

Press Release
April 21, 2010

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Coastal America Partnership

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Maryland Partners Receive Coastal America Award for Living Shoreline Project

On April 21, 2010, public, private and corporate partners in the Hail Cove Living Shoreline project will gather at 10:00 a.m. at Skipjack Cove, Queenstown, Md., to receive the Coastal America Partnership Award. This award for partnership efforts, recognizes outstanding collaborative, multi-agency and multi-stakeholder efforts that leverage and combine resources to accomplish coastal restoration, preservation and protection projects.

In 2009 the team led the construction of low-profile headland breakwaters to protect the high priority habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and Maryland terrapins at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge from the damaging effects of wind and wave erosion and help protect the natural shoreline. The design team placed sand within the rock breakwaters to create habitat and protect the shoreline at the back of Hail Cove. The team placed an arc of stone seeded with adult native oysters underwater between the breakwaters to create a reef system expected to have far-reaching benefits for water quality, waterfowl, finfish, shellfish and more.

"Through their dedication, the Hail Cove Project team worked collaboratively to reduce shore erosion, protect sensitive wildlife habitat, and create marsh for critical Chesapeake Bay wildlife, including waterfowl, crab, and fish species. Successful conservation and preservation of the Nation's resources would not be possible without the determination and dedication of partners such as these," noted Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

Volunteers planted the restored shoreline with native wetland plants and shoreline grasses to create habitat suitable for diamondback terrapin nesting and migratory shorebird feeding. This living shoreline also added protection to the submerged aquatic vegetation beds in Hail Creek that are so vital to foraging by migratory waterfowl.

The ceremony will be held at Skipjack Cove. Dan Ashe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Deputy Director for Policy, will present the awards. After the conclusion of remarks and presentation of awards, visitors will have an opportunity to travel via boat and see the living shoreline area, the restored coastal wetlands and possibly the wildlife these areas support.

Coastal America Day Hail Cove Event

April 21, 2010 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Skipjack Cove, Queenstown, MD

