



Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association
PO Box 333
Georgetown, MD 21930

May 2006

A Busy May!

John Smith's Voyage. At our May 9 meeting, we learned the details of John Smith's second voyage of discovery in 1608, which brought him to the shores of the Sassafras River and



into contact with the local Massowomecks and Tockwoghs.

Senior Chesapeake Associate David Burke from the Conservation Fund spoke of the ongoing effort to establish the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail as a unit of the National Trail System.

The SRA's Board of Direc-

tors is considering a resolution to support the creation of the trail and letters to our Congressional delegation to voice our support.

Galena Dogwood Days. The SRA was out in force for Galena Dogwood Days on May 6. The SRA sponsored a very successful 5K run — with SRA "Run for the River 2006" T-shirts for the participants. Our thanks to John Burke for all of his hard work in organizing the event.

The SRA Information Booth was prominently placed at the entrance to the concession area and ably staffed by Ellyn Vail and David Segermark.

Our entry in the Parade was Robert Brian's boat and enthusiastic "Sassafras Sampler" reenactors.

Sassafras Samplers. Even as the parade per-

formed a reenactment, the Sassafras Samplers were on the River, under the guidance of Ted Carski, performing our second set of tests. Watch here for results!

Upper Sassafras Paddle.

On May 20, Kent County Bird Club Vice President Peter Man led a group on a canoe and kayak exploration of the Upper Sassafras, highlighted by great views of the heron rookery.



Peter gave the details on Great Blue Heron behavior, distinguished vulture species, and helped us spot eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, eastern kingbirds, barn swallows and tree swallows, among others.

Volunteer Opportunities!

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:

- Help us staff the SRA information booth at the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team Wade-in on June 3 or the Mount Harmon Plantation Colonial Picnic on June 4 .
- Create the SRA entry for the July 4 Sassafras River Parade.
- Distribute clean boating materials.
- Help update the SRA information booth with more eye-catching information.
- Organize a farm tour in the watershed to see best management practices.

June 3 Grasonville Wade-in, 10 am to 2 pm

What's a "wade-in"? It's a tradition started some years ago by former MD State Senator Bernie Fowler. He remembered that, as a boy, he could wade into the Chesapeake Bay up to his chest and still see his toes! So he began "wading in" every year in a real test of Bay water quality — how far out could he go and still see his tennis

shoes?

Our partner, the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team, sponsors its own wade-in each year at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville. There will be food, music, environmental displays, games for kids and the wade-in, led by MD Delegate (and SRA Mem-

ber) Richard Sossi. Last year he saw his toes at 28 inches. Will this year be better? Come find out!



Membership Keeps Growing!

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

Visit www.sassafrasriver.org

and download a membership form today.