CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE

SHORELINE

A Journal of Natural Resources, Public Affairs and Culture on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

Volume 32 July 2019 Number 7

A Big Shore Hug

At the CBES Annual Picnic

Since 1988

The 2nd Annual Picnic @the BARN had a sellout crowd of 200 who enjoyed Eastern Shore fellowship under sunny skies, while groovin' to the tunes of Heather & Nathan and dining on some very fine vittles provided by Chef Amy Brandt. The location on the historic farm of Cherry Grove was graciously donated by John Wescoat. Sponsorship by Tommy O'Connor helped make it possible to keep ticket prices low, along with the help of Jeff and Lee Walker. As guests departed, a repeated refrain was "we hope CBES will do this every year." God willing and the creek don't rise, CBES will plan the 3rd Annual Picnic for the first Sunday in June 2020.



The large crowd enjoyed a delicious catered meal and an outstanding selection of desserts made by CBES supporters. Staff photo



Weather was perfect for neighborly conversations around Cherry Grove's vintage barn. Photo by Alex Rich



A Shore favorite band, "Heather & Nathan" and Jason, kept things lively. Staff photo



There was singing... (l-r) Long-time CBES member Peg Volk, CBES Director emeritus Jane Cabarrus, and CBES member Marion Dipboye. Staff photo

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Northampton County: Asset-Based Economic Development

By Vic Schmidt, retired 43-year Northampton County resident and *ShoreLine* Editorial Advisor emeritus, and Peg Snowden Volk, 25-year Northampton County resident, musician, and Northampton County advocate

The preparation of a new ▲ Northampton County Comprehensive Plan brings to mind thoughts of some of the changes that have come about in the past several years. For example, Northampton County lost an estimated 2% of its population as a result of fewer births than deaths, although this was mitigated by more people moving into the county than leaving. Our present population is now an estimated 11,846 residents, including new retirees and young families. Years ago, an article in ShoreLine correctly predicted a population trend in Northampton County as being "older and fewer."

While county Administration officials remain alert to population changes, they also maintain a high degree of interest in county industries. In 2014, the consulting firm, Investment Consulting Associates, NA, LLC, produced the Northampton County Competitiveness Assessment, a Power Point presentation, to the Northampton County Board of Supervisors. Included in the presentation was the identification of

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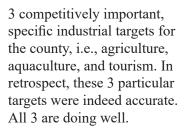
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Agriculture

The Eastern Shore has always been known for its quality agricultural products. An oceanic temperate climate, adequate sunshine, rainfall, and sandy loam soils all combine to provide excellent growing conditions for farm crops.

Growing requirements in the southern portion of Northampton County are such that up to 3 crops a year can be grown there. That the US Department of Agriculture has recommended Northampton County as a location for retirees to resettle and join the home vegetable-growing movement is another endorsement of the county's potential.

The popularity of the Cape Charles Farmer's Market for locally produced farm products is evidence of the interest in eating healthy, locally grown food. A new farm market and greenhouse, Shore Breeze Farms, recently opened on Townfield Drive at Cheriton, convenient to the popular Cherrystone Campground. Arthur Upshur, CBES president, is the operator of a "sustainably grown and biologically managed" produce farm near Machipongo. This type of vegetable farming for profit continues to increase. Mattawoman Creek Farms, near Eastville, now has an online store for their organically grown products and has expanded its market in Hampton Roads. In addition, Northampton is included in an American Viticultural Area, a designated wine grape-growing region in



adequate sunshine, rainfall, and sandy loam soils all combine to provide excellent growing

Shore Breeze Farms, recently opened off Route
13 in Cheriton, sells produce and other food products. Staff photo

the United States -1 of 6 named areas in Virginia.

In view of positive circumstances that permit Northampton County to have the capability of producing quality agricultural products, the preservation of farm land surely deserves a high priority. In 2014, the Board of Supervisors appointed an ad hoc Tax Committee, which recommended that a "strategic assessment" should be made of county land use taxation, including the appropriate continuation of the Ag-Forestal Districts.

Tourism

Tourism is another high-value industrial target recommended by the Competitiveness Assessment for economic growth, and that recommendation has turned out to be accurate. The Eastern Shore has been named the fastest-growing tourist destination in Virginia 3 out of the past 4 years. Water trails, cycling routes, kayak tours, wildlife and birding promotion, food and entertainment events – all support the tourist industry. Cherrystone Campground, Kiptopeke State Park, and the Sunset Beach Hotel and KOA Campground have expanded and made major upgrades.

See Northampton, cont'd on p. 3

Team CBES Clean the Bay Day Event at Oyster Harbor

Though lightning bolts caused the postponement of the original Clean the Bay Day at Oyster, a week later under safer skies, 21 volunteers cleaned up 1,100 pounds of debris from the shoreline of the Northampton County village. The weirdest things found? A stylish purse and a fabric Halloween Trick-or-Treat bag.

This was year 5 of the partnership effort between The Nature Conservancy and CBES, and the 31st year for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) event. Nine Eastern Shore clean-up sites were among 200 sites around Virginia, where 3,500 volunteers removed an estimated 45,000 pounds of litter and debris over an estimated 250 miles of shoreline, according to CBF.

ShoreLine editor Sarah Morgan and her grandson dug out a tire that was embedded on the Oyster shore. Photo by Margaret Van Clief



Northampton, cont'd from p. 2

Aquaculture

A recent article in *ShoreLine* notes that Virginia ranks first in the nation in the production of hard-shell clams, amounting to a \$40-million-dollar market value per year and rising. Sales of oysters add several million dollars more of annual market value. Cherrystone Aqua Farms near Cape Charles and H. M. Terry Co, Inc. of Willis Wharf are 2 of the largest shellfish producers in the country. Together they provide hundreds of jobs for local workers. The result of chromosome manipulation and the use of cages to grow clams and oysters have increased both shellfish production and quality. Upscale restaurants in Washington, DC, and New York are now charging \$3 for a single oyster when it's identified as an Eastern Shore product.

Groundwater and surface water monitoring will continue to be a critical issue. The expansion of industrial poultry farming in Accomack could increase aquifer withdrawals. Clean drinking water and pollution-free shellfish growing areas are essential to Northampton County's continued economic growth.

As the county reviews its adopted Comprehensive Plan, it would do well to give serious consideration to the importance of the recommendations in the 2014 Competitiveness Assessment – and to protect the local industries that rely on the county's natural assets.

CBES Awarded Northampton Tourism Infrastructure Grant

CBES 27th Annual Between the Waters Bike Tour was one of 15 grants awarded through this year's Northampton Tourism Infrastructure Grant Program. In total \$85,500 was allocated, the proceeds of which come from Northampton County's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a lodging tax primarily paid by visitors.

Each year, Northampton funds the regional Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission with the proceeds of a 3% TOT. In addition, the Board of Supervisors has specified that 15% of the estimated total TOT must be spent on tourism projects within the county. The selected grant projects, with their organizations/agencies/locale, and the amounts awarded are listed in descending order:

Cape Charles Virginia's Cape Visitors/Welcome Center, Cape Charles Main Street, \$15,000

"Historic Cape Charles" Virtual and Walking Tour Smartphone App, Cape Charles Historical Society, \$10,000

Antique Farm Equipment Museum & Sawmill Restoration Project in Nassawadox, Town of Nassawadox, \$7,000

Northampton County Tourism Enhancements, Northampton County, \$7,000

Welcome to the Table, Eastern Shore Barrier Islands Center, \$7,000

27th Between the Waters Bike Tour, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, \$6,000

Cape Charles Virginia's Cape Visitors/Welcome Center, Cape Charles Main Street, \$6,000

3rd Annual Free Shakespeare in the Park, Town of Exmore, \$5,000

Experimental Film Virginia, GEAR (Global Exchange Arts Roundtable), \$5,000

Turn Your Festive Friday into a Festive Weekend!, Cape Charles Main Street, \$5,000

Eastern Shore of Virginia Ukulele Festival, ESVA Ukefest, \$3,500

Eastern Shore Music & Soul Food Festival, E.S. Training & Consulting, Inc., \$3,000

Eastern Shore Public Library Heritage Center, Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation, \$3,000

Harbor for the Arts Summer Festival Concert Program, Citizens for Central Park, \$3,000

Juneteenth Heritage Festival & Gospel Extravaganza, Northampton County Branch NAACP, \$1,000

Shore Group Pushes for 4-Year University

By Terry Malarkey, President, University of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Foundation

For the past year, a group of Shore residents has been researching the desirability and possibility of a 4-year college (Shore U) here. In March, convinced of the edu-

cational, cultural, and economic benefits of such an institution, the group sent a proposal to Governor Northam and our other elected representatives. The proposal can be seen on the

All across the Commonwealth, 4-year institutions and community colleges co-habit, co-operate, and co-exist for the benefit of all.

Virginia's College at Wise (UVa-Wise) has had a profound positive impact on the economic well-being of both Wise County and the Commonwealth. This is consistent with

the effects of universities seen in rural areas all throughout the country.

A 2015 study showed that "direct spending by UVa-Wise ... in combina-

tion with the indirect and induced impacts of dollars being re-spent throughout the economy generated \$84 million" in the Commonwealth, including 680 jobs (https://illimitable.virginia.edu/economicimpact/file/UVAEconomicImpact2016Report.pdf).

The Shore deserves the same!

The proposal asks that: • At least 1 resident of

 At least 1 resident of the Eastern Shore of Virginia be appointed to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in order that the higher educational needs of the Shore receive a voice in Richmond.

blog of the University of the Eastern Shore of Virginia

Foundation's website (www.EShoreU.org).

- The SCHEV take the lead in revitalizing the "Rural Horseshoe," as recommended by former Governor Baliles in his Sept 2018 speech. This rural horseshoe, starting on the Eastern Shore, includes 2.1 of the 8.3 million Virginian residents and 70% of Virginia's land mass. As Baliles said, "if the rural horseshoe were considered a separate state, it would be tied dead last with Mississippi and West Virginia for educational attainment levels, ... high school diplomas, and ... college degrees" (https://www.martinsvillebulletin.com/news/a-tale-of-two-virginias -baliles-believes-education-can-rebuild/article_889d77bf-b55e-566f-b770-b2db73922117.html).
- A Commission be formed, funded, and tasked with further exploring the potential for Shore U on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. (The group would be honored to volunteer members to participate in this effort.)

Progress

With contributions from local residents, we established a 501(c)(3) foundation to research, promote, plan for, and assist in the creation of Shore U. Next were a website (www.EShoreU.org) and a Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/EShoreU/?modal=admin_todo_tour).

The Foundation then developed an Action Plan that has been adopted as a project by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. Work has now begun to locate potential sites for Shore U and to identify individuals with higher-education expertise here on the Shore to help guide these efforts.

A Model: University of Virginia's College at Wise

From its founding in 1954, with a pioneering class of 109 students, to the present, with approximately 2,000 students and 140 faculty members, University of

Cooperation With the Community College

The prospect of having both a 4-year institution and the Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC) on the Shore has caused some anxiety. It's important to recognize, however, that all across the Commonwealth, 4-year institutions and community colleges co-habit, co-operate, and co-exist for the benefit of all. There is no reason to think that this would be any different on the Shore, as the 2 types of institutions are complementary, not competitive. Moreover, while ESCC draws its students only from the Shore, Shore U will also draw from other counties, other states, and other countries.

The Dream

Shore U is envisioned as a 4-year institution that emphasizes STEM-H (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, as well as Health Studies). With this focus, Shore U is anticipated to eventually attract 2,000 students and to bring in up to 1,000 good jobs and up to \$100 million to the Shore.

It is hard to think of other projects with this kind of impact.

The Foundation's Board believes that there is no question that this will help to reverse decades of decline, and encourages everyone to ask their elected representatives what they are doing to advance this project.



THERE WILL BE NO SEMINAR IN JULY

Public Seminar Series

Virginia Institute of Marine Science Wachapreague, Virginia

Counties Provide Comments on WIP III Draft

By Sue Mastyl

As described in the May 2019 *ShoreLine*, the public comment period for the draft Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) ran through June 7. The DEQ plan is designed to enable Virginia to meet its commitments for reducing nutrient and sediment pollution into the Bay by 2025. One difference from the Phase II Plan was a heightened focus on watersheds, or basins, that have the greatest impact on the mainstem of the Bay – the Eastern Shore Basin and the Potomac River Basin.

The targeted reductions for the Eastern Shore are shown in the table below. These represent a 43% reduction for nitrogen and a 9% reduction for phosphorus – in the next 6 years.

Northampton County provided several points in their comments:

- "We request that the measures be reviewed and ensure that Northampton County is given credit for all [BMPs] that are installed within the County regardless if it is federal lands or state lands."
- "We understand that the tree planting canopy [BMP] should be met with the existing canopy within the County."
- "We request that you review and update the following measures: reduce the shoreline management number; septic connections via the [proposed Hampton Roads

Loads from Eastern Shore Basin	Nitrogen (million pounds)	Phosphorus (million pounds)
1985	2.53	0.28
2010 (TMDL)	2.53	0.18
2017 (WIP II)	2.30	0.17
WIP III target for 2025*	1.32	0.155

^{*}Including an additional 110,000 pounds of nitrogen and 5,000 pounds of phosphorus to account for climate change.

To meet these additional reductions, the draft plan has targeted dramatic increases in some practices for the Eastern Shore, including cover crops (25,208 acres), forest buffer (2,309 acres in agricultural, 1,065 acres in developed areas, plus 1,664 acres tree canopy planting), manure transport (3,567 dry tons), mortality composters (150,743 animal units), wetland restoration (479 acres floodplain, 475 acres headwater), oyster aquaculture (40,000 oysters), shoreline management (2.5 million feet, or 486 miles, representing 79% of the total on the Shore), and septic pumping (1,773 systems).

Both Accomack and Northampton Counties raised concerns about specifics in the Plan in their comments. Accomack County raised 2 questions:

- "Will there be regulations imposed if these 'expectations' are not met? In other words, what repercussions will there be if the [best management practices, or BMPs] listed are not fully implemented?"
- "The Draft includes a strategy ... for [the Department of Conservation and Recreation's] Poultry Litter Transport Program ... to increase the amount of litter transported from these counties ... to 89,000 tons per year. If the land application of poultry is reduced by this amount, what type of fertilizer will be recommended to supplant it? Poultry litter is an organic matter and enriches soil reducing the need for irrigation.... [W]hat impact will the replacement [chemical] fertilizer have on the Bay's water quality?"

Sanitation District project, connecting Nassawadox and Exmore to the Onancock wastewater treatment plant] will increase the septic connection numbers; removal of outhouses and connection to septic system should be included as a measure; oyster aquaculture number appears to be extremely low; [and] add filter feeding shellfish as a measure."

• "The County will do all it can but we have limited means and staffing to implement the proposed plan."

To the last point, the Plan recognizes the need for additional funding to implement these goals. As the Executive Summary of the Plan states, "it is clear that Virginia's nutrient reduction goals for 2025 are ambitious and will require significant effort, sustained funding, and increased technical capacity in all sectors.... Additional state policy initiatives will be necessary to meet the Commonwealth's reduction targets for 2025." The Plan outlines an annual process for all stakeholders to "quantify anticipated funding needs ... to inform annual budget deliberations."

AN INVITATION TO ALL ARTISTS

Sunday, July 21 • 11 AM - 1 PM LemonTree Gallery, Cape Charles

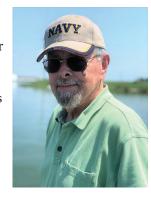
Come for a conversation café to dream up art/science | collaboration in fine art, dance, music, fiber arts – all welcome! |

Sponsored by the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center

Keeping Track

2019 Bike Tour Dedicated to the Memory of Jack Humphreys

This past January, CBES and the Shore lost a champion when Jack Humphreys passed away after a brief illness. A long-time active board member, Jack provided a template on how to live a generous life. His wealth consisted of his time and expertise, and he shared it with his community in countless ways, often accompanied by his wife Jody, and always with a natural humbleness.



CBES would like to celebrate Jack's benevolent spirit by dedicating the 27th Annual Between the Waters Bike Tour to his memory.

Volunteerism to Jack was second nature, whether helping at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Wildlife Refuge, giving tours of Fisherman Island as a Master Naturalist, or his hands-on work with area youth and adults through his church. For CBES, Jack could always be counted on to assist with almost any task, especially when we found ourselves in a jam. Even if he had to decline because he was volunteering elsewhere, it wasn't unusual for Jack to show up and pitch in between his other commitments. Steadfast and in his quiet way, Jack was there. He truly lived his Christian faith in service to his fellow man.

CBES marks its 31st year and the Bike Tour its 27th year, thanks to the dedication of countless volunteers. In this small way, CBES would like to lift-up Jack's legacy as a consummate Shore volunteer. May we never forget just how much we need each other.



Northampton County

New County Website

After years of professional advice to upgrade, update, and up-market Northampton County's website – it's finally happened!

A first look at www.co.northampton.va.us introduces the county with a slide show of attractive – and often dramatic – shots of all the county has to offer. Scroll down and find an updated display of community activities, entertainment, and government services and meetings.

Scroll down further and find "Quick Links" to many of the most-used county offices and services. Across the top, find links to more information about government, for residents, for businesses, and for visitors – all filled with easy-to-access answers to dozens of questions visitors to the new website might have: everything from where to stay if you're visiting, to how to find your polling place, to how to obtain a building permit, to where to enjoy live music in the county – it's all just a click away.

And if you still can't find what you need, try the Site Map link at the very bottom of the page – direct links to almost everything. Kudos to Jean Flynn, Website Content Coordinator, for a job well done!



July 12 Deadline for Comments on Poultry Water Usage

The future availability of clean water to the Shore's residents and businesses has been discussed and debated for years. However, unless a property owner had attended a briefing at Nandua High School on April 30, 2019, and later had access to maps showing the Areas of Impact around the 54 poultry facilities under Consent Orders to obtain water withdrawal permits, an owner probably would not realize that his or her property had been included in an impact area. A letter from Scott Kudlas, DEQ, Office of Water Supply, to a private citizen states that there is "no statutory or regulatory requirement" to inform nearby property owners of a potential impact. If adverse impacts occur, he writes, "the Department has historically treated ... the process for relief as a civil matter among private parties."

Public Hearings were held on June 24, 25, and 26. While the Public Notices identified the farms involved, there was no publication of the map showing the circles around the farms identified as impact areas.

Maps and Areas of Impact can be found in a 32-page document published by the State Water Control Board: www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/OWS-WWPandC/SWCB_April_30_2019PoultryInfoSession.pdf?ver=2019-05-03-151514-730

Send comments to: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, (hand-delivery) 1111 East Main St. Suite 1400, Richmond, VA 23219; (postal address) P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218; (phone) 804-698-4000; 800-592-5482; (e-mail) withdrawal.permitting@deq. virginia.gov.

All Comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting. The comment period ends July 12, 2019.

RECYCLING CORNER

Can I Recycle My Paper Receipts?

In a word, no. Cash register receipts use "thermal" paper, which is printed with heat rather than ink. In order for the numbers to appear, the paper is infused with a large quantity of bisphenol A (BPA). BPA has been identified as potentially harmful, especially to children and developing fetuses, by the National Institutes of Health, the Mayo Clinic, and the American Chemical Society. If these receipts are recycled with other paper products, the BPA can make its way into products made with recycled paper, including shopping bags and even toilet paper, increasing the chances that you'll come into contact with this chemical.

So the best option is to put receipts in with the regular trash, which will keep the BPA better isolated from the environment. Or better yet – opt out of taking a receipt, or ask for an emailed receipt. You'll also be doing the clerk a favor, since they're exposed to these all day long.

Source: Schilden B. Hey Mr. Green! Should receipts be recycled? Sierra Club, March 6, 2017. https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2017-2-march-april/ask-mr-green/hey-mr-green-should-receipts-be-recycled



TOWN OF EXMORE: Host Town Sponsors

Current Reflections Gallery

Jones Zittrain Wealth Management Group, Merrill Lynch Chatham Vineyards

Funding Provided by the Northampton Tourism Infrastructure Grant

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE info@cbes.org



Celebrating 30 Years of ShoreLine 2012

- Northampton County Planning Commission scheduled 7 "community meetings to gather input from residents" for the Commission's required 5-year review of the Comprehensive Plan the Board of Supervisors appointed its own separate committee.
- Northampton County led the state in Pre-K Education offerings.
- Congressional hearing held "on proposed changes to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and its economic impact" on the Town of Chincoteague.
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) posted a map on its website of 10 proposed wind turbines around Eastville – at a height of 750', they would be 200' taller than the Washington Monument.
- Edison Learning chosen as the mandatory transformation model for Northampton County public schools the schools had been identified as "persistently low achieving" in reading/language arts and math.
- Interest increased in both counties to move forward on removing dangerous and/or derelict buildings, but lack of funding was cited by both counties.
- Art and Ecology Workshops offered to regional art teachers at the Coastal Research Center in Oyster.
 Combining art and science back in the classroom was the goal of Director, Art Schwarzschild, to increase student awareness of the natural world.
- 2012 Accomack County assessment showed a 12% decline in real property values.
- Northampton County took advantage of low-interest rates to refinance its \$5-million-dollar debt.
- The Eastern Shore received over \$46.2 million dollars in "stimulus funds" through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \$836/person in Accomack and \$1,474/person in Northampton.
- Almost 1/3 of Northampton County's school teachers were new to the system at the start of the 2012 school year.
- The US Geological Survey, the University of Virginia, and The Nature Conservancy completed LiDAR imaging (light detection and ranging) of the entire Shore's elevation features for use in planning, in response to the report that coastal Virginia has the highest rate of sealevel rise on the Atlantic seaboard. 2

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore P. O. Box 882 Eastville, VA 23347-0882

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INFORM, ENGAGE, EMPOWER!

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A Reminder

Please don't forget to renew your CBES membership! If you are unsure of your membership status, you may contact us at info@cbes.org. or call 757-678-7157. Also, a gift membership to CBES is a lovely way to welcome new residents to the area.

New This Month!

RECYCLING CORNER

The landscape in recycling is shifting almost daily, so we're starting a monthly post to keep everyone updated on the latest news from the field.



3rd Tues

*No meeting in July

ES Ground Water Committee*

7 PM, Eastville or Belle Haven

10 AM, Accomac

3rd Tues CBES Board Meeting*

Community Calendar

Note: Please verify times and places prior to traveling to meetings.

Accomack County 757-787-5700 www.co.accomack.va.		Northampton County 757-678-0440 www.co.northampton.va.us
1st Wed Board of Zoning Appe 10 AM, Accomac	als 1st Tues	Board of Zoning Appeals 10 AM, Eastville
2nd Wed Planning Commission 7 PM, Accomac	(PC) 1st Tues	Planning Commission (PC) 7 PM, Eastville
3rd Tues School Board 6:30 PM, Accomac	2nd Tues	Board of Supervisors (BOS) 6 PM, Eastville
3rd Wed Board of Supervisors 5 PM, Accomac	(BOS) 3rd Wed	Wetlands Board Meets as needed, Eastville
4th Tues PC Work Session 7 PM, Accomac	3rd Wed	PC Work Session 5 PM, Eastville
4th Thur Wetlands Board 10 AM, Accomac	4th Tues	BOS Work Session 5 PM, Eastville
CBES and Other Activit 1st Wed VIMS Public Seminar* 7:30 PM, Wachapreagu	iles	School Board 6 PM, Machipongo

For membership and other CBES information: www.cbes.org