



# THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

BOX 146 • ANNAPOLIS, MD 21404 • [severnriver.org](http://severnriver.org) • 443-569-3556 voicemail

(Emails [@severnriver.org](mailto:@severnriver.org))

## Officers:

### President

Lee Meadows  
410.849.3466  
president@

### Vice President

John Wright  
410-849-2143

### Treasurer

Lynne D. Rockenbach  
410-387-6042

### Recording Secretary

Bob vom Saal  
410-987-4476

### Communications Secretary

Tom Guay  
443-716-6776  
[ECAlert@gmail.com](mailto:ECAlert@gmail.com)

### Member Communities:

Admiral Heights Improvement Assn  
Amberley Community Association  
Anchorage Swim Club  
Annapolis Conservancy Board  
Annapolis Neck Peninsula Fed.  
Annapolis Roads Property Ownr Assn  
Arden Civic Association  
Arnold Preservation Council  
Bay Ridge Civic Association  
Bay Ridge Trust, Inc.  
Bayberry Hill Property Ownrs Assn  
Bellevue Estates Community Assn  
Belvoir Farms Homeowners Assn  
Bembe Beach Association  
Ben Oaks Civic Association  
Bluff Point Community Association  
Bretton Woods Home Owners Assn  
Brown's Pond Improvement Assn  
Burley Creek Community Assn  
Bywater-Church & Crab Creek Assn  
Carrollton Manor Improvement Assn  
Chartwell Garden Club  
Chesapeake Landing Condominium  
Colchester Community Association  
Downs Marina  
Downs Property Owners Assn  
Dreams Landing Condominums  
East Pendennis Mount Comm Assn  
Eastport Yacht Club Ltd  
Fairwinds Beach Club, Inc.  
Ferry Farms Improvement Assn  
Glen Oban Association, Inc.  
Greater Odenton Imp. Association  
Herald Harbor Citizens Assn  
Hidden Point Road Association  
Holly Point Community Association  
Hollywood on the Severn Imp Assn  
Indian Hills Community Association  
Indian Landing Community Assn  
Kensington Community Assn  
Kilmarnock Homeowners Assn  
Lake Forest Community Assn  
Lindamoore Improvement Assn  
Linstead Community Association  
Maynadier Homeowners Assn  
Meadows Residences Association  
Murray Hill Residents Association  
Olde Severna Park Improvement Assn  
Oyster Harbor Citizens Association  
Palisades Civic Association  
Pines Community Improvement Assn  
Point Field Landing Community  
Riverview Manor Community Assn  
Round Bay Community Association  
Rugby Hall Community Assn  
Saferm Saddle & Yacht Club  
Saltworks on Severn Citizens Assn  
Severn Heights Improvement Assn  
Severn River Garden Club  
Severn River Swim Club  
Severn Sailing Association  
Severn School  
Severna Forest Community Assn  
Sherwood Forest  
Shipleys Choice Community Assn  
St John's College  
Trollhaven Homeowners Association  
Venice Beach Citizens Association  
Wardour Improvement Association  
Wells Cove  
West Annapolis Civic Association  
West Severna Park Community Assn  
Winchester on the Severn

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Lee Meadows, President, 410-849-3466; Tom Guay, Communications Director, 443-716-6776.

## What's The Secret To A Clean Chesapeake Bay? Only bout 41 billion oysters!

**Annapolis** – What'll it take to clean the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries? About 41 billion oysters! That's what it'll take to naturally filter the 16 trillion gallons of water in the Chesapeake, according to calculations by Len Zuza, aka “Mr. Oyster.

And the really good news is that oyster restoration projects in recent years offer hope for the future, Zuza, the former president of the Southern Maryland Oyster Cultivation Society (SMOCS) told attendees at the Severn River Association (SRA)'s Educational Series lecture May 23.

Based on success SMOCS had with planting 12 million oysters in Solomons Island, Zuza says there's a bright future for creating new habitat for the bivalves in the Severn River, especially in the waters between the Rt. 50 and Naval Academy bridges.

Zuza is a candidate for Delegate in District 29C that incorporates parts of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. Zuza's campaign puts a high priority on plans to make community environmental and oyster restoration programs more effective.

Since 2008, SRA has helped organize more than 450 oyster growing volunteers in the Severn River as part of the Maryland Grows Oysters (MGO) program. In 2014, SRA's volunteers will plant about 1 million oyster spat on a reef just below the Rt. 50 bridge, and SRA expects to double this figure in 2015, SRA president, Lee Meadows noted during the May 22 meeting at the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

Severn River oysters can't reproduce easily due to the abundance of fresh water compared to the saltier climes oysters prefer, Zuza noted. However, they can reproduce when salinity is higher during dry spells and when water temperatures are warm enough.

In the meantime, oysters can still thrive in the Severn River by concentrating the bivalves on a one or two sanctuary reefs. As Meadows noted, oyster mortality on the SRA reef is under 3%, so restoration plantings every year will help the reef expand and improve water quality.

Success can be seen, literally.

Zuza and SRA's Bob Whitcomb both report that when divers visit the reefs every year to calculate the growing density of the oysters, the divers can see their hands while working, which is a giant leap from the early days when they were in total darkness and had to feel their way through the oysters.

To help citizens participate, the MGO program provides volunteers with small cages that need to be jostled about during the fall, winter & spring to flush the cages to make sure the spat have easy access to nutrients in the river.

Jon Farrington, owner of Johnny Oyster Seed, was on hand as well to demonstrate his new oyster spat cage. It holds three times the number of oyster spat, but is far easier for volunteers to rotate in the water to ensure good nutrient flow for the young oysters.

Photos Available at:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/110464744221829433459/albums/6018505167040522433?cfem=1&authkey=CKqetNeJ19HS2gE>



*Visit SRA on Facebook:*

The Severn River Association is the oldest river association in the U.S. and Anne Arundel County's only river group in continuous operation since 1911.