



Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association
PO Box 333
Georgetown, MD 21930

April 2006

DNR Programs in the Watershed

We learned the details of two important Maryland Department of Natural Resources programs at our April 11 meeting.



Clean Marinas is the DNR certification program for marina and boatyard operators. *Clean Marinas* pledge to “keep Maryland’s waterways free of harmful chemicals, excess nutrients, and debris.” They do that by adopting best management practices for handling fuel, run-off from boat cleaning, and sewage pump-out. *Clean Marinas* deserve our patronage. On the Sassafras, Duffy Creek and Skip-

jack Cove are certified *Clean Marinas* and several others are working toward certification.

DNR Police Enforcement. Cpl. Stacey Duke, the DNR’s officer for Kent County and the Sassafras River, talked about how we can help with enforcement.



Cpl. Duke’s bottom-line message was that most violators are habitual — whether they violate speed, wake, safety, noise or harmful discharge regulations. We can help be the eyes and ears of the Police. If you see an apparent viola-

tion, get as much information as you can about the boat and the location, and relay it to Cpl. Duke on (410) 758-2890. She will follow up with the boater and keep track of continuing violations. Boaters can also report violations on Channel 16.

We can also help by encouraging our legislators to better fund DNR’s enforcement operations.

Project Clean Stream a Rousing Success!

On April 1, at 5 sites along the Sassafras, more than 40 SRA volunteer picked up 1,500 lbs of trash — a big increase from last year’s 2 sites and 16 volunteers.

Thanks to our volunteers — **you make the difference!**

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 (or write us at the PO Box) to tell us how you’ll help:

- Join us for Dogwood Days in Galena, MD on May 6.
- 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.

May 9 — “John Smith and the Voyage of Discovery”

Join us May 9 at the Granary Restaurant in Georgetown to learn about the effort to create the *Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail*.

Joel Dunn of the Conservation fund will talk to us about John Smith’s historic 1607 voyage which brought him to the shores of the Sassafras and progress on establishing the *Trail*.

US Route 301 Expansion in Delaware

We are monitoring the State of Delaware’s plan to make US 301 a 4-lane, limited access toll road from the DE Route 1 bridge over the C&D canal to the MD state line south of Middletown.

DelDOT has 4 alternative proposals for the route, some with several options.

Our principal concern is that a US 301 toll road in Delaware will promote “diversion” to MD 213 as truckers move west to

avoid tolls and weigh stations.

DelDOT estimates that as many as 1,300 additional trucks per day will cross the Sassafras River Bridge and pass through Galena, Georgetown, and Cecilton.

For more information, visit the DelDOT website — www.us301.org or attend a public meeting on Monday, May 8 at the Galena Town Hall. Watch the local newspapers for the meeting time.

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 and download a membership form today.