

**Remarks to Green Drinks**  
**by Cindy Chance, Cultural Anthropologist for the National Park Service**  
**Chesapeake Bay Program Office**  
**June 28, 2016**

*Introduced by Joel Dunn, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Conservancy.*

Thank you, Joel.

And thank you to the Green Drinks community for inviting me to speak, and for celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service.

My name is Cindy Chance, and I'm a cultural anthropologist for the National Park Service.

I work for probably the only federal agency that uses variations of the words "enjoy" and "inspire" in its mission statement.

Here it is: The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

So what's our piece of the national park system? Why is NPS here?

In my office in Annapolis, and with colleagues in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and with great partners like Chesapeake Conservancy, we manage, support, and build the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

This Chesapeake Trail was designated by Congress in 2006. Just 10 years ago.

When Congress designates a national historic trail, that's really important for two reasons:

First, it means Congress agreed on something.

Second, it means that these Chesapeake landscapes today, and the history and heritage associated with them, are significant to the nation.

And because this is nationally significant, it bears attention from the federal agency whose mission is to "preserve unimpaired." And to provide for enjoyment, education, and inspiration.

At about the time Shakespeare was staging the world's greatest plays in England, Captain John Smith and other English explorers were ushering in dramatic changes to the Chesapeake Bay and rivers.

With a base at Jamestown, Smith and a crew sailed and rowed their way around the Bay making a map that served well for close to a hundred years.

He documented – in his own way – the Indians who lived here then, their place names, and the location of their towns and leaders' houses.

He described what the Bay looked like – the plants, animals, and beauty.

We want to build a water trail that helps put you in places that look like they did 400 years ago – places of abundant beauty. If you want to learn about American Indians who were here then, and who are here today, we want to teach you.

And with our principal partner, the Chesapeake Conservancy, we want to preserve unimpaired those special places of Chesapeake beauty for your enjoyment, and for your inspiration.

I'll mention just 4 ways in which you can begin exploring this trail:

- Buoys marking the trail -- with data at your fingertips about water quality and boating conditions and recorded stories about Captain John Smith
- Boater's Guide – to help you figure out where to launch a boat and what to see
- Junior Ranger book – for kids ages 6 to 12 to help them learn about the Chesapeake and earn a badge sent to them by a National Park Service Ranger.
- Find Your Chesapeake website – with 400 places to go, trip ideas, and interviews with Chesapeake insiders who have some ideas for you on favorite places to explore

Before I close, let me mention that the National Park Service turns 100 years old this year.

What NPS wants you to do, to help celebrate, is to Find Your Park. Take your kids with you. Volunteer. Spend time outdoors.

We like to say, "Find Your Chesapeake". That's the name of our website.

Find Your Chesapeake online; then go find it outside. Take your kids with you. Volunteer. Spend time outdoors.

Get up, get out, and Find Your Chesapeake.

[www.FindYourChesapeake.com](http://www.FindYourChesapeake.com)

[www.nps.gov/cajo](http://www.nps.gov/cajo)

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