



## NEW CAPE SCHOOL TAKING SHAPE

Love Creek Elementary, the newest school coming up in Cape district, is on track for opening in the new academic year.

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## SUSSEX TECH COACH HITS 500 WINS

Longtime girls basketball coach Chester Davis of Sussex Tech clears 500-victory plateau in final season.

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### Contact us

If you spot news, please call us at 302-537-1881.

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[delawarebeaches.com]

BETHANY BEACH, DEL. | FREE

# Garden gets 'living classroom'



SUBMITTED IMAGE

This freshwater wetland habitat constructed by Envirotech introduces local students to elements of the coastal plain environment. Envirotech will build a similar "living classroom" at the Delaware Botanic Gardens, financed by a grant from the Dogfish Head Companies.

## Dogfish Head funds artificial ecosystem at botanic garden

DOUG FERRAR

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Beer may teach Sussex Countians about the environment and purify water at the same time.

The Dogfish Head Companies donated \$30,000 in January to the Delaware Botanic Gardens on Pepper Creek near Dagsboro to build a "living outdoor classroom."

Delaware Botanic Gardens Vice President Raymond Sander said the feature is not a traditional classroom, but an area of "constructed wetlands."

Designers from Envirotech Environmental Consulting of Lewes will simulate a natural freshwater intermittent wetland, attracting the sorts of wildlife that would naturally be found there.

The artificial ecosystem will demonstrate how such an environment sustains life, and the role of inland wetlands in water

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SUBMITTED IMAGE

Dogfish Head employees present a check for \$30,000 to the Delaware Botanic Gardens at the brewery in Milton.

## Garden

Continued from Page 1

purification. Visitors will be able to walk through and observe the living environment.

“People can sample the water before it’s filtered through it and sample the water afterward and see what the difference is,” Sander said.

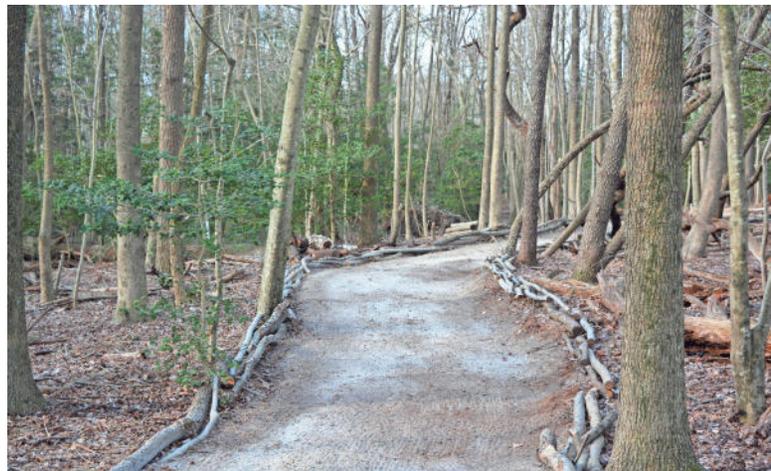
He said that the donation demonstrates Dogfish Head’s commitment to the environment and to clean water sources.

“They are a great company who are committed to the environment and wanted to be part of the project,” Sander said.

Mark Carter, director of Dogfish Head’s Beer and Benevolence philanthropic arm, explained the company’s commitment to the new classroom.

“When it comes to beer, water is the number one ingredient, and the number one by-product from the brewing process,” Carter said. “It is integral to what we do, and the key to life in so many ways.”

He said that Dogfish Head has developed a number of ways to conserve water, including reusing waste water from the brewing process for agricultural irrigation. Several local farmers use



FILE PHOTO

Walking paths, already completed at the Delaware Botanic Gardens, present a branding opportunity for potential sponsors.

the repurposed water to grow grasses for livestock feed and bedding.

The company is building an on-site wastewater treatment plant which will use bacteria to digest spent yeast in the brewery cast-off, and the waste gases from this will be captured and used to help power the facility. Carter said the process should generate as much as 40 percent of the energy needed to run the plant.

The brewery also uses the heat from spent water leaving the system to pre-heat fresh water com-

ing into the system, saving energy needed to bring the water to brewing temperatures.

The company, which has partnered with the Nature Conservancy for 12 years for the Dogfish Dash 8K race, has assisted that organization in planting trees to protect the local aquifer, helping ensure a clean source for their operations and for local homes.

“We believe in the community and the community is what helped us get started,” Carter said.

Carter said that Delaware Bo-

tan Garden approached Dogfish Head and several other environmentally conscious companies in the early stages of fundraising.

“Our thought was, ‘Wow, this is a great project, this is going to provide educational opportunities to Sussex County, and protect an area of Pepper Creek running out to the bays, creating a buffer zone,’ “ he said. “The outdoor classroom attracted us because we want to take care of water and there will be a lot of minds that will pass through there that can learn about taking care of water, too.”

The new section is designated the Dogfish Head Outdoor Classroom. Sander said he hopes that branding opportunities will attract other donors.

“When you’re doing a public garden like this or a public structure, you need to be able to get the cooperation of people who want to be associated with it,” Sander said. “You could sell bricks for \$100, or you can (offer) ‘naming rights’ of some elements of the garden.”

Other features that will have naming rights attached will include walkways and woodland paths, some of which are already under construction.

The outdoor classroom was

**See GARDEN, Page 8**



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# DelmarvaNow grants open to nonprofits

## DELMARVANOW STAFF REPORT

The Gannett Foundation is seeking grant applications to support local organizations in communities served by Gannett Co. Inc.

The foundation, which is connected to Delmarva Media Group, will provide community action grant priorities that include education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment. The average grant amount is in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range.

The foundation considers grant applications once a year. Submit proposals to Nikki Iovacchini either via email at [niovacchini@dmg.gannett.com](mailto:niovacchini@dmg.gannett.com) or mail at 618 Beam St., Salisbury, MD 21801. Applications should be postmarked no later than Feb. 28. A committee of employees reviews all proposals within one month after the deadline. Applicants are notified of final decisions about 90-120 days after deadlines. Applications and additional information can be found at [gannettfoundation.org](http://gannettfoundation.org).

In 2016, Delmarva Media Group gave more than \$10,000 in funds to the following groups:

» Coastal Hospice & Palliative Care in Salisbury: \$2,500 to support youth service program for Camp Safe Harbor, providing local children a way to recover from the pain of a primary loss.

» Salisbury Cross Pointe Church of the Nazarene: \$2,500 to help with community sports leagues for children and youth.

» Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary in Salisbury: \$1,000 to aid the Joseph House Food Pantry.

» United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore: \$2,000.

» Accomack Interfaith Crisis Council in Onley: \$1,260 to support emergency financial assistance to needy families.

» West Side New Beginnings in Rehoboth Beach: \$1,000 to purchase tutoring materials to assist high-risk/low income youth.

## Garden

Continued from Page 2

developed by Todd Fritchman, president of Envirotech. Fritchman, who is captain of the Dewey Beach Patrol, used to teach marine science at Indian River High School. Fritchman built the original prototype for his classes.

The prototype helped win Fritchman the 2005 Governor's Marine Science Teacher of the Year award.

Sander said the outdoor classroom has been part of the garden plan since the very beginning, but the Dogfish Head gift will make the classroom possible.

The Delaware Botanic Garden, which was designated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2012, held a groundbreaking ceremony in December 2016 attended by former Gov. Jack Markell and former First Lady Carla Markell.

Sander said the gardens are on track for completion by the grand opening in 2019.