

Chesapeake Bay



SCIENTISTS' CLIFFS PORT REPUBLIC, MARYLAND

From a vessel standing two or three miles off the Chesapeake's western shore, the small Southern Maryland community of Scientists' Cliffs presents an alluring, almost primeval aspect. The exposed cliffs vary in height and are generally topped by what looks like dense deciduous forest. The face of the cliffs is broken here and there by ravines, eroded into the terrain by creeks that run from the inland woods or farmland to the little strip of beach on the Bay. Coming closer, a waterborne visitor spots small wooden structures dotting the beach: boat lockers, many with rowboats or kayaks or canoes secured onto beams (though every decade or so a hurricane sweeps the beach clean). Now we can see signs of habitation among the trees at the top of the cliffs -- screened porches, sunlight reflected off the occasional window, a few weathered gables and roofs, a flagpole.

...From *Scientists' Cliffs: Community and Context* 2010.