



# Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association  
PO Box 333  
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June 2006

## Wade-in Results — 23”

It was a cold and windy day for the 8th annual Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team Wade-in, but a crowd of hearty souls turned out at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville to test the waters.



Delegate Dick Sossi (pictured above with his wife Fran and other Eastern Shore dignitaries) once again led the way into the waters of Eastern Bay.

This year the Delegate lost sight of his white shoes at a depth of only 23” — 5” less than last year.

There are many variables that affect water clarity —

the wind created turbulence, we had our first rain in almost a month the night before the wade-in, and it was overcast . . . all of which decreased visibility.

Of course, the significance of the Wade-In isn't really how clear the water is at one spot on a given day. It's a reminder, courtesy of Senator Bernie Fowler, that when he was a boy he could wade into the Bay up to his chest and still see his shoes.

By any measure, we have a long way to go to meet that standard — and a lot of work to do!

### July 4 Colchester Farm Picnic

Our partner the Colchester Farm CSA will host a pot-luck picnic starting at 6 pm.

Come watch the fireworks and learn about the farm.

For details, call 648-5609.

### Algae Returns to the Upper River

The month of May had barely begun before Maryland Department of Natural Resources scientists returned to the Sassafras River to test for algae.

According to DNR Biologist Celia Dawson, her office had been alerted to the early algae bloom by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

You can find results from the May 9 testing at [http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/hab/news\\_051106.cfm](http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/hab/news_051106.cfm). (You'll have to cut and paste the link.) The website also lists the precautions people should take in the presence of algae blooms.

Algae blooms are fed by nutrient pollution in our waters and, when they collapse, cause oxygen depletion and “dead zones.”

## 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](mailto:mail@sassafrasriver.org) (or write us at the PO Box) to tell us how you'll help:

- Create the SRA entry for the July 4 Sassafras River Parade.
- Help out with the July 11 Annual Picnic
- Distribute clean boating materials.
- Organize a farm tour in the watershed to see best management practices.

## Membership Keeps Growing!

**Our 2006 membership drive is still underway. Thanks to all of you who have renewed your commitment to the Sassafras River Association.**

**Tell your friends and neighbors about us!**

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

## July 11 SRA Picnic at Turner's Creek

Some of you will recall that we first kicked around the idea of the Sassafras River Association at an informal meeting at the Turner's Creek Pavilion two years ago this month.

Come join us on Tuesday, July 11 for our second annual SRA Picnic. Bring your supper (we'll have the grills going if you want to cook

and a dessert to share. The Association will provide soft drinks and tableware.

We'll use the picnic as we did last year — as a chance to review our accomplishments in the past year and to plan our activities for the next 12 months.

The Board will report to you about the results of our

June 24 strategic planning session. But we also want to hear about the initiatives you want your Association to pursue.

Last July we got a lot of good program suggestions — feedback on the kinds of things the members wanted to learn about during the coming year. Let's repeat that success!