



Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association
PO Box 333
Georgetown, MD 21930

January 2006

Shoreline Erosion Control: the Natural Approach

At the January 11 monthly meeting of the SRA, Dave Wilson of the Maryland Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Service (RC&D) gave us the “big picture” story on the natural approach to shoreline erosion control.



The natural approach involves finding alternatives to the bulkheading and rip-rap that block movement between the water and the shoreline for animals (like turtles) that need it. The natural approach also favors planting water grasses that

serve as habitat and food for marine life.

Dave described a number of approaches, since there’s no single solution for shoreline erosion. The solution will depend on the height of the eroding slope and the movements of the wind, tide, and water. Among the alternatives:

- **Biologs.** Man-made logs of coconut husk that can be placed along the shoreline.
- **“Groins” and sand.** Rock jetties built perpendicular to the shore and filled between with sand, which is then planted with grasses.
- **Stone sills.** Stone structures built parallel to the shoreline, and then filled behind with

sand and plantings.



Dave and his colleagues at RC&D have more than 400 projects underway for individual property owners and local governments. **Their consultation services are free**, and they can guide you through the design, selection of a contractor, loan application, installation, and inspection phases of a project.

You can reach Dave Wilson or his co-worker Jerry Walls in Easton at (410) 822-9300.

February 12 — “Love Your Watershed” Trolley Trek

What better way to celebrate the month of romance than by loving your watershed with your friends in the Sassafras River Association?

We’ll begin with a trolley tour, starting at 3 pm at the Kitty Knight House. We’ll visit scenic sites in the Cecil County half of the watershed, including historic Mount Harmon Plantation

and the Grove Point Girl Scout Camp.

Then we’ll return to the Kitty Knight House for an early “comfort food” supper by the fireplace. Mab Finch, our event organizer, has arranged a menu of salad, beef stew, rolls, and dessert. Soft drinks will be served and there will be a cash bar.

This outing is a bargain at just \$35 per person for SRA members.

Reserve a place early! Call Dave or Mary Segermark on (410) 275-8516.



Volunteer Now!

We’ve got a lot of activities and programs that will succeed only if **you** participate. Email mail@sassafrasriver.org (or write us at the PO Box) to tell us how you’ll help.

We also need **your** help with SRA programs:

- Septic Forum for Southern Cecil and Northern Kent Counties. We need help setting up this major meeting, which is planned for March.
- Project Clean Stream. We need help coordinating all the homeowners’ associations along the River.
- Examine the impact of the Rte 301/299 weigh station.
- Assemble materials for the SRA information booth.

You’ll be hearing about our annual membership renewal soon.

Membership Keeps Growing!

More than 110 of your neighbors have shown their commitment to the Sassafras River by joining the SRA.

Visit www.sassafrasriver.org and download a membership form today. Your contribution is tax-deductible!

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