



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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OYSTER NEWS – JUNE/JULY 2013

YOU DID IT AGAIN --- You nurtured your oyster spat and watched them become 'teenage' oysters with hardened shells and ready for life on an oyster reef. Many community organizers, led by our stalwart Oyster Committee, planted oysters throughout June on the SRA Oyster Sanctuary Reef, which is just below the Route 50 Bridge, on the eastern side of the River, away from boat traffic. Chris Judy, DNR MGO Program Manager, again marked the specific planting area for us, and we have begun layering the young oysters on top of those planted three years ago, to create a



3-dimensional marine habitat.

The initial planting day on June 1st was very successful with over a dozen boats coming from Herald Harbor, Sherwood Forest, Whitehall Bay, and many points in between, to plant

oysters gathered from their respective neighbors. Your oysters are special because they will live their lives filtering the waters of the Scenic Severn River, protected from harvesting.

MY THANKS TO ALL OYSTER GROWERS AND THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HELPED COLLECT THEM FOR PLANTING ON THE SRA OYSTER REEF.

Pictured above are Paul and Miriam Mellin with daughter Sarah planning oysters from Sherwood Forest. Below are Christine and Richard Olsenius of Saefern who helped welcome the oyster planters at the reef.



This is the culmination of another year's effort. The SRA's partnership with DNR in the Governor's Marylanders Grow Oysters Program now has more than 380 volunteers nurturing oyster spat.

Collectively you

represent the largest participation in the MGO Program, and by planting the oysters together on one reef, the oysters have the best chance to survive and make an impact on the River's water quality. We will continue our monitoring program and expect the divers to gather data this summer showing the extent of oyster growth on the reef, now that we have four crops planted.

I'm delighted to announce the addition of the Annapolis Yacht Club as a new spat distribution partner for next September, and ask for a volunteer to help recruit growers located on Spa or Back Creeks. We also need someone to improve our newsletter and other communications.

Bob Whitcomb
Chair, SRA Oyster Committee