



# THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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## OYSTER NEWS – JUNE/JULY 2012

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 now have 3 “rows” of oysters maturing on the Reef.

The initial planting day on June 2<sup>nd</sup> was very successful with over a dozen boats coming from Herald Harbor, 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.**

**To see more pictures of our youthful growers, go to [SRA Oyster Planting 2012](#).**

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 350 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 three crops planted.

If you want to learn more about the importance of the oyster's role in restoring our waterways, please come to SRA's July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting where we'll preview the film "SHELLSHOCKED" and hear from DNR's Chris Judy on the status of the MGO Program. This will begin at 7pm, July 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Annapolis Maritime Museum on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Eastport.

Bob Whitcomb  
Chair, SRA Oyster Committee