



# Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association  
PO Box 333  
Georgetown, MD 21930

March 2006

## Water Resources Forum Report



Despite a beautiful late winter day, more than 70 people came out to the Cecilton Fire Hall for our Water Resources Forum.

After opening remarks from Congressman and SRA member Wayne Gilchrest, UMD educator Herb Reed demonstrated how water and pollutants

move through our aquifers. Chuck Smyser of the Cecil County Health Department followed with information about wells, and Ed Birkmire, Kent County Director of Environmental Health gave us the latest on Septics. A lively question and answer session rounded out the day.

## April 11 — “DNR Presents . . .”

Join us April 11 at the Granary Restaurant in Georgetown to learn about two Maryland Department of Natural Resources Programs:

**Clean Marinas.** The DNR has a certification program that allows Marinas to gain a “seal of approval” for their clean-boating practices: pump-outs, fueling, preparation for spills, runoff, etc. Two Sassafras River Marinas are certified “Clean Marinas” and at least

one more is in the process. Come learn more about the program from Clean Marinas Representative Donna Morrow.

**DNR Police Enforcement.** Many SRA members have asked for a session with the DNR police to learn more about the enforcement process and how they can help. Corporal Stacey Duke of the DNR Police — who works on the Sassafras — will make a presentation and tell us

There were two key messages for attendees:

- If you’re on a septic system, get it inspected and pumped regularly;
- Consider a “denitrifying” septic system if yours needs to be replaced.

Thanks to Board Member Amy Moredock for taking the lead on and moderating the program, and to our partners: the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team; the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; the Kent and Cecil County Governments; Galena Pizzeria; the Granary Restaurant; the Village Cafe; JR’s Septic; A-Plus Sanitation; Green’s Septic Service; and Freemire and Associates.

more about our roles as boaters and residents.

### Support Local Agriculture — and Eat Well!

The Colchester Farm CSA is preparing for another year of fresh, pesticide-free vegetables grown on the banks of the Sassafras.

Purchase a share and you’ll receive farm-fresh produce every week from May to November. Call (410) 648-5609 for details.

## Volunteer Now!

We’ve got a lot of upcoming activities and programs so check out our calendar! But remember we will succeed only if **you** participate. Email [mail@sassafrasriver.org](mailto:mail@sassafrasriver.org) (or write us at the PO Box) to tell us how you’ll help:

- Project Clean Stream. April 1, help clean up trash at several sites on the Sassafras
- Join us for Dogwood Days in Galena, MD on May 7.
- Create the SRA entry for the July 4 Sassafras River Parade.
- Distribute clean boating materials.
- First Sassafras River wade-in at Betterton Beach — can you see your toes?
- Organize a farm tour in the watershed to see best management practices.
- Clean up invasive water chestnut.

## Membership Keeps Growing!

**Our 2006 membership drive is underway and our thanks go out to all of you who have renewed your commitment to the Sassafras River Association.**

Visit [www.sassafrasriver.org](http://www.sassafrasriver.org) and download a membership form today.