



# ***THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION***

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## ***OYSTER NEWS – JUNE 2017***

THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, WE'VE JUST COMPLETED THE EIGHTH SUCCESSFUL OYSTER GROWING SEASON ON THE SEVERN --- You nurtured your oyster spat and watched them become 'teenage' oysters with hardened shells and ready for life on an oyster reef. Many remarked how large their spat had grown, indicating that our 'fostering' of spat at our docks enjoyed good growth this spring. Individuals and community organizers, led by the Oyster Program Coordinators, planted oysters this month on the SRA Oyster Sanctuary Reef. DNR flagged markers guided us to the specific planting area, and we added a third layer of young oysters on top of those planted previously, to create a 3-dimensional marine habitat.

All month long boats from Long Point, Round Bay, Whitehall, Annapolis, Lake Ogleton and many points in between, have motored to the sanctuary reef to plant oysters. Two groups get special recognition. First the Boy Scouts helped Herald Harbor growers, as seen in this picture where a Scout is collecting oysters from a cage as MGO Coordinator Dave Crump looks on.

Employees from Hydro Aluminum Metals helped collect oysters from growers on Clements Creek. All of our oysters are special because they now are protected from harvesting and will live their lives filtering the waters of the Scenic Severn River and attracting other marine life.

***MY THANKS TO ALL OYSTER GROWERS AND THOSE WHO HELPED COLLECT THEM FOR PLANTING ON THE SRA OYSTER 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.*

*Now it's time to plan for ordering spat and cages for the next growing season. We will order spat to refill your existing cages, but you need to let me or your Coordinator know if you want a different amount or need any replacement cages. Please share the attached flier with your friends and neighbors, and recruit anyone with a pier where more cages can be placed. We also ask that you consider having more cages at your dock, and let your Coordinator know of your interest in helping expand this highly successful program*

*The deadline for placing spat orders is July 15 this year, but I'd ask that you immediately advise us of any changes wanted for current growers. We'll keep the order opportunity open as long as possible for new volunteers.*

***Bob Whitcomb***  
***Chair, SRA Oyster Committee***

