

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL SELECTED QUOTES

"Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation..."

– Captain John Smith, 1612

“When we both consider that he sailed above three thousand miles in an open boat; when we contemplate the dangers, and the hardships he encountered, and the fortitude, courage and patience with which he met them; when we reflect on the useful and important additions he made to the stock of knowledge respecting America, then possessed by his countrymen; we shall not hesitate to say that few voyages of discovery, undertaken at any time, reflect more honour on those engaged in them, than does on Captain Smith.”

– Chief Justice John Marshall, 1804

"It was on the broad estuary first explored and mapped by the great captain in 1608 that the American idea was first tried."

– Edward Wright Haile, John Smith scholar

“When the eyes of the world will be on Virginia and Jamestown in 2007, which will be the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, I think the John Smith Watertrail is a fitting and a framing tribute to the birthplace of American democracy and the cradle of American liberty.

I think this will be an exciting way of having trails in a different sense. It is one that I think will enhance tourism and jobs while also protecting the natural beauty and the historic heritage of the entire region."

–George Allen, U.S. Senator

"People sail the Chesapeake for a lifetime and never recognize and retain one-tenth as much of its character as Smith absorbed in three months. To take to the water today with his writings is to astound oneself."

– Washington Post writer Ken Ringle



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“Studying John Smith’s mistakes and triumphs helped me understand what it means to be a leader. Toward the end of his life, Smith was also one of the first, if not the first, to anticipate that America would be the seedbed for a new kind of society. He had escaped the obscurity to which he was born and realized that in the New World, poor men with ambition could likewise make new destinies for themselves. John Smith’s story gives us a new vantage point for looking at the American experiment.”

– *David A. Price, author of Love and Hate in Jamestown*

“*Captain John Smith’s exploration of the Chesapeake Bay is a fundamental part of America’s history.*”

–**Jo Ann Davis, Member of Congress**

“We are pleased today to unveil this replica of the Captain John Smith shallop, which commemorates the 400th anniversary of this historic journey and honors one of America’s greatest explorers. This shallop, along with the proposed National Historic Water Trail, will preserve an important part of Maryland’s history not only for today, but for generations to come.”

– *Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.*

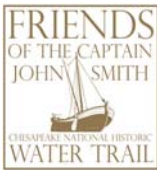
” *What would this trail accomplish? It would allow Americans to retrace the paddle strokes and footsteps of Captain Smith, to gain a better understanding of the perils he and his fellow settlers faced during the voyages they took to better understand the New World.*

Ultimately, this proposed trail seeks to celebrate Captain Smith's foresight, the founding steps of America, and the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay.”

–**John Warner, U.S. Senator**

“Connecting people to the Bay and its rivers through the Chesapeake National Water Trail will help develop a constituency who are committed to the Bay’s restoration. The Bay of today is operating at only about 25% of the productivity of the system John Smith explored.”

– *Will Baker, Chesapeake Bay Foundation*



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“The critical role that Captain John Smith played in the founding of Jamestown and in exploring the Chesapeake Bay region during the years 1607 to 1609 was a defining period in the history of our Nation. His contemporaries and historians alike, credit Smith's strong leadership with ensuring the survival of the fledgling colony and laying the foundation for the future establishment of our Nation.

With a dozen men in a 30-foot open boat, Smith's expeditions in search of food for the new colony and the fabled Northwest Passage took him nearly 3,000 miles around the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries...Smith's notes describing the indigenous people he met and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem are still widely studied by historians, environmental scientists, and anthropologists.

The remarkably accurate maps and charts that Smith made of his voyages....served as the definitive map of the region for nearly a century. His voyages, as chronicled in his journals, ignited the imagination of the Old World, and helped launch an era of adventure and discovery in the New World.

With the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown quickly approaching, the designation of this route as a national historic trail would be a tremendous way to celebrate an important part of our Nation's story...It would also give recognition to the Native American settlements, culture and natural history of the 17th-century Chesapeake. Similar in historic importance to the Lewis and Clark National Trail, this new historic watertrail will inspire generations of Americans and visitors to follow Smith's journeys, to learn about the roots of our nation and to better understand the contributions of the Native Americans who lived within the Bay region.”

– The Honorable Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland

“[The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail] is a way to reach back 400 years and find a touchstone that will let us reach out to all Americans and celebrate the Chesapeake Bay. There is more history in the Chesapeake Bay region than any region in the United States, but it’s an undiscovered history.”

– Pat Noonan, founder of The Conservation Fund

“It [the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail] commemorates the very origin of our region and our nation as a whole”

– Mr. W. Tayloe Murphy Jr., Secretary of Natural Resources, Virginia