

CHWA CESU NEWSLETTER

Special points of interest:

- Interview with Joy Beasley, Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science with the National Park Service
- CHWA CESU Assateague Island project

Inside this issue:

CESU Success Stories 1

CHWA CESU Project Spotlight 1

Coordinator's Corner 2

Meet the Team 4

We're on the web at
<http://chwacesu.al.umces.edu/>



Where Science Meets Stewardship

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2017

CESU Success Stories: An Interview with Joy Beasley

From the days of her childhood vacations in the national parks, Joy Beasley, Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science with the National Park Service, always dreamed of working in the parks. She just wasn't sure how to go about making that dream a reality, that is until she joined the University of Maryland-College Park as a graduate student.

During her time at College Park, Beasley worked with National Park Service (NPS) staff on projects funded through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network and its pre-cursor NPS Cooperative Park Study Units. These interactions with NPS employees eventually led her to the Student Career Employment Program (SCEP), which in turn led Beasley to full-time employment with NPS. "I grew up with an appreciation for national parks and the National Park Service mission. I wanted to work for

them but didn't know how to go about it," says Beasley. "Without those connections made through the CESU, I don't know that I would have ever figured out how." As she sees it, the CESU Network gave her both an opportunity to conduct archeological research and a career path with the parks.

Since joining the National Park Service, Beasley has quickly risen through the ranks, holding various positions of increasing responsibility. She's served as Cultural Resources Program Manager at Monocacy National Battlefield, Chief of Cultural Resources with the National Capital Region, and Deputy Associate Director of Park Programs and National Heritage Areas. "I can't imagine working anywhere but the National Park Service," she says.

Currently, Beasley oversees the Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Directorate of the National Park Service. In this position, she



Joy Beasley at Rocky Mountain National Park

reports to the (Acting) Director of the National Park Service (NPS) and oversees a number of NPS programs, including archeology, historic structures, history, museum collections, cultural

Continues on page 3

CHWA CESU Project Spotlight: Assateague Island

The National Park Service (NPS) manages over 22,000 acres of coastal bay and ocean waters within the 1/2 mi-boundary surrounding Assateague Island National Seashore. To inform aquatic resource management policies under consideration in the Seashore's General Management Plan, NPS awarded a CESU

grant to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) to produce a comprehensive summary of local commercial fishing activities and their potential impacts on marine ecosystems and the visitor experience.

Drs. Geneviève Nesslage and Michael Wilberg, fisheries scientists at the UMCES Chesapeake

Biological Laboratory, summarized state agency and academic data on commercial harvest and economic value, and local stock and habitat trends. From this data, Nesslage and Wilberg found that in the last decade, the largest commercial fishery by volume and dockside value in the Seashore region has been the Maryland/Virginia pot fishery

Continues on page 2



“The Seashore receives over 2 million visitors per year, many of whom engage in activities involving fisheries and wildlife.”



Research Coordinator’s Update

by Danny Filer, CHWA CESU Research Coordinator

Hello, and thanks for reading the first installment of the Chesapeake Watershed CESU Network Newsletter! This bi-annual publication debuted at our November 1 Annual Meeting at Shepherd University. Editions will be released in the fall and spring of each year and will feature a success story from the network, recently completed research/technical assistance projects from the federal partners, and a “Coordinator’s Corner” that will include updates to the network. This edition con-

cludes with a “Meet the Team” section that introduces all the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science – Appalachian Laboratory staff who support the Chesapeake Watershed CESU Network program from behind the scenes and assist me with our work. I am very grateful to have such dedicated colleagues at the host university and around the network!

The success of the network this fiscal year demonstrates our ability to complete our work and fulfill agency missions using partners and academics who are experts in their respective fields. Since October

31, 2016, we have increased the use of the network three-fold in the National Park Service alone and we have begun a campaign to connect with all federal and nonfederal partners. We convened meetings with US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, Department of Defense, and National Park Service that involved several non-federal partners to discuss current and future research needs. The network plans to continue these frequent meetings throughout the year in an effort to start collaboration and research whenever possible. This year, the Chesapeake

Continues on page 3

“Assateague” continued from page 1

for blue crab. Other large fisheries include the rapidly expanding Virginia aquaculture industry for hard clams and oysters and the wild Maryland/Virginia fisheries for horseshoe crab, Atlantic menhaden, conch, and striped bass.

Because the dynamics of most stocks in the Seashore area are driven by large-scale, coastal processes, it was difficult for researchers to quantify the ecological effects of these local commercial fishing activities. However, hard clam stocks appear to be recovering in the coastal bays following a ban on hydraulic dredging in 2008.

Other local commercial fishing activities, such as derelict crab traps and shellfish aquaculture and dredging, also likely degrade or displace submerged aquatic vegetation

beds, which serve as critical habitat for blue crab and juvenile finfish. Gill nets also result in bycatch mortality of non-targeted finfish and protected species such as sea turtles during active fishing or as derelict gear.

In addition to harvest volume and ecological effects, Nesslage and Wilberg also explored the potential impact of commercial fishing activities on the visitor experience. The Seashore receives over 2 million visitors per year, many of whom engage in activities involving fisheries and wildlife. Potential negative impacts of commercial fishing on these visitors include reduced recreational fishing success and a less scenic or wilderness experience. However, commercial fishing likely provides benefits to the local economy and may

positively impact visitors who value local seafood and fishing heritage.

NPS will use the data synthesized by this CESU project to promote new collaborations among park partners, local resource management agencies, commercial operators and the general public interested in regional fisheries management and the future conservation and protection of these resources for public benefit. The findings will also be used to better engage the scientific community on new approaches to better characterize and quantify the diverse types, impacts and economic values of currently active commercial fishing operations that have an impact on park resources.

“Beasley” continued from page 1

landscapes, and tribal relations programs in national parks. Beasley also supervises the wide range of historic preservation programs the NPS manages, including the Heritage Documentation Programs (Historic American Building Survey, Historical American Landscape Survey, and Historic American Engineering Record), the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the American Battlefield Protection Program, the National Historic Landmarks program, the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, and State/Tribal/Local Plans and Grants administered through the Historic Preservation Fund, among others.

She also still works with the CESU Network. As a fund manager, she works with parks and regions to ensure their staff understand the agreements that are in place to enable them to meet their research needs. “CESUs are a great way of doing that,” says

Beasley. From a fund manager’s perspective, the CESU Network offers a flexible way of getting quality work done, increasing the federal partner’s capacity and, as Beasley’s experience demonstrates, allowing partner universities to offer their students applied experiences and federal connections to facilitate future career goals. These experiences may also help students become future stewards of the parks. In this way, the CESU Network forges mutually beneficial relationships between federal and non-federal partners.

When asked for the advice she’d offer current graduate students or faculty members at CESU research institutions, Beasley says, “You have to keep an open mind. You never know what opportunities will come before you. Because you’re always making connections, be the best ‘you’ every day; give it 110%.” While a career in research may be right for some, people are needed in management, too, so students

should not discount such opportunities. With respect to her own work, Beasley asks herself two questions every day: “Am I contributing to the mission of the National Park Service, and am I challenging myself?” If she can answer “yes” to both questions, even on her worst days, she’s satisfied with her results, and Beasley suggests students could benefit from following a similar line of questioning about their own professional efforts.

Joy Beasley holds a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Georgia, a Master’s of Applied Anthropology, Historical Archeology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a certificate in in Historic Preservation from Goucher College. She is currently the Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science with the National Park Service.



Beasley attending NPS Centennial event in Rotunda of Russell Senate Office Building

**“You have to keep
an open mind.**

**You never know
what**

**opportunities will
come before you.**

**Because you’re
always making
connections, be
the best ‘you’**

**every day; give it
110%”**

- Joy Beasley

“Coordinator” continued from page 2

Watershed CESU Network welcomed two new partners (Shepherd University and Virginia Tech) to the network, bringing the total number of universities and non-government organizations (NGOs) in the Chesapeake Watershed CESU to thirty-one. Several other program managers and federal partners have identified new partners we hope to welcome into the network in FY18. If you have a university or partner you would like to see become a member, or you are a universi-

ty or NGO that would like to join, please contact me to discuss further.

The top priority over this winter is to gather data on past and current CESU projects that have happened within your federal agency or at your university/NGO. I will be sending out quarterly reports beginning in January that include all projects in our database. Please review these reports. If you are working on a project or have recently completed a project and it is not on these reports then we are not aware of it,

and I ask you to let me know of these projects. This CESU network is committed to capturing all CESU activity happening among our partners so we can celebrate the work and identify ways to collaborate with other agencies/partners who are doing similar work.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss a visit, project, or any other CESU matter.

Dan Filer
danny_filer@nps.gov
301-689-7108



CHWA CESU PRIMARY CONTACTS

Dr. Dan Filer

NPS CESU Research Co-ordinator

Appalachian Laboratory
301 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532

301-689-7108

301-491-2465 (cell)

danny_filer@nps.gov

Rhonda Schwinabart

Appalachian Laboratory
301 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532

301-689-7102

rschwinabart@umces.edu

We're on the web at
[http://
chwacesu.al.umces.
edu/](http://chwacesu.al.umces.edu/)

CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED
COOPERATIVE
ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT

Where Science Meets Stewardship

About CHWA CESU

Founded in 2001, the **Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CHWA CESU)** is a partnership among thirty-one (31) research institutions and nine (9) federal agencies whose members strive to understand and protect the natural and cultural resources of the region.

The **CHWA CESU** streamlines the process by which research institutions learn about federal agencies and grantors post Requests for Statements of Interest. Research institution partners provide leadership in watershed science and stewardship with special emphasis on the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay.

Meet the Team



CHWA CESU Director
Dr. Eric Davidson
Director & Professor, University of
Maryland Center for Environmental
Science—Appalachian Laboratory (Host)



NPS CESU Research Coordinator
Dr. Dan Filer



CHWA CESU Outreach Support
Ms. Rhonda Schwinabart
Coordinator of External Affairs,
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science—
Appalachian Laboratory (Host)



Picture Not Available:

CHWA CESU Website Developer
Ms. Katie Kline
Laboratory Manager, University of
Maryland Center for Environmental
Science—Appalachian Laboratory (Host)

CHWA CESU Database Developer
Ms. Barbara Jenkins
Senior Research Administrator, University of Maryland Center for Environmental
Science—Appalachian Laboratory (Host)

CHWA CESU Database Management
Ms. Kristen Harper
Program Management Specialist,
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science—Appalachian
Laboratory (Host)

Do you have ideas for the next CHWA CESU Newsletter? If so, let us know! Contact Dan or Rhonda with your suggestions. The next CHWA CESU Newsletter will be published in spring 2018.

The CHWA CESU Newsletter is made possible through funding from the National Park Service.