



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
A Watershed Partnership

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Chesapeake Chat to Focus on Value of Clean Water and a Healthy Bay**

Why does clean water matter so much? Why is it important to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed? During the first-ever Chesapeake Chat, a diverse panel of experts will discuss the value of a healthy Bay and waterways to the region's economy, environment, communities, culture and history. The Chesapeake Chat will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12 during the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council at Historic Mount Vernon, Virginia. A live webcast of the discussion will be carried on [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)

**WHO:** Moderator: Sheilah Kast, host of Maryland Morning on WYPR in Baltimore

Former Congressman Wayne Gilchrest

Dr. Russ Brinsfield, director, Univ. of Maryland Hughes Center for Agro-ecology and Mayor of Vienna, Md.

Dr. Kent Mountford, historian, ecologist and author of "John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages"

Bill Street – executive director of James River Association

Rich Batiuk – chief scientist, Chesapeake Bay Program

Dr. Jim Casey - economics professor at Washington and Lee University

Billy Rice - lifelong waterman (crabs, fish and oysters)

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 12 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Smith Auditorium

**DETAILS:** To watch a live webcast of Chesapeake Chat, visit [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)

**Media should r.s.v.p. by Monday, May 11.** Contact Travis Loop at 410-267-5758 or [tloop@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:tloop@chesapeakebay.net).

**DETAILS:** Attendees are encouraged to carpool and should park in the regular visitor parking areas. Attendees are only allowed in areas of Mount Vernon being used for the Chesapeake Chat. For full access to the grounds, visitors must purchase an admission ticket. Mount Vernon information and directions are at [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org)

*The Chesapeake Bay Program is a watershed partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983. Partners include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, representing the federal government; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the states of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; and advisory groups of citizens, scientists and local government officials.*