



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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OYSTER NEWS – JUNE/JULY 2014

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. Most planters remarked how large their spat had grown, indicating that our ‘fostering’ of spat at our docks was particularly successful this year. Many community organizers, led by our stalwart Oyster Committee, planted oysters throughout June on the SRA Oyster Sanctuary Reef, which is just south of 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 added a layer of young oysters on top of those planted three years ago, to create a 3-dimensional marine habitat.

The initial planting day on June 7th attracted boats from Round Bay, Sherwood Forest, West Annapolis, 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 THOSE WHO HELPED COLLECT THEM FOR PLANTING ON THE SRA OYSTER REEF.

Pictured on the left is Captain Paul Mellin with daughter Sarah and son Jack planting oysters from Sherwood Forest. Below are Roger Carpenter and Lee Meadows of Saefern who helped welcome the oyster planters at the reef.

The SRA’s partnership with DNR in the Marylanders Grow Oysters Program now has more than 400 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 about oyster growth and survival on the reef, now that we have five crops planted.

We want to double the oysters planted next year and ask your help. Please share the attached flier with your neighbors and recruit those with a pier where more cages can be placed. We also ask that you consider increasing the number of cages you sponsor, and let your coordinator know of your interest in helping expand this highly successful program.



Bob Whitcomb
Chair, SRA Oyster Committee