



NPS Chesapeake Bay



The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay **connects people to experiences** of the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers.

We help to **conserve special places** important to visitors, residents, and the nation, for this and future generations.

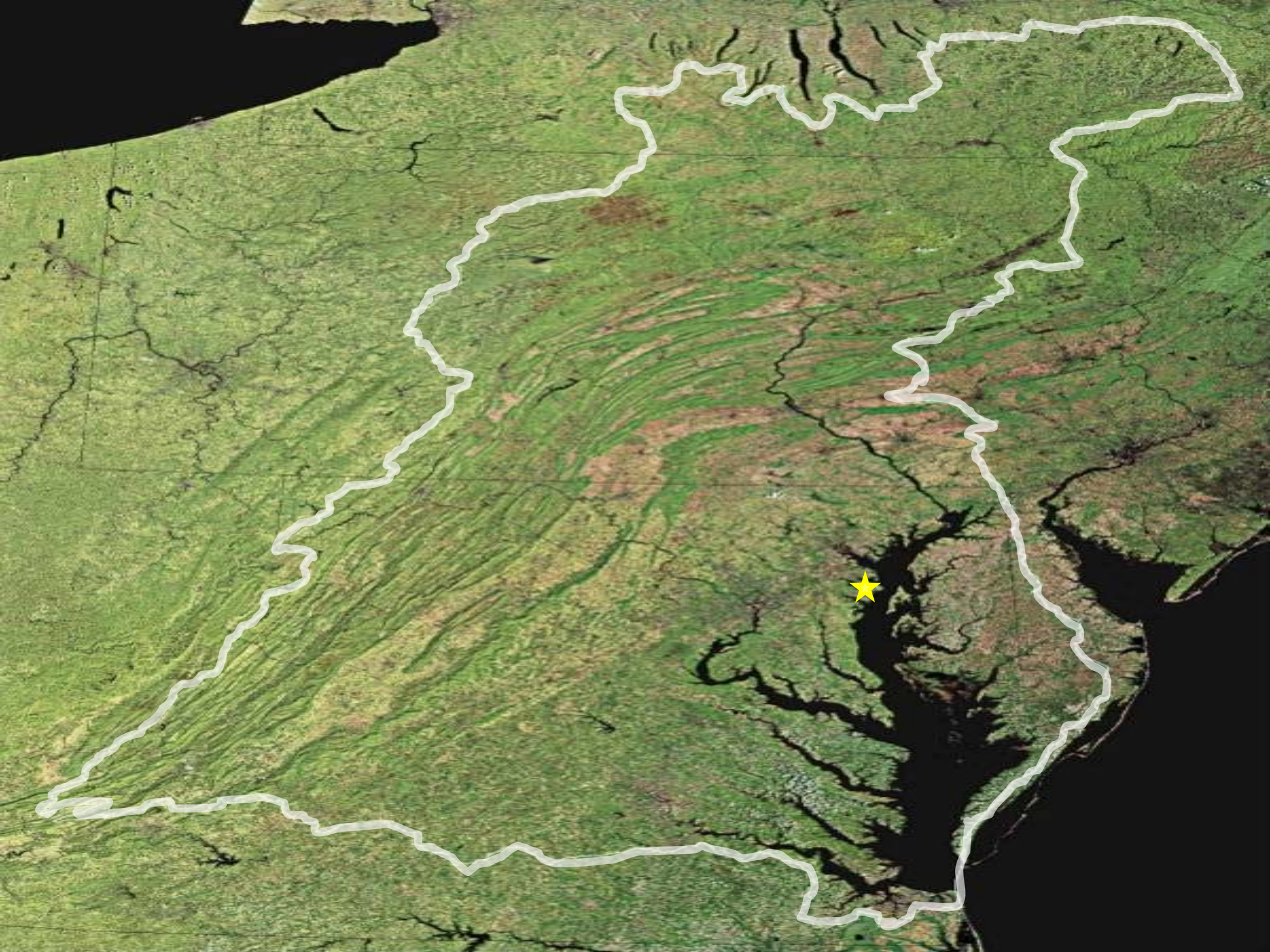
People



Places



Experiences





Otsego Lake NY

Scott Hamlin



Pennsylvania Wilds

Nicholas A. Tonelli



Pennsylvania Wilds

Nicholas A. Tonelli



Oakland Run, York County PA



North Branch Susquehanna

Nicholas A. Tonelli



Lancaster County PA

Nicholas A. Tonelli



Gettysburg PA

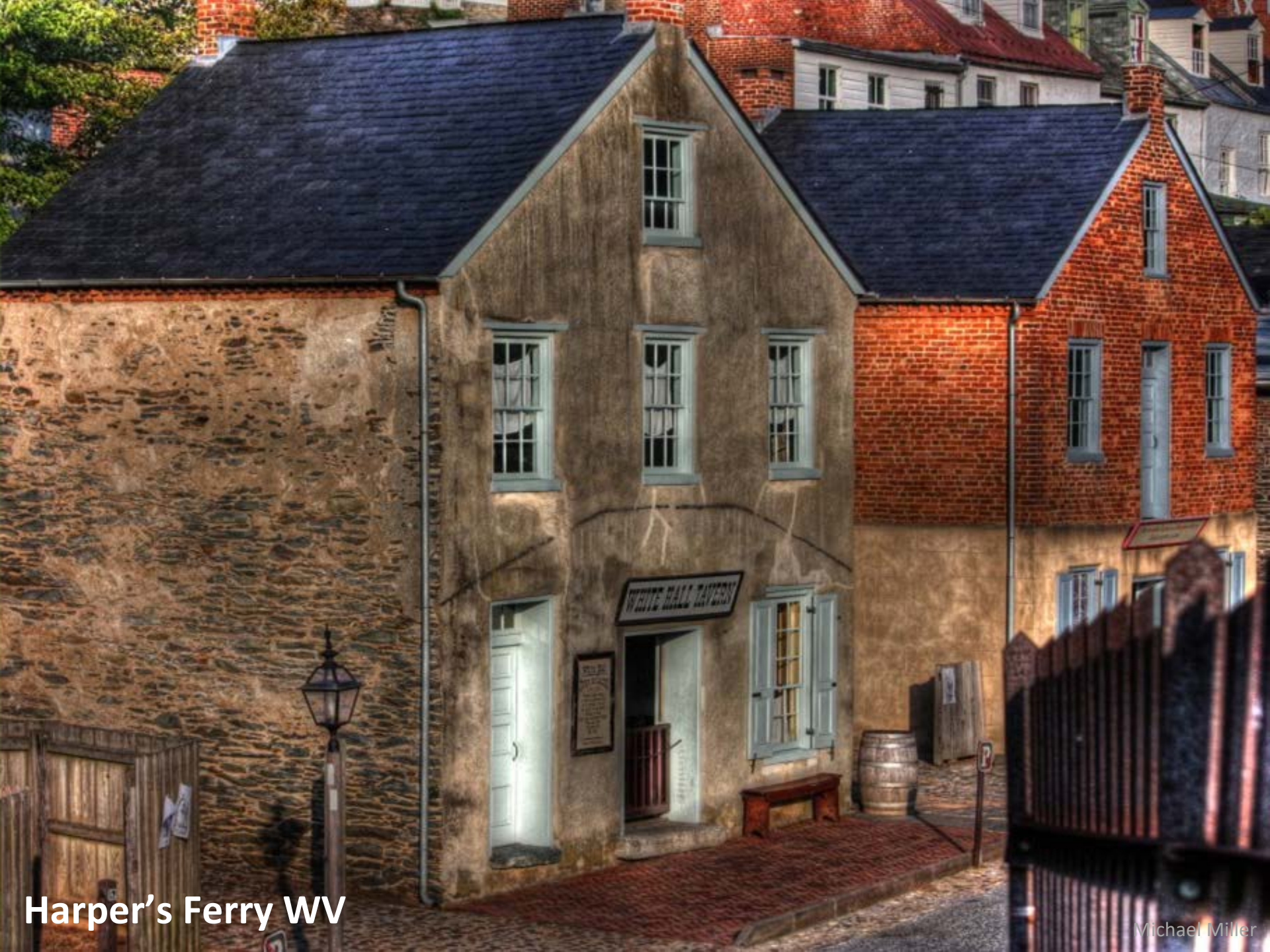
Ron Zanoni



Shenandoah Valley



Antietam Battlefield



Harper's Ferry WV



National Mall, Washington DC



Hooper's Island



Chesapeake Bay Wetlands



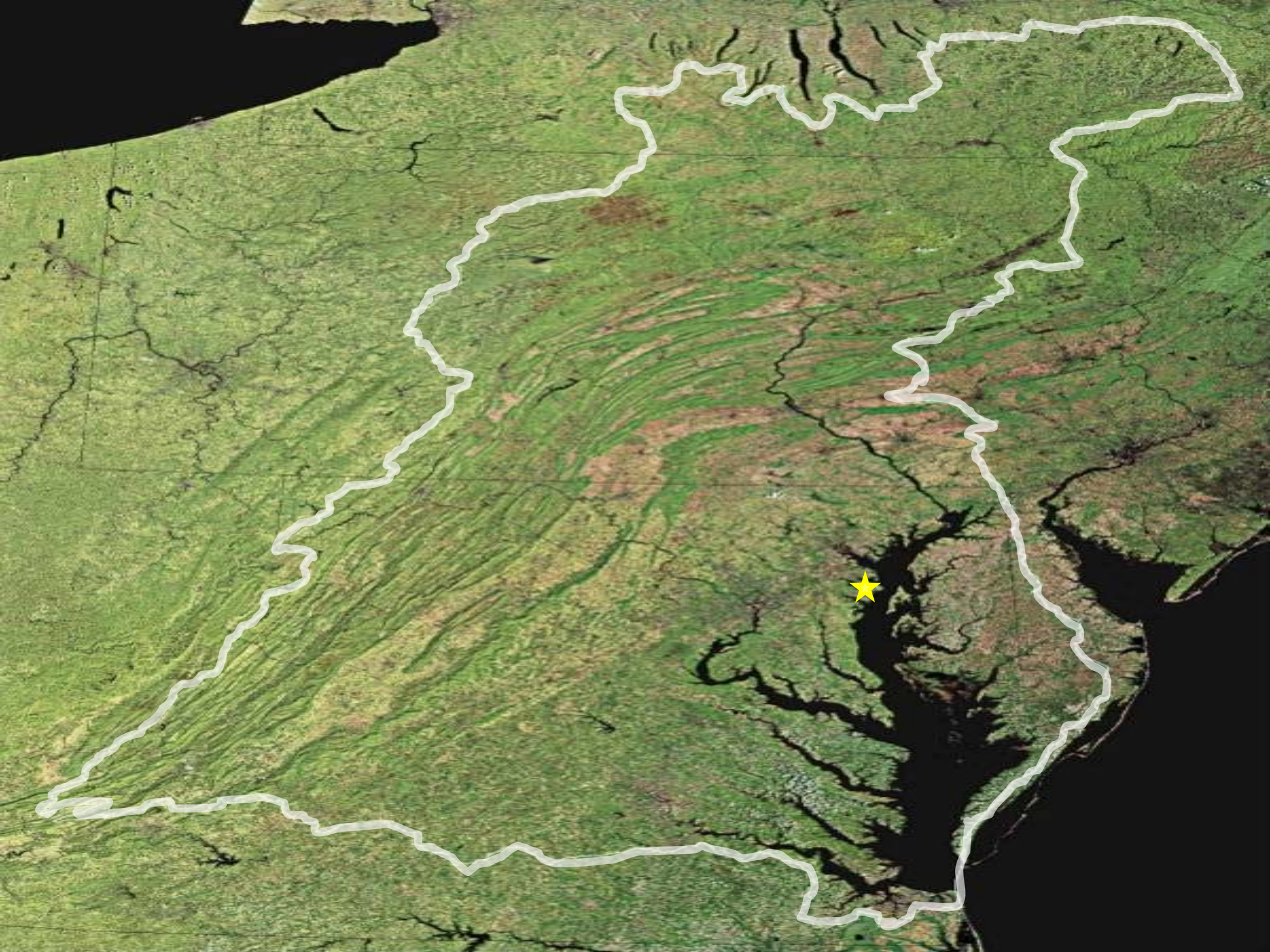
Rappahannock River VA

Virginia Hill



Annapolis MD





DIGITAL



Find Your

CHESAPEAKE



LEARN MORE



TRIP IDEAS

Visit our Featured Site

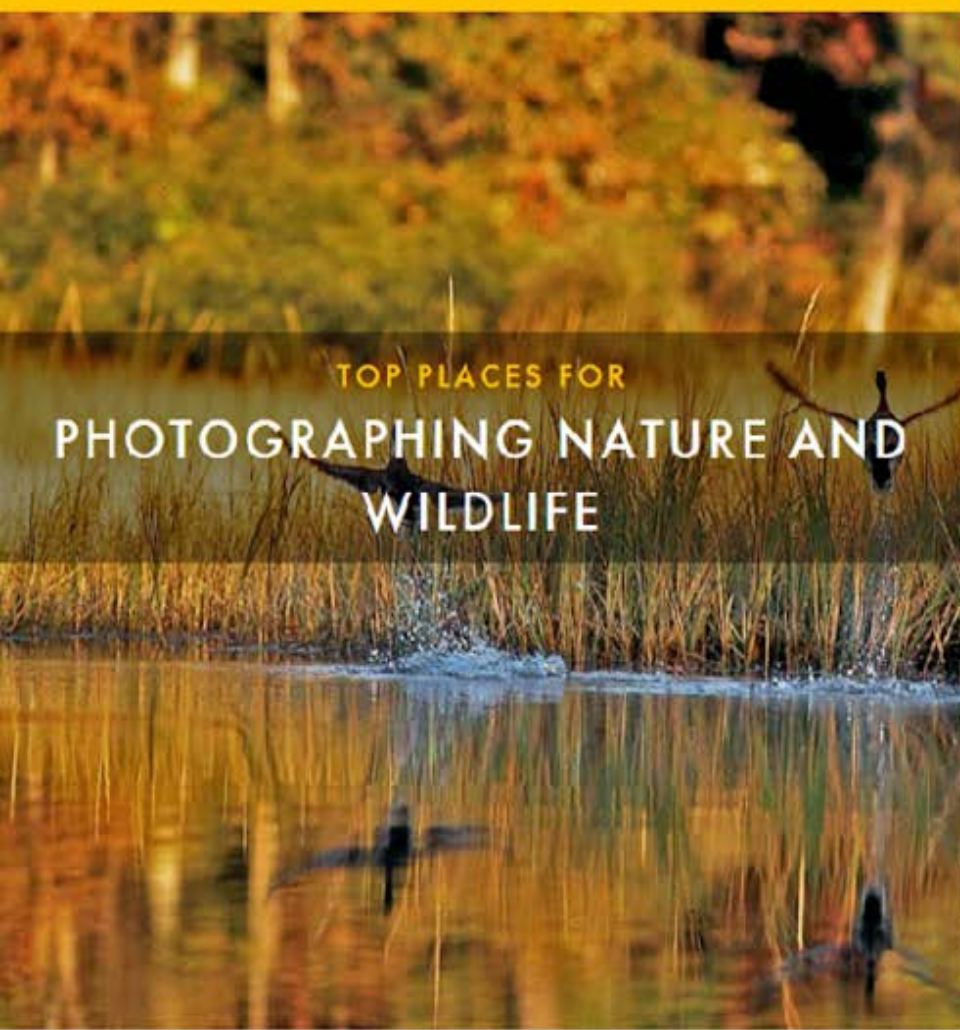
SMALLWOOD STATE PARK

LEARN MORE

TRIP IDEAS

TRIP IDEAS

Find an amazing Chesapeake experience below or visit our Trip Ideas section for a larger selection.



TOP PLACES FOR
PHOTOGRAPHING NATURE AND WILDLIFE



TOP PLACES FOR
WATCHING BALD EAGLES IN THE WILD



CHESAPEAKE INSIDER
DAVE ISBELL



OFF THE BEATEN PATH
LITTLE-KNOWN SAVAGE NECK DUNES HAS PINES, PONDS & PRIVACY



SUGGESTED TRIP
CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARK WEEK



Go

This Week's Events



SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017

Day Week Month

MAY 21, 2017

Audubon's Baltimore Birding Weekend

An urban birding festival for Baltimore residents and visitors, which will consist of an exciting itinerary of bird watching field trips entirely within the city limits.

MAY 21, 2017

Drewry's Bluff Anniversary Weekend

Enjoy Battle of Drewry's Bluff re-enactments and drills of the, with activities for children and USS Monitor program at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Select a Date

Select a Date						
May 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

PADDLE
THE POTOMAC

IN-PROGRESS



ITINERARIES

Paddle one of our packaged trips along the Potomac.



Dyke Marsh, The Belle of the Potomac

Belle Haven Marina's kayak launch is perfectly located on the protected side of the point for easy access to paddle Dyke Marsh, one of the few remaining freshwater tidal wetlands on the Potomac.



Coming 'Round the Bend Loop

Situated on the Virginia side of the Potomac in Fairfax County, the relatively gentle moving water of the Potomac at Riverbend Park belies the torrent of falling water and massive rapids found just downstream at Great Falls.



Old Anglers Wayside

Part of the C&O Canal National Park, Anglers is perhaps the most popular put-in for intermediate whitewater kayakers and canoeists in the Washington DC area. From paddlers to lockkeepers to Supreme Court Justices, this area is steeped with history and legend.

[MORE ITINERARIES](#)

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Lower Potomac Upper Potomac

Buoy location: near the mouth of the Potomac River

Air Temperature
 62.6 F

Water Temperature
 68.2 F

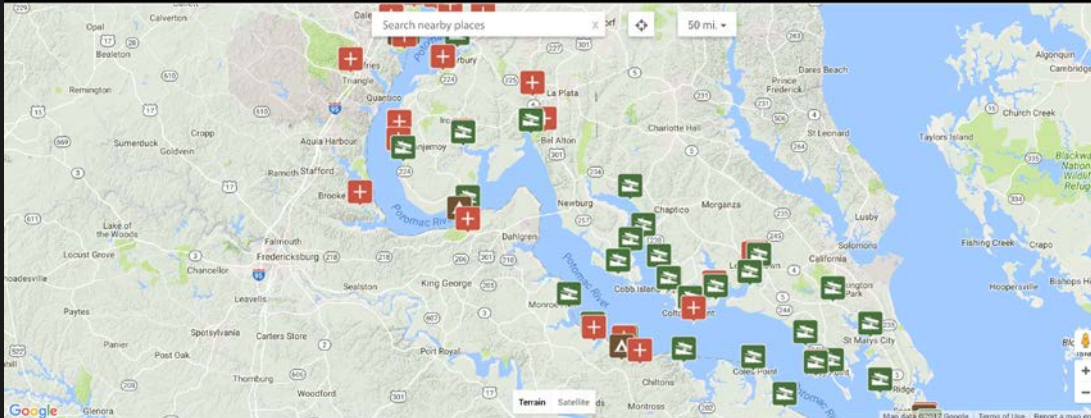
Wind Direction
 NNE

Wind Speed
 8.4 knots



Filters

Buoys, Camp Sites, Itineraries, Places, Public Access Sites



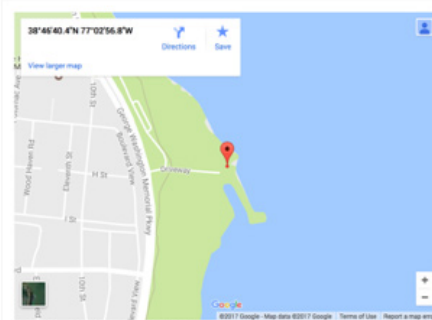


Itinerary

DYKE MARSH, THE BELLE OF THE POTOMAC

Belle Haven Marina and Dyke Marsh are both rare treasures of their own accord. For many locals, Belle Haven Marina has been an institution for generations, where parents watch as their kids learn to kayak and sail in the same place where they had learned themselves. Don't let the sailing activities signal any sort of pretense – the staff and regulars at Belle Haven Marina are relaxed and as welcoming as they come. Belle Haven Marina is situated on a peninsula of land just south of historic Old Town Alexandria with views of the Wilson Bridge, Hunting Creek, Jones Point Lighthouse, and Dyke Marsh. It's hard to imagine that a place so quaint and peaceful as Belle Haven Marina exists within a stone's throw of the Beltway.

Just as rare is Dyke Marsh Preserve, one of the few remaining freshwater tidal wetlands on the Potomac. Best explored by kayak or canoe, Belle Haven Marina's kayak launch is perfectly located on the protected side of the point for easy access to paddle Dyke Marsh. Referred to as "Hell Hole" in the 19th century for its wildness and mosquitoes, it might be more aptly nicknamed "Heavenly Preserve" in contemporary times.



ENTER YOUR LOCATION

GET DIRECTIONS

QUICK LOOK

Skill Level: Beginner

Length: 3 miles / 1/2 day

Cost: If bringing your own boat, there is a \$5 launch fee for canoes and kayaks. Rental: (\$25 - \$65) single kayak \$25 / 2-hours, \$36 / 4-hours, \$50 / all day; tandem kayak \$35 / 2-hours, \$45 / 4-hours, \$65 / all day; canoe \$25 / 2-hours, \$36 / 4-hours, \$50 / all day.

Launch Point: Belle Haven Marina kayak launch - 38°46'35.17"N, 77°2'54.03"W

Type of Vessel: kayak or canoe

Download Guide

SHARE



Paddling Notes

Plan Your Trip

Paddling Notes

- Canoes, single kayaks, tandem kayaks, as well as standup paddleboards are seasonally available for rental. Make rental arrangements at the marina office before heading down to the kayak launch area.



Browse through the events below to find a fun paddling event to attend.

05
Jun

RiverPalooza! Shenandoah River Birdwatching Float

Join your Shenandoah Riverkeeper for a gentle and beautiful float down the Shenandoah River accompanied by two Potomac Valley Audubon birders.

📍Bentonville, VA

07
Jun

Paddle the Potomac: An Alternative Happy Hour

Join the National Parks Conservation Assoc. and Potomac Conservancy at Key Bridge Boathouse in Georgetown for an evening of food and twilight paddling.

📍Washington, DC

17
Jun

RiverPalooza! American Indian Interpretation Paddle

Leaders of the Piscataway Conoy tribe provide a pre-paddle cultural history presentation, then guide and provide interpretation along the three-mile paddle from Piscataway Park to Farmington Landing.

📍Accokeek, MD

17
Jun

Sunset Kayaking on the Potomac at Stratford Hall

See and experience historic Stratford cliffs from the Potomac River, and possibly glimpse a variety of birds and wildlife.

📍Stratford, VA

21
Jun

RiverPalooza Summer Solstice Paddle—Washington Canoe Club

Join your Potomac Riverkeeper for a Monuments paddle which is part of Potomac Riverkeeper Network's RiverPalooza 2017.

📍Washington, DC

RiverPalooza! Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet Float

PROGRAMS

Every Kid in a Park









Kids in Kayaks









Experience the Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National Historic Trail

FindYourChesapeake.com



Roving Ranger

Explore the Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National Historic Trail

FindYourChesapeake.com









Roving Ranger

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ACCESS









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