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Our Bay: Bay Digest

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Smith water trail gets regional boost

The effort to establish the Capt. John Smith National Historic Trail is getting support from a regional "smart growth" group.



The Washington Smart Growth Alliance named the Smith trail as one of its regional conservation priorities.

Many of the lands bordering the trail have been heavily developed, and trail supporters want to preserve what's left, including places where the public can access the trail.

The Smith trail is the first national water trail. It commemorates Smith's famous voyages around the Chesapeake Bay 400 years ago with other settlers from Jamestown.

Smith is credited with making the first accurate map of the bay and documenting its flora and fauna in his writings.

To learn more about the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail at www.friendsofthejohnsmithtrail.org. The Washington Smart Growth Alliance is online at www.sgalliance.org.

State agency gets 'Smart' car

Look for one of those itty-bitty Smart For Two cars being driven around by employees of the Maryland Environmental Service.

The independent state agency added a blue Smart For Two Passion Coupe to its fleet this fall.

At an event at MES headquarters in Millersville, state employees - including Gov. Martin O'Malley - took the car for test drives.

According to Smart, the company's cars get 33 mpg in the city and 41 mpg on the highway. The production process also is designed to be kinder to the planet, such as using recyclable materials and a painting technique that uses 40 percent less energy.

The MES Smart For Two came from the Smart Center Annapolis in Eastport. The Smart For Two Passion Coupe starts at \$13,990.

The Maryland Environmental Agency is an independent agency that carries out environmental projects for the government and for the private sector.

More green kudos for Wayne Gilchrest

Retiring U.S. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest - fresh off being feted by the League of Conservation Voters - has picked up another environmental award.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay planned to honor Mr. Gilchrest as a "Champion of the Chesapeake Bay" during a fundraiser in Baltimore last night.

The nonprofit alliance cited Mr. Gilchrest's 18 years serving a bay-oriented district, highlighting his work preserving wetlands, improving wildlife habitat and promoting farm preservation. Mr. Gilchrest lost his seat during the Republican primary this year.

The alliance is a nonprofit organization that promotes the bay. The group is best known for its annual Project Stream Clean in the spring and for publishing the monthly Bay Journal newspaper.

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