



Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association
PO Box 333
Georgetown, MD 21930

August 2006

The New Route 301

Our Wednesday, September 6 meeting at 7 pm at the Granary Restaurant in Fredericktown will focus on two distinct but related highway projects that will affect the Sassafras River watershed:

- Delaware's plan to make US 301 a limited access toll highway from the Delaware Route 1 crossing at the C&D Canal to the MD/DE line
- The MD State Highway Administration's plan to open a truck weigh station at the intersection of US301 and MD 299, where 301 crosses the Sassafras River.



We'll have DelDOT and MD SHA staff brief us on the two projects and then join in a panel discussion with Galena Mayor Harry Pisapia and Cecilton Mayor

John Bunnell.

The local press has reported concerns with the potential diversion of truck traffic to MD 213 as a result of the two projects. Our local political leaders have been meeting over the last several months to examine the issue and will be able to report their progress at our meeting.

In addition to the issues of truck diversion, these two major projects are also located in the Sassafras River watershed. We need to be alert to potential environmental effects from the construction and operation of the Maryland weigh station and the Delaware toll plaza.

This will be a good opportunity for everyone to increase their knowledge and understanding of these two projects and the ways in which they will affect our

watershed.

If you want to bone up on the DelDOT 301 project in advance of the meeting, an excellent detailed presentation can be found at www.deldot.net/static/projects/us301.

SASSAFRAS SAMPLERS MONITOR WATER QUALITY

At the suggestion of DNR scientist, Peter Tango, the SRA's water quality monitoring program will take a summer sample on Saturday, August 12. Dr. Tango was impressed with the work the SRA has done to date and recommended we continue to build our baseline of water quality data.

Don't forget, you can check water quality on the Sassafras River any time at DNR's interactive website www.eyesonthebay.net

Committees Offer New Volunteer Opportunities!

The SRA Board just finished a strategic planning session to focus our activities for the next several years. To increase our effectiveness and get more members involved, we're committed to setting up an effective committee structure.

We're looking for volunteers to staff (or lead!) our program committees:

- Education and Outreach
- Science
- Advocacy
- Membership
- Volunteer
- Publicity

We'll be reaching out to you, but if there's something that interests you, email us

Membership News

At the July 11 meeting, membership chair Dave Segermark announced that we ended 2005 with 111 memberships; we're at 132 current memberships now.

Your SRA membership lasts for one year. We'll contact you on your anniversary date to remind you to renew. **If you're not a current member**, visit www.sassafrasriver.org

and download a membership form today.

SRA Goes to Betterton!

The SRA education and information booth made a popular appearance at Betterton Day on August 5.

What better location than Betterton Beach on the Sassafras shoreline to take our message of watershed education and protection to the public? SRA volunteers staffed the booth throughout the day, providing information on our programs

and activities — and Bay health generally.

One of the items of greatest interest was our hand-out on the *Chesapeake Bay Safety and Environmental Hotline - 1-877-224-7229*.

You can use the number to report fish kills, safety violations, debris, oil spills — anything that may affect the health of the Bay.

