham Webb, Jr.
$5,000 - $9,999 - Organizations
Clearfield MMG, Inc.
Enviros Port of Chesapeake
General Dynamics NASSCO-Norfolk Grow Oyster Reefs
James L. Camp IV Foundation
$2,500 - $4,999 - Individuals
Ned and Penny Bartham III
RADM Charles J. and Susan Beers
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Glasser
Robert and Marjorie Mayfield Jackson
Kitty Whitman and Louis Jaffe
Stephen Leaman
Ada and Allen Lester
Richard Mapp III
Wendy McGrady
RADM and Mrs. Ray and Jamie E. Moses
Mr. and Mrs. Josh and Karen P. Priest
The Hon. Debbie and Ron Ritter
Mr. and Mrs. John and Carol L. Rowe, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jean and Chuck Townsend
Sam and Jane Webster
Dr. Theresa and Mr. Roderick Whibley
David and Cathy White
$1,500 - $4,999 - Organizations
Alumni and Friends of Cradock Buckeye Partners, L.P.
CSX Transportation
David R. Goode Charitable Lead
Annuity Trust
Duke University
Elizabeth River Power Squadron
Lawson Company
Pender and Coward
Randy Vaughan Family Trust
Virginia Maritime Association
Waste Management
Wheelerator Portsmouth
$1,000 - $2,499 - Individuals
Dr. Javanae Adams- Gaston
Nancy Bangel
Max Bartholomew
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bishop
Jane Marshall Bashara
Dr. and Mrs. Reid Ervin
R. Malcolm & Martha Frances Fortson
Pam Boatwright & Don Gulliver
Mr. Joseph Gresens
James Gwathmey
Garry Harris
J. Robert and Patricia S. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Susan Hume
Edward Inge
The Hon. Mamie Johnson
Thomas G. Johnson, Jr.
Kathleen Kimball
RADM and Mrs. Alexander J. Krekich
Bob Layton
David E. and Julia Dorsey Loomis
Elizabeth McClure
J. Andrew and Spencer McCraw
Vince Mastracco
Grace Moran and Kurt Merkling
Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Priest III
Katherine Reader
Mr. and Mrs. John Shannon
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew and Traci Shepard
Mr. Conrad Shumadine
Jason Simpson
Mr. and Mrs. Phil and Sarah Stedfast, Jr.
Virginia Thumun
Thomas Tye
Mary Vaughan
Mr. and Mrs. Phil and Mary Ann Walzer
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne & Aslim Wilbanks
Mr. G. Dudley Ware
Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe and Beth Williams
David White
Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Nancy Wren Sr.
John Wynne
Lauren Wolcott
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Berkley
Michael and Deborah Bohan
Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Cherry
The Hon. & Mrs. Jack Clarkson
Mary Commander
Annette S. Field
Ann Fitzgibbon
Matthew Gernand
Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus W. Grandy V
Jason Gregory
Brenda Hartmann
Louis Henry
Dr. Lucy Spigel Herman
Ms. Gayle Hicks
Mike Host
Kevin Janney
Brooks Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. John M. and Jill Keifer
Mr. and Mrs. Al and Pat Jones II
Pam and Byron Kloepel
Dr. Mark & Elizabeth Lawson
Stace Lowman
Mr. and Mrs. Kimberly McLaw
Dr. Julius S. Miller
Samantha and Bryan Miller
Ann Mingione
James B. Oliver
Katherine Filippino and Joe Rieger
The Honorable and Mrs. P. Ward Robb, Jr.
Dr. Amelia N. Ross-Hammond
Dr. Sharon Sheffield
Tommy Tye
Mr. Michael Unger
Mr. Thomas D. St. Andre and Ms. Saundra Winsted
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick & Kerri Stokos
Mr. and Mrs. David K. Stetlin
Jane Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Shumadine
(Coq'td p. 8)
Deepest thanks to our members

Contributions received from October, 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

(Cont’d from p. 8)

$500-$999-
Organizations
Accurate Marine
Environmental
Bay Diesel & Generator
Crofton Industries
Luck Stone
Perdue Agribusiness, LLC.
Tidewater Staffing
Vulcan Materials
Company
$499 & Under -
Organizations
Aina Clothing LLC
Barnforth Engineers &
Surveys, Inc.
BK Partners, LLC
Cape Henry Audubon
Wayne's Wildlife
Sanctuary
Craddock Civic League
Crawl to Crown Home
Inspectors
Creekside Communications
Elizabeth Park Civic
League
Elizabeth River Good
Sams RV Chapter
Greater Norfolk
Corporation
Green Pine Garden Club
GSH Real Estate
Kempsville Woman's Club
Kobros Coffee
Less Than
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
Portsmouth Boating Center
Virginia Turfgrass Council

$499 & Under -
Individuals
Christine L. Abelein
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
and Mrs. Abbie L. Abell
Jan Ambs
Jennifer Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and
Amy Aiken
Daniel Allen
Elizabeth Allen
Kimberly Almeter
Michelle Alvarado
John Ames
Cat Armony
Judith Anderson
Justin Anderson
Harry Anjorison
Sheldon Arey
Joan Atkinson
John and Tanya Baggio
Faye Bailey
Stuart and Ulrike Bailey
Diana Bailey
Margy Baker
Mr. Rufus G. Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Susan Bell
Brad J. and Babbie J. Bangel
Ellen Barber
Ms. Mary Reid Barlow
Lisa Bass
Betty Baunou
Mr. and Mrs.
David J. Beatty
Michael Bechelfi
Nathan Beck
Mr. Stephen Belchak
Skye Bellantoni
Mr. Terrell Bennett
Dr. and Mrs. William
Spaur Birotz
Walter Boatwright
Susan Bohan
Mr. and Mrs. Jon and
Cynthia Bolling
Mr. Gerald L. Boone, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs.
Ms. Barbara E. Boslego
Wendy Bradfield-Smith
Margaret Bradley
Jake Brandspigel
Jean Brennan
Elizabeth A. Brichter
Steven Briggs
Susan Broadhouse
Dr. and Mrs. Townsend
Brown, Jr.
Elizabeth P. Brown
Sandra Brown
Peter Brunk
Mr. and Mrs.
Corlenton Bryant
Julie Buchanan
Kenny Bullock
Mr. William J. Bunch
Susan Snow Burnett
Diana Burson
Mrs. Hunter Joyce Burt
Ms. Mims Butler
Blaire Bycoffe
Betty Callahan
Tamra Camden
Frank T. Campbell
Ms. Nancy H. Campbell
Julia Bradgton &
David L. Campbell
Lisa Cardona
Mr. and Mrs. John and
Jeanne Carlock
Rebecca Carmichael
Heather Carpenter
Susan Castaneda
Charles H. and Linda B.
Chamberlayne
Mr. and Mrs.
Warren W. Channel
Diane Chan
Julia Childress Beck
Tom and Allison Cholis
Ms. Emily Christman
Peter Ciula
Ms. Nancy L. Clark
Mr. Lewis M. Cobb, Jr.
Lynn Cobb
Bill Tiernan &
Beth Cochran
Lucinda Lynn Earle
& Benjamin Cole
Nita Coleman
Rev. Ellen Comstock
Crissi Connot
Bill and Peggy Connelly
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and
Bette Cooper
Adrienne Coquener
Bill and Betty Cotten
Carr Cotten
Mr. and Mrs. W.
Claiborne Coupland
Mr. and Mrs.
Allan Crandall
Sofia Crisostomo
Katherine Cross
Mr. Georg and Kay Dahl
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Daley
Janet Zhaim Dahlouin
Chuck and Kathy Davis
Michael K. Davis
Paul Degaraff
Mrs. Nancy DelVecchio
Eric Matriner and
Jacqueline Desinos
John Deuel
Anne Sherawn and
Michael Dinniman
James Donecker
Richard and Jay Dooling
J.C. Douglas
Richard and Nancy Downing
Dr. and Mrs.
Frank Downing
Nicki Dozier
Marsha & John Draa
Roy & Carol Dudley
Troy and Cyndy Dudley
Dr. and Mrs. Diane and
David Durica
Cheryl Lynn Dyras
Christel Dyer
Ms. Sheila E. Edmonds
Gene Edwards III
Sheila Eldridge
Mr. Bruce Eley
Melissa Elizabeth
Debbie and Steve Ellis
Thomas Emory
Ken and Linda Engler
Randy and
Marie Bundy Estabrook
James and
Katherine Estes
James K Eure
Mr. and Mrs. Michael &
Cindy Evings
Calvin Farmer
Kelly Faulkner
W.L. & Nina Fenska
Ben Feutz
Jackie Fields
Elizabeth Firchau
Francesca Firek
Joanne Fish
Mr. Russell Flynn Jr.
Ms. Ellen Folkema
Bob and Peggy Fooks
Thomas V.
& Jane L. Fowler
Mr. Darryl Foytk
Jennette Franklin
Richard and
Debby Freeman
James Gallman
Mary Garraty
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom and Joan Garrett
Stephen and
Laura Gaston
Barbara Garvin
Mark Geduldig-Yatrosky
David Michael Geller
Matthew Gerdinand
Dr. Lucy and Paul Gibney
William Gibson
Mr. Robert J. Gies
Wilson Gilbey
Lyn and Scott Gilbey
Mr. and Mrs.
Jane and G. Gildea
Corine Gillespie
Kerry Gionis
Sal Girigente
Dr. and Mrs.
Robert Given
Janet Goldbach Ehmer
Mr. and Mrs.
Howard E. Gordon
Lygea Grace
Jack Granger
Scott Graves
Mrs. Lynn Greenfield
Bill Gregory
R.B. and Patricia
Griffin III
Barbara Grow
Sarah Harwell
Anne & Paul Hastings
Joe and the Mrs.
Claudia Hawkins
Mrs. Lori Hayes
Susan Herbert
Daun S Hester
Ray and Betty Hicks
Mr. James Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and
Mary Helen Hilton
Gabel Himmelwright
Alexander and
Cheryl Hinkle Jr.
Thomas J. Hirsch
Tim and Janet Hixson
Brian Hollings
Taylor Hollingsworth
Michael Holloomon
Heather Hollowell
Robert Honey
Mr. and Mrs.
David F. and April Host
Harold and
Brenda Hostetler
Mr. Lawrence Hultgren
Mary E. Grubb
Dr. and Mrs.
A.R. Guthrie
Teresa Hahn
Megan Hale
Mrs. Gaye Hall
Megan Hales
Mr. Gaye Hall
Patricia Halstead
Mr. and Mrs.
Nancy Jackson
Nancy Jacobson
David Janzwesic
Ms. Elizabeth K. Janik
Karen Jane
Melinda Janisch
Michael Jane
Caroline Jane
Corrine Janisch

Scott’s Creek is now home to this Bald Eagle and mate, tracked for us this spring by our bird blogger David Gibson. Follow his posts at https://birdpartner.com/
Dolphins along the Lafayette branch of the Elizabeth in 2021. Photo by Kimberly Siebert.

Keep the wonder returning
Let your passion for the Elizabeth River live on, long beyond your years.

Since the first conversation around a kitchen table in 1991, these have been some of the watershed moments for the Elizabeth River Project:

• Cleaning up the “goo” – 36 million lbs. of river bottom contamination
• Launching the Learning Barge, “America’s Greenest Vessel”
• Establishing the region’s first urban river park, Paradise Creek Nature Park
• Making the Lafayette branch first in Virginia fully restored for oyster habitat

And there’s so much more to do... more than a lifetime.

Your legacy gift—through a bequest, charitable fund or other planned giving options will allow us to do the work of stewarding the Elizabeth River, forever.

Consider joining the Elizabeth River Project’s Legacy Society.
Contact Susan Smith, 757-399-7487, ssmith@elizabethriver.org, for your confidential conversation.

Leave your legacy of a clean river.
Volunteer with Our Restoration Team

Wade in! Volunteer alongside Elizabeth River Project’s scientists as they work throughout the summer to restore healthy shores. Volunteers needed for shifts up to five hours. Help build “living shorelines” and install oyster habitat.

Dates vary with the weather and tides; typically during the week. Strenuous work in hot weather. Get fit while helping the river get fit! Email Rachael Peabody, Rpeabody@elizabethriver.org.

Send your special gift today. elizabethriver.org
The volunteer waggles her long spade in the new sand. Her instructor, Joe Rieger, Deputy Director – Restoration, Elizabeth River Project, drops a sprig of marsh grass into the hole, then tamps down around it with his foot.

"Boom! That's it," he says.

In minutes, rows of native marsh grasses cover the shore. It’s a normal morning for our restoration staff and volunteers. They’re working through a waiting list of homeowners eager for “living shorelines,” restored wetlands typically anchored in place by manmade oyster reefs. Once little known but promoted for years by Elizabeth River Project, the practice creates wildlife habitat and filters pollution while stemming erosion. In a victory for conservation efforts, living shorelines recently became Virginia regulators’ officially preferred approach for stabilizing shores.

Regional leader

On this spring morning, the shore is owned by two adjoining River Star Homes in Norfolk, but most of the volunteers work for the City of Hampton. “We’re trying to make sure all our staff are knowledgeable,” says Allison Jackura, Hampton’s senior planner, helping unroll temporary fencing to protect the new marsh from geese.

As with recent guests from the James River Association and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, these city staff are here to learn the approach first-hand. Thanks to you, donors and partners, Elizabeth River Project has become a regional leader in hands-on shoreline restoration and continues to experiment with new approaches.

Fish move in

At this site near DePaul Medical Center, five dump loads of sand along with recycled oyster shells and concrete “oyster castles” were added earlier. Elsewhere in Norfolk, alongside more adjoining homes but along Elizabeth River Circle on the Eastern Branch, Rieger’s team will become the first in the area to use “Bone-Rasta” structures, burlap dipped in concrete to elevate oysters out of the mud zone. These will be part of a large-scale oyster reef underway since spring with partners including Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

“Right away, fish started moving in,” Rieger said.

Contact rpeabody@elizabethriver.org for a free site visit to evaluate your shore for a living shoreline next year. Thanks to grants and contracts with area cities, funds may be available to reduce costs.

Also consider volunteering with the restoration team. “It’s a great free workout, and you’re giving back to the river at the same time,” says Rieger.
The summer you’ve needed.

From blackberry picking to kayaking and volunteering, meaningful river fun awaits your family.

Kayak 11 acres of restored wetlands at Elizabeth River Project’s Paradise Creek Nature Park or enjoy the revitalized shore - free blackberry picking and more.

Hooray for summer - when life along a river is extra special. Join us for activities for all ages to connect with the ecosystem of the Elizabeth River. Thank you, members, for making all of our programs possible.

Paradise Creek Nature Park

Visit our 40-acre urban oasis at 1141 Victory Blvd., a partnership of Elizabeth River Project and City of Portsmouth.

Free blackberry picking - Our native blackberries should be ripe from late June to early July, mostly along the Osprey Trail. Pick at your leisure but please leave plenty for others including the birds. Early mornings suggested. Wear gloves, bring bucket.

Pre-registration required - all other activities
– ParadiseCreek.elizabethriver.org.

Bird walks - June 19, 8:30-10 am; July 17, 8:30-10 am. Ages 16+, $5 pp.

Guided kayak paddles – June 26, Noon-2; July 31, 11 am -12:30 pm. Kayaks, paddles, life jackets, instructors/guides provided. No experience needed. Explore a restored wetland. $30 Elizabeth River Project members, $40 non-members (join today! Elizabthriver.org).

Volunteer service days – July 10, Aug. 7, 9 am – 11 am, free, ages 16+.

Meet the critters – July 17, Aug. 4, 11 am - Noon, free, all ages with Ranger Seana.

Fungi ID – July 24, 9 am -10 am, all ages. $5.