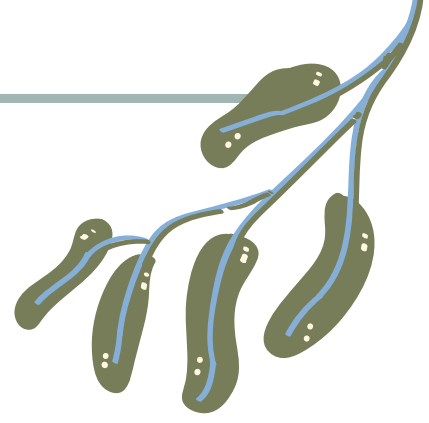


FALL 2021

# Downstream

*From the Environmental Science and Policy Program at W&M*



## *INSIDE THIS ISSUE:*

Diamondback Terrapin  
Research

Keck Lab Live Bird  
Camera

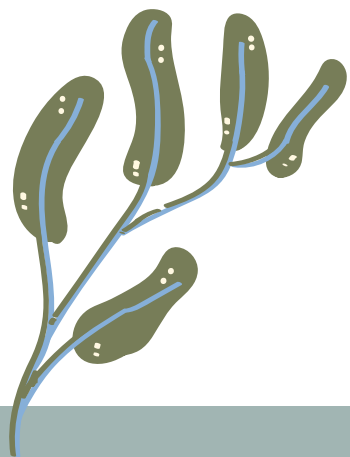
ENSP 101 Class Explores  
Matoaka

## A New Approach to Diamondback Terrapin Conservation

Diamondback terrapins frequently drown in crab traps on the Eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast, and Virginia is the only mid-Atlantic state without a bycatch reduction device (BRD) requirement. This summer, two William & Mary undergraduates worked with professor Randy Chambers and research assistant Madeline Reinsel to test a new terrapin bycatch reduction device. Check out the [video](#) about their research on YouTube.

## The Secret Life of (Keck Lab) Birds

Interested in seeing what William & Mary's bird community is up to? Watch our [live bird camera](#) on YouTube.



# ENSP 101 Students Explore Lake Matoaka

Brent Kaup, Associate Professor

For the first time in over a decade, students in ENSP 101– Introduction to Environmental Science & Policy partook in two outdoor adventure field days. Led by professors Doug DeBerry and Brent Kaup, over 100 of the enrolled students explored Lake Matoaka and the College Woods.

DeBerry took the students in canoes out onto the lake to gather water samples from the east and west arms of the lake to demonstrate how environmental factors influence water quality. The water samples will be tested and the results will be incorporated into a classroom exercise.

Kaup embarked on a socioecological tour of the College Woods to help students understand how even the most seemingly pristine ‘natural’ wonders of campus were shaped by humans. The tour focused specifically upon how Civilian Conservation Corp Company No. 2303, consisting of 82 young Black men, constructed the Sunken Gardens and trails surrounding Lake Matoaka (or what was then referred to as Matoaka Park).

After receiving rave reviews from students, DeBerry and Kaup hope to incorporate the field days into future ENSP 101 classes. While two members of the class were a bit startled by the large arachnid that accompanied them onto the lake for a canoe ride, no one was eaten by the legendary Lake Matoaka gar fish.

Read more about CCC Company No. 2303 on the last page of this newsletter.



ENSP 101 students canoe on Lake Matoaka in 2021



Students canoe on Lake Matoaka in 1934 (W&M Special Collections)

## Stay in Touch:

Follow the Keck Lab on Instagram

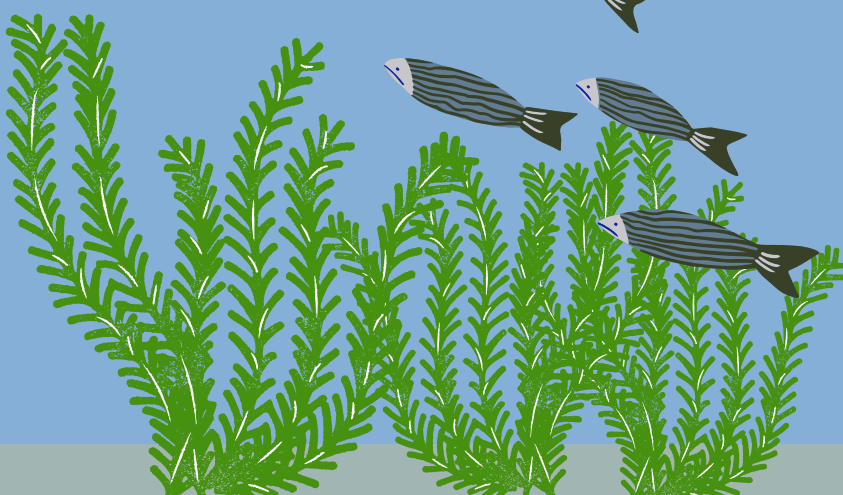


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## [COLLEGECLIP]

## When the New Deal Came to William and Mary

Times were very tough around the country in the early fall of 1933. As his ill fortune multiplied, one Oklahoma farmer said, "It seemed like the Depression had pups on our doorstep." Twenty-five percent of America's workforce was unemployed and another 25 percent worked only part time. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was alternately regarded as savior or dictator. The organizations he began, known mostly by their acronyms, touched everyone's life — National Recovery Administration (NRA), Public Works Administration (PWA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) — and Williamsburg was not immune.

On Sept. 10, 1933, the fall semester at William and Mary began pretty much on schedule with 2,665 students enrolled. The football team had settled in during late August to sweat out two-a-day practices. *Flat Hat* stories opined about sorority rushing. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt visited the campus, and Sen. Alben Barkley addressed a gathering of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Around the country, the impact of the New Deal's huge federal stimulus was being felt slowly, but began to reach the comfortable sanctuary of the campus in the form of several new buildings, a football stadium and a splendid open-air amphitheater, all constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps workers. They arrived a month after school opened and quickly set up disciplined rows of white tents on the freshman baseball field and went to work. They later moved to 10 wooden dorms and a mess hall on the western edge of the campus (near present-day Yates Hall).

CCC Company No. 2303, consisting of 82 young black men and their two white officers, arrived in town on Oct. 20, 1933, with little advance notice. In addition to room and board, they received medical care and were paid \$1 per day; an additional \$25 per month was sent to their families. Their work clothes came from World War I surplus. The contingent was part of a national conservation and employment program involving half a million men ages 18-25, which lasted the better part of seven years before being disbanded by Congress in 1942.

Company 2303 had traveled to Virginia from their training camp in



Squirrel Point in 1937

Montana's Kootenai National Forest. Their base camp was named SP (State Park) 9 and their mission was to turn part of the College's extensive wooded area near Lake Matoaka "into a beautiful park."

By the time the College unit had finished its work, the primeval forest had been transformed into extensive parkland that covered 500 acres of hiking paths, bridle trails and picnic areas. William and Mary students assisted in some aspects of the project, and various classes helped design bridges as well as biological plantings.

Among the other projects completed by the CCC was a large open-air arena called Players' Dell that seated about 300 people and was subsequently used for the production of Shakespeare and other plays, including a historical drama about the 17th-century "Jamestown brides" that was presented during College President John Stewart Bryan's LL.D. '42 inauguration ceremonies on Oct. 20, 1934. *The Common Glory* became another of the recurring shows, and offered opportunities for William and Mary drama students.

New Deal contributions to the College included major grants and loans from the PWA, which enabled the construction of the Taliaferro Hall dorm, the Marshall-Wythe building, a student activities center, and an athletic stadium (now Cary Field) that was discreetly characterized as an amphitheater. Much of this funding was eventually paid back, partly through student fees.

By October 1934, when President Roosevelt appeared in person during Bryan's inauguration, the CCC had come and gone. Then, like today, big dreams in tough times brought new campus landmarks — and prized jobs in a hostile economy.

—Charles M. Holloway



Boathouse on Lake Matoaka in 1935