



Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association
PO Box 333
Georgetown, MD 21930

February 2007

FROM YOUR OWN BACKYARD!

No more wondering how you can make a personal difference in the quality of the water in the Sassafras River and the Bay.

Are you Bay-Wise?



On **Saturday, March 17** we'll return to the Cecilton Fire Hall for our program *From Our Backyards to the Sassafras*, focusing on the role we all play as watershed residents in preserving the treasure that is the Sassafras River.

The program will feature presentations by educators from the University of Maryland Extension Service, who will give us practical and meaningful tips for being more "Bay-Wise" users of our most precious re-

source — clean water.

The 1:00 to 3:30 pm program will cover a wide range of topics that you'll be able to put to immediate use:

- How to maintain your lawn
- What to plant and where
- How to control water as it moves across your yard
- How to create wildlife habitat

In addition to the formal program, we're planning exhibits by local nurseries that carry native plants, local landscapers, and Master Gardeners who can give you advice.

We'll also have door prizes (win a rain barrel!), refreshments, and literature galore!

So plan to join us — for a short visit if not for the whole program.

You can learn more at the Bay-Wise website, www.baywise.umd.edu.

Frozen Out

A snow and ice storm forced us to cancel our February 13 meeting.



Not to worry, though. We've rescheduled Chris Trumbauer's presentation on the DNR's "Eyes on the Bay" program for April 10 at 7 pm at the Granary Restaurant in Fredericktown. Don't miss it.

"Reaching for our Riverkeeper"

It's a new year, and we're calling 2007 the year of "Reaching for our Riverkeeper®." That reflects our hope to raise the funds we'll need to join the Waterkeeper® Alliance and hire a "Sassafras Riverkeeper." Your membership contributions will be an important part of the effort!

Quick Takes

- **Galena Dogwood Festival.** Join us on Saturday, May 5 for our own 2nd annual 5K run/walk, "The Run for the Riverkeeper." We need volunteers for the run, the parade float, and the SRA information booth.
- **1st Annual Sassafras River Wade-In.** We're planning an event to coincide with Betterton's annual clean-up. We'll brave the spring waters and see how far we can walk out and still see our toes! Join us on April 27 and call if you can help with the event.
- **Sassafras Samplers.** We're gearing up for our third year of "testing the waters." The target date for our spring sample is May 19. To join the flotilla (as a captain or crew) contact Ted Carski on 410.275.1316 or jcrthc@dmv.com.

April 14 — Project Clean Stream

April 14 will mark the 3rd year that the SRA will participate in the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's *Project Clean Stream*, a Bay-wide trash clean-up effort.

Last year, more than 40 SRA volunteers picked up three quarters of a ton of trash at 5 sites.

Your participation will make

this year bigger and better! We'll have sites in both Kent and Cecil Counties, and we'll provide gloves, bags, and snacks.



This is a great project for kids and an object lesson on the consequences of human carelessness. Bring your scout troop, church group, your kids, grandkids, or neighbor's kids.

To be part of this year's cleanup team, contact Ellyn Vail at 410.648.6994 or vaile@crosslink.net.