



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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

(Emails @severnriver.org)

Officers:

President

Lee Meadows
410 849-3466
president@

Vice President

John Wright
410 849-2143
vicepresident@

Treasurer

Lynne Rockenbauch
410-987-6042
treasurer@

Recording Secretary

Bob vom Saal
410-987-4476
secretary@

Communications Secretary

Tom Guay
410-349-8200
communicationssecretary@

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West Annapolis Civic Association
West Severna Park Community Assn
Whitehall Bay Conservancy
Winchester on the Severn

OYSTER NEWS – MAY 2014

We've had reports of sizeable spat this year, so yours should grow well assuming you raised them up in April to enjoy the nutrients in the upper 18" of the water column. This water layer has the most tidal movement, and offers the most food for their growth.

Chris Judy, DNR's MGO Manager, will help re-mark the SRA oyster sanctuary reef on May 22nd. The reef is just south of the Route 50 bridge, near the entrance to Crouchs Pond (aka Winchester Pond). There will be three orange-flagged stick markers placed along this year's planting row, beginning at GPS coordinates N39.00.471 and W76.29.940 extending in a 150 degree direction.

We will again layer the new oysters on top of older oysters to create a living, multi-generational habitat, this time on top of the "middle row" planted in 2011. You are welcome to plant your oysters once the flags are placed on May 22nd.

Those with access to small boats (with less than 3' draft) are encouraged to bring their oysters and join us the afternoon of June 7th, between 2 and 3:30pm for the planting. Please plant your oysters in a row about 20' wide along the channel side of the 3 markers. We'll be there to welcome oyster growers, taking pictures as you plant your spat, and we especially look forward to meeting new growers.

Don't worry if you can't make it on June 7th, as you may plant your oysters anytime during June. You should work with your Oyster Coordinator (email me your street address, and I'll put you in touch with your Coordinator) as to when he/she can arrange for pickup of your oysters, as there will be subsequent pickups. Your cages will be left on your dock, and you should clean and store them out of the water until new spat is available next September.

Oyster Restoration is the topic for the next two SRA meetings on May 22 and June 18. Both will be held at the Annapolis Maritime Museum, and you are welcome to attend either or both. An invitation will be emailed to you for the June 18th Annual Meeting, which includes dinner so requires a reservation at severnriver.org.

Bob Whitcomb
Chair, SRA Oyster Committee