



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

BOX 146 • ANNAPOLIS, MD 21404 • severnriver.org • 443-569-3556 voicemail

Help Restore the Bay -- Be an Oyster Gardener

Oyster Gardening is important to the health of our waterways because oysters act as natural filterers. Did you know that a mature oyster filters 50-55 gallons per day?

Your participation as an Oyster Gardener can make a difference locally by adding to the Severn River oyster reef near the Route 50 bridge. The program is FREE and requires a small amount of your time. The growing season is from September to June, and young oysters called spat require little attention. If you have water access with a pier to suspend an oyster cage (12"x18") and/or can assist with distribution in September or planting in June, we invite your participation.



The Severn River Association (SRA) partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) and is building an oyster sanctuary reef in the Severn River. SRA coordinates over 400 volunteers to nurture oyster spat and is continually looking for additional volunteers and piers to increase the number of oysters in the River.

We are working with DNR to determine the exact dates for the September distribution, which will be in at least 8 locations. These are coordinated by the following leaders:

1. Whitehall Bay Conservancy, Don Carren djcarren@verizon.net.
2. Long Point, Tom Lenge lengle.t@verizon.net.
3. Herald Harbor North, David Silberstein silbrstein@aol.com
4. Herald Harbor South, Dave Crump dlccrump@gmail.com
5. Mid-river West, Bob Whitcomb sraoysters@comcast.net
6. Mid-river East, to be determined
7. Annapolis, Ian Drummond at Annapolis Yacht Club JHyde@annapolisyc.org
8. Lake Ogleton, Kurt Karsten in Bay Ridge, karstenlaw@gmail.com

At no charge, the program provides new growers with cages and dozens of oyster spat on shells. You can choose to nurture one or more cages (3 is a recommended starting number). Returning farmers are provided free spat in bags (1 bag fills 3 cages), and free replacement cages when needed.

Please contact one of the teams listed so we can plan ahead for this season's distribution. You can contact SRA about this program via sraoysters@comcast.net, or voicemail at 443-569-3556.

We sincerely thank you for your efforts in keeping our waterways clean, and invite you to find out more about this program at www.oysters.maryland.gov.



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