

Cacapon Institute

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Dear Friends,

Since 1985, Cacapon Institute has used science and education to protect *our* waters through innovative programs that make a real difference. CI has never been more vibrant or engaged than we are today. Much of our success comes from working in partnership with our community; other NGOs; institutions of higher learning; local, state and federal agencies and, of course, our members -- whose support makes our work possible.

This letter will highlight a few examples of how partnerships make CI a far more effective organization than we could possibly be working alone; but first, we have some big news!

With this mailing to our members and friends, we are delighted to introduce our new **Outreach Coordinator -- Ben Alexandro**. With Ben's hiring in September, CI grew from a two to a three full-time person operation. Ben holds a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Delaware with a minor in Political Science (2008). He has been working as an Environmental Compliance Supervisor with a transportation company in NY, where he ran environmental management and education programs at seven facilities.

Ben is joining us in part to help with our next piece of big news, another important milestone in CI's growth. In July CI was selected to become Coordinator of the **Potomac Watershed Partnership**. The PWP is a collaborative effort among federal, state and local partners to restore the health of the land and waters of the Potomac River Basin, thereby enhancing the quality of life and overall health of the Potomac River watershed and the Chesapeake Bay. This is a significant accomplishment for CI because it will reinforce our broad and expanding contributions to the entire Potomac watershed. It also provides additional financial long-term footing to expand our impact.

On August 16th, with the help of CI and our partners in the **WV Tributary Team**, the **City of Charles Town** (Jefferson Co., WV) passed Resolution 2010-19 to become the first WV municipality to formally recognize the benefits of expanding their Urban Tree Canopy. UTC has many benefits to communities, including improving water quality, reducing air pollution, better wildlife habitat, facilitating social and education opportunities, and providing aesthetic benefits. CI is the point organization for the WV Tributary Team's UTC project. We are fostering wider acceptance of voluntary urban tree conservation and plantings to reduce excessive storm water runoff. The UTC project began in 2009 with a high tech land cover assessment performed at the direction of the **Jefferson County Commission**. In September, CI helped Jefferson County and its municipalities (including Charles Town) secure a grant from

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the **WV Division of Forestry** to implement strategic urban and suburban tree planting using their UTC assessment. Because of our initiative, Jefferson County has joined a handful of communities nationwide working to develop and implement long term UTC plans. *It is the first UTC assessment in West Virginia and the largest and most sophisticated of its kind in the U.S., with an incredible 97% accuracy.*

CI's *Failure is Not an Option* Deer Exclusion Experiment continues to expand and generate solid results and considerable interest. We currently have experimental sites in Rockingham County (VA) and Berkeley, Hampshire and Hardy counties (WV). We have begun discussions made possible by our partners at the **Potomac Conservancy** to incorporate CI's deer exclusion fencing protocol into **Maryland's USDA - Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program**. In the Cacapon watershed, **Consulting Forester David Warner** and CI are working with **The Crossings development's Ecosystem Management Team**. This exemplary partnership is exploring ecosystem issues related to overabundant deer and invasive species and develop management options that are acceptable to their community. Already two landowners in The Crossings are participating in the deer fence experiment.

This spring CI introduced the **WV Environmental Educators Association (WVEEA)** to the **Chesapeake Bay Program's Education Work Group**. CI's active engagement with both initiatives put us in the unique position to identify synergy between the two associations. This synergy led CI to collaborate with the groups to forge a multi-state proposal to the U.S. EPA. The result is that CI will participate in an investigation and comparison of environmental literacy initiatives among seven states and D.C. Additionally, CI is working within the WVEEA to build a Green Schools program for WV. Green School programs, like the one in Maryland, promote environmental education and conservation. The WVEEA, at CI's suggestion, will include mitigation of stormwater runoff as a component of WV Green Schools.

Partnerships dominate the way we work at CI, strengthening our organization and others as we work together to conserve and restore our waters and lands. And we never lose track of the fact that, at the center of it all, our most important partners remain our members. Cacapon Institute's 1st quarter century of service *would not* have been possible without the support of members like you.

Please consider a donation of \$60 or more to renew your membership and help us enter our 2nd quarter century on strong financial footing.

Sincerely,


W. Neil Gillies
Executive Director



Frank Rodgers
Education/Outreach Director

P.S. You can also donate through a secure link at www.cacaponinstitute.org

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