

President's Profile

William C. Baker

Will Baker began his career at CBF as an intern, a few weeks out of college in 1976. He has been President since 1982, leading the largest nonprofit conservation organization dedicated solely to preserving, protecting, and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. His opinion pieces have been published in all major regional newspapers and the New York Times, and he has been repeatedly interviewed on all major television and radio networks.

Baker is a trustee of Johns Hopkins Medicine (Hospitals and Medical School), an emeritus Board Member of the Baltimore Community Foundation, a Director of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, a member of the UMBC Board of Visitors, and an Honorary Member of The Garden Club of America. He is a Founding Director of Brown Advisory & Trust Company, The Greater Washington Board of Trade Green Committee, and the Living Classrooms Foundation. A past trustee of Washington College, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public Service there in 1991, and their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017. He has also been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Baltimore, an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from St. Mary's College, was a recipient of Washingtonian Magazine's "Washingtonian of the Year" award, and was inducted into the Daily Record's Circle of Excellence after being selected three times as an Influential Marylander. He received the Speaker's Medallion from the Maryland House of Delegates in 2009, awarded annually to the Marylander who has made an outstanding contribution to the citizens of the state. In 2018 Baker received the William K. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award, which recognizes leaders environmental governance and problem-solving; he also received the National Maritime Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award.

Under his leadership, CBF has received numerous awards, including the nation's highest environmental honor—the 1992 Presidential Medal for Environmental Excellence—in recognition of its environmental education program.