



Tim Purinton © TNC

### Letter from the Executive Director

Happy summer, nature lovers!

I'm excited to introduce the Summer 2022 issue of Nature Conservancy Magazine with a list of staff recommendations of local places to get outside and explore this summer. If there's one thing I'm certain of, it's that we've all earned a summer full of fun, outdoor adventures.

Earlier this spring, I put out a call to our hardworking and knowledgeable team of conservationists to share recommendations for off-the-beaten path places to explore in Maryland and D.C. The next two pages includes a list of sites that we hope you consider visiting this summer. Personally, my favorite place to get outdoors is a shad fishing spot along the Big Gunpowder Falls in Gunpowder Falls State Park in Kingsville, Maryland. Read more about this site on the next page.

—Tim Purinton, Executive Director

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Children participate in a Masonville Cove BioBlitz in the summer of 2019. © Theresa Keil, National Aquarium Event Photographer/National Aquarium

## Get Outdoors and Explore—Our Staff Favorites

### Fort Circle Park Hiker-Biker Trail

“For the past two years I've been enjoying exploring areas east of the Anacostia River, particularly along the Fort Circle Park hiker-biker trail. I've been surprised at how much I've seen in such an urban area—an eastern comma butterfly laying eggs on an elm twig, a mourning cloak butterfly that just emerged from overwintering in an old log, a barred owl, carrion beetles helping to decompose a shrew carcass, plenty of woodpeckers, a brown creeper sneaking up a tree trunk, and lots of cool fungi, galls and leaf miners. It also gives me an opportunity to reflect on the importance of these forested areas for cooling and cleaning the local air and water in this heavily developed area.”

—Deborah Barber, Director of Land Management

### Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

“This site is considered a hidden urban gem, consisting of 54 acres of land and

70 acres of water with amenities that include hiking trails, a fishing pier which is accessible by water and available for catch-and-release, diverse habitats that include forest, meadow, tidal and nontidal wetlands, and an environmental education center (public access may be limited due to Covid-19 safety protocols). The site is open to the public, free of charge, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Visitors are recommended to check out the event calendar for upcoming free public events such as kayaking, guided nature hikes, fishing etc.”

—Andrea van Wyk, Baltimore Community Project Manager

### Parker's Creek WMA

“Great hiking trails. It feels remote. TNC helped protect this land along with the state of Maryland and the American Chestnut Land Trust.”

—Mark Bryer, Chesapeake Bay Director



Top: A mourning cloak butterfly at the Fort Circle Park Hiker-Biker Trail. © Deborah Barber; Bottom: A quiet setting at the Tregaron Conservancy. © Angela N./flickr, Creative Commons; Right: Kayaking on the C&O Canal © Steve Volkers

## NATURE MARYLAND/DC



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### Hancock, Maryland

“Can I recommend an entire town? The town of Hancock, Maryland was recently named Maryland’s official Trail Town by Governor Hogan. There are three trails that cross through this town—the C&O Towpath, the western Maryland Rail Trail and the Tuscarora Trail. Hancock has a bike shop, a boat ramp and several great restaurants, and is only minutes from Berkley Springs for some naturally sourced spa treatments.”

—Deborah Landau, Conservation Ecologist

### Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

“So many habitats to explore: marshes, forests, meadows, sand barrens, etc. and a rich diversity of wildlife—the beauty and quiet of the place are healing. Each season brings its own special allure and no matter how many times I visit, I always see something new.”

—Ellen Beth Gorman, Trustee Liaison

### C&O Canal Towpath—Lock 8

“My wife and I have a tandem kayak, and we love to go to the Lock 8 parking area, which is just East of the beltway in-bound on the Clara Barton Parkway. It’s a larger parking spot and has an easy put-in for boaters on a part of the Potomac that is wide and fun to explore. My son and I fish there with pretty good luck. The C&O toe-path is there, and hiking trail offshoots from it make it fun for hikers, bikers and pet-owners, too.”

—Steve Volkers, Deputy Director of Development

## Get Outdoors and Explore, Continued

### Rash Field Park

“This newly redesigned and rebuilt park has ecological education, recreation and play, an amazing skate park, and it’s right on the Baltimore Harbor. Since opening, it’s been a magnet for families and skaters from around the region.”

—Isaac Hametz, Baltimore Program Director

### Gunpowder Falls State Park

“Minutes from downtown Baltimore and tucked downstream of congested Route 95 and upstream of the unattractive business strip of Route 40 sits a phenomenal and beautiful shad fishing stretch of the Big Gunpowder Falls that is surrounded by state parkland with towering pines and hemlocks. This stretch of river, unlike the more celebrated Potomac River, can be easily waded in low water conditions, as such, hickory and American shad almost bump off your wading boots during the spring run, which starts in March and is lively through most of April. Be prepared to hike a bit along the river path as this is a popular spot on weekends and warm spring evenings. Parking can be found at the Jones Road Area, which is only 25 minutes from Tochterman’s Fishing Tackle shop in Fells Point, Baltimore.”

—Tim Purinton, Executive Director

### The Tregaron Conservancy

“The Tregaron Conservancy in northwest D.C. oversees 13 hidden acres of forest, fields, streams and ponds on the Tregaron Estate that are open to visitors year round just west of Rock Creek Park and the National Zoo. It’s a great place to walk a dog, sit and read, or just meander the many crisscrossing stone pathways under a green canopy.”

—Matt Kane, Associate Marketing Director



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