

## THE THREE C'S FALLS

BY KAREN WRIGHT, PHOTOS BY JOHN WRIGHT, AND CAROL ADAMSON AND RICHARD MOSHER

Unbelievably in less than a month a long cascading waterfall has been constructed on the east side of the road to the North Harbor Dock parking lot. A grassroots movement has started to name it the "Three C's Falls." The first "C" would be for Sara Caldes whose grant writing skills and Maryland's Department of Natural Resources savvy snagged Saefern a \$150,000 grant for its construction. The second and third "C's" would be for the Clinches and the Currans between whose properties the ravine originates.

Landscaping volunteers coordinated and assisted by Storm Water Management Steward Lee Meadows completed the project at North Harbor on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Those climbing through rocks and digging through mud to plant such natives as sweetbay magnolias, mountain laurels, ferns and water lilies were Jim Brittingham, Sara Caldes, Joan Clinch, Stella and Mike Crase, Mer Curran, David Dirks, Alan Freedman, Ann and John Fischer, Nate Frankoff, Jim Gingell, Carrie and Russ Memmer, Carol Mosher, Glen Nemecek, Mark Scharf, Marietta Schreiber, and Verena and Heinz Thoma. Also helping were Severn Riverkeeper Fred Kelly and his wife Nancy. The hired landscape firm Underwood & Associates sent two employees to assist in the tree planting. Workers were treated to lunch on Saturday prepared by John Wright and Dick Clinch. Nan Meadows lent moral support wearing the cast on the injured ankle sustained inspecting plants that had arrived.

This is no ordinary waterfall. This is a "regenerative storm water conveyance system" designed and built by Keith Underwood & Associates where runoff is slowed and filtered before it enters Clements Creek clean and clear to travel on to the Severn River and into the Bay. The land is terraced. At each level a water retaining pool absorbs and slows the water. Each elevation drop from top to bottom is dammed with mathematically sized rocks - large to small. The fill is a mixture of sand and wood chips. The sand filters out sediment and pollution. Worms eat the wood chips creating channels where soil-holding plants will send their roots. On Thursday the 7th day of the record-breaking, early tropical rainstorm, Keith could be seen adjusting his rocks for maximum benefit. The waterfall passed its first test. On the Severn River, according to the Severn River Association, there are 65\* tributaries. Two tributaries, Clements Creek and Saltworks Creek, border Saefern.

Nationally the quality-impaired Severn River is being watched as a model for its progressive environmental pro-

jects. Members in our community have had particular interest in earlier outfall discharge into Clements Creek,



which caused the silting-in and loss of several boat slips not to mention the eroding of the environment for oysters and fish. Not only was dredging required before replacing the North Harbor west docks in 2006, but also ongoing dredging is needed for maintenance. A very large version of this regenerative storm water conveyance system was installed in 2011 up Clements Creek at Carriage Hills.

Sara Caldes said that following the engineering study titled, "The Clements Creek Outfall Project" paid for by a grant from the SRA, she wrote several grants for Clements in 2009 including this one, but other projects were awarded the funds. Knowing that June is the end of Maryland's DNR fiscal year and knowing that some awarded grants are not funded because of permit and engineering problems, she checked to see if there were any unused funds. Sure enough, funds were available for a "shovel ready" project and since it would be less than 5000 square feet and not low grade, permitting was relatively simple. When the DNR came for an inspection they were pleased with what Saefern had already environmentally accomplished. They saw that with the pool parking lot outfall and this new project, other communities could see two fine examples of storm water management projects to emulate. The Severn Riverkeeper was the sponsoring agency through which the grant flowed.

The only caveat was completion before DNR's fiscal year when unused money is returned to the State. Sara and Lee and the good volunteer spirit of Saefern rolled the project to completion.

Sara and the Severn Riverkeeper are still pursuing the final piece of the restoration for Clements Creek --a sand seepage restoration above the tidal interface. Permitting is ongoing.

\*There are 25 Named Creeks in the county record. There are 152 miles of streams and creeks. The state notes 40 smaller tributaries in the Severn River, 12 miles of Navigable water, 43,500 acre watershed.





More pictures on the SSYC Website!

# SSYC Adult Pool Party

## Rib & Chicken Dinner

Catered by Adam's Ribs

Featuring: BBQ'd ribs & chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, pasta salad rolls & condiments.

Plus – Provided by SSSC (Social Committee): Salmon filet, Tomato & Cucumber Salad and Bottled Water.



Day of Party, pool will be **CLOSED** at 5:30 p.m. for party preparations

Please join us for food & fun poolside **Saturday June 22, 2013 6:30 p.m.**

Please bring something yummy to round out the menu . . .



Appetizers & pre-dinner snacks  
A-L  
Sweet treats  
M - Z

**Please Note:**

The party is BYO alcoholic beverages. Sangria will be available before dinner. Plastic cups will be provided. No glass in the pool area, please!

\$25/pp by June 14  
Checks payable to SSSC

To Joan Clinch  
504 Sara Drive



## CABIN BRANCH RESTORATION RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY MAY 2013

PHOTOS BY CAROL ADAMSON AND RICHARD MOSHER

More photos on SSSC Website!

