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Southern Maryland Notebook

Chesapeake Bay Gateways, water trails get funding

By Christy Goodman
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Congress has passed the Interior-Environment Appropriations Conference Report containing \$1 million for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and \$500,000 for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail.

In 11 years, the network has grown to include more than 150 gateway historic sites, museums and other attractions, and more than 1,500 miles of water trails, attracting more than 10 million visitors annually. Several gateway sites also provide the backbone for the developing Capt. John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Trail.

The bill creating the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail was signed into law in 2008, and the appropriation will allow for planning the bicentennial of the War of 1812.