

Girls Scouts of Central Maryland Help Create a Living Shoreline Along the Magothy River

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Molly Alton Mullins
410.974.2941, Ext. 107

Annapolis, MD (July 10, 2006) – While the rain storms of last week cancelled the original planting, it did not dampen the spirits of almost 100 girl scouts, leaders and their parents who came out on Saturday to create a new living shoreline along Cockey Creek, a tributary of the Magothy River. This \$10,000 project, which was funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, seeks to restore over 126 feet of shoreline at Camp Whippoorwill, a Girl Scout camp located in Pasadena, Maryland. During the event, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Burke Environmental Associates were also on hand to provide technical assistance and to ensure that volunteers were well educated on the benefits of living shorelines.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Living Shorelines Grants Program was designed to create and promote natural shoreline restoration projects around the Chesapeake Bay. This grants program is supported by a partnership between the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center (NOAA) and the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment. Just last year, more than \$310,000 was awarded by the Trust for living shoreline projects that seek to restore shorelines, wetlands and buffers, as well as educate citizens about the benefits of living shorelines.

"We are so pleased to award the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland this grant to build a new living shoreline," said David O'Neill, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "Getting volunteers involved with on-the-ground restoration projects is the best way to build a lifelong love for the Chesapeake and its protection."

The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is the eighth largest council in the U.S., serving over 30,000 girls in nearly 2,500 troops and groups in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Each year more than 1,600 scouts visit Camp Whippoorwill, and this site will be used as an outdoor educational classroom for ecology and field based activities in the future.

"Projects such as this one are vital to the core mission of the Girl Scouts," said Traci A. Barnett, chief executive officer of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. "We strive to get involved in our community and to initiative projects that improve the world around us. Restoring the Chesapeake, which is so fundamental to this region, is an excellent way for Girl Scouts to take part in environmental protection and preservation."

Funding from the Trust is sparking on-the-ground change in Maryland's watersheds and developing Bay stewards throughout the state. In addition to private and corporate donations, Marylanders also have the opportunity to support the Trust directly by

purchasing a *Treasure the Chesapeake* license plate and by donating via line 37 on the Maryland state income tax form. For every dollar raised, 90 cents goes directly to fund programs that benefit the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. For more information, visit www.cbtrust.org or www.bayplate.org.