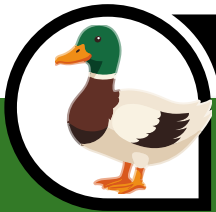




# Annual UPDATE



April 2026



# Festival Recap

It was a record-breaking year at the 54th Waterfowl Festival. Held in November 2025, we welcomed over thirty thousand visitors who enjoyed hands-on learning, family-friendly activities, and a deeper look into Eastern Shore culture and traditions.



## Moments that last



88% of visitors surveyed said they will recommend to friends next year!



**32,400 visitors**



# Festival Facts

The Waterfowl Festival has brought over a million visitors to Easton since 1971. Waterfowl Weekend in November continues to have a local positive financial impact exceeding five million dollars each year over the four-day event.

## Our 2025 Milestones

- Invested one hundred ten thousand dollars in a conservation fund to support future community projects.
- Improved art spaces and made the festival easier to enjoy by adding new backdrops, lighting, signs, and helpful technology.
- Expanded access by opening more volunteer spots for students, partnering with community groups, and offering free admission to people who need it most.



## Our Mission

- Waterfowl Festival, Inc. is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Chesapeake waterfowl and wildlife conservation; we promote community, education and awareness by celebrating Eastern Shore heritage, sporting traditions, and artistic expression.

[waterfowlfestival.org](http://waterfowlfestival.org)



# Operational Highlights



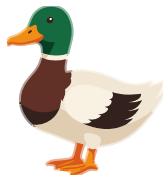
## 2025 Community in Conservation

We held a impactful Conservation Feast in August 2025 and celebrated over \$85,000 in awarded grants. Conservation grant recipients included projects that supported student leadership initiatives in conservation education, and wetland restoration.

2025 Grantees:

- Greenwings Conservation Festival
- ShoreRivers Youth Summit
- Ducks Unlimited Conservation for A Continent: Ducks Unlimited, US Fisheries and Wildlife, and MD DNR WMA project in lower Eastern Shore MD
- Pickering Creek Environmental Center Youth Wood Duck Project
- Talbot Retriever Club





# Positive FUTURE

## Looking forward

The festival board of directors officially adopted three strategic objectives in February 2026 to help us guide our next five years.

- **Priority #1: Establish a Clear Year-Round Organizational Identity**
  - Strengthen understanding of the Waterfowl Festival as an active, mission-driven organization beyond the annual Festival, building public awareness, donor confidence, and community relevance.
  - Prioritizing Fulfillment of Harry M. Walsh Endowment campaign
- **Priority #2: Transform Easton's Historic Armory into a Vibrant Center for Learning, Wildlife Conservation, Cultural Heritage, and Community Engagement**
  - Position the historic armory as a year-round hub for mission-aligned programming, education, exhibitions, and community partnerships while preserving its heritage and strengthening the Festival's long-term sustainability.
- **Priority #3: Elevate the Waterfowl Festival as a Leading Wildlife Arts and Sporting Heritage Experience on the East Coast**
  - Celebrate and enhance the Festival's reputation as a premier destination for wildlife art, collectors, outdoor enthusiasts, and the Eastern Shore's sporting traditions.



## Strategic Partnerships

We appreciate our partners at the local, state, and federal level who provide support throughout the year to help us achieve these objectives.

City of Easton

Talbot County

State of Maryland



# Thank you

Every year, we are overwhelmed with the generosity of our community. Their time, ideas, and financial support help the festival host another successful event.

Community support of the festival is an investment in the rich heritage of our community—celebrating the outdoor lifestyle and cherished traditions of the Eastern Shore.

## 2026 Board of Directors

Julia Susman, President  
Charles Wrightson, Vice-President  
Mark Behm, Treasurer  
Amy Horne-Kolligan, Secretary  
Ernest Burns, At-Large

Austin Durrer  
Kyle Ewing  
Tracy Garrett  
Larry Hindman  
John Hines  
Dan Ketelson  
Chris Laznovsky  
Kim Newcomb  
Colin Perry  
Shaw Pritchett  
Jonathon Rondeau



## Staff

Deena Kilmon, Executive Director  
Sammie Mooney, Assistant Director  
Annie Miller, Administrative Manager



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