



# Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association  
PO Box 333  
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May 2007

## Bay Restoration Fund Update

Sassafras River Watershed residents eager to hear how their “flush fee” funds were going from their pockets to their backyards heard from Kent County Environmental Planner Amy Moredock. Her topic was “Denitrifying Your Septic System – a Bay Restoration Fund Update”.

She explained how Kent County is implementing the Bay Restoration Fund and obtaining funding to modify traditional septic systems and install best available nitrogen removal technologies.

The process begins with a Pre-Application for consideration by the Kent County Department of Environmental Health and continues with an evaluation by the Health Department. If

the lot meets the criteria and the homeowner is ready to implement the Best Available Technology on his system, then the installation process begins.



For complete details on how you can get the process started on your property, please contact the Department of Environmental Health in your County.

If you live in Kent County, please call John Beskid at 410.778.1361. Cecil County residents should contact Chuck Smyser at 410.996.5550.

### Dogwood Days!

Thirty-seven runners and walkers — sporting SRA “5K Run/Walk for Our Riverkeeper” t-shirts — took to the streets on May 5 as part of the Galena Dogwood Festival. The course took them (where else?) to the Sassafras River, across the 213 bridge and then back to the festivities at Dogwood Plaza. Buy a t-shirt at the next SRA meeting or event and support your Riverkeeper!



### “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

- **May 19** will mark the beginning of the 2007 season for the Sassafras Samplers. If you want to join our water monitoring program as captain or crew, contact Science Committee Chair Ted Carski on (410) 275-1316.
- **Late June—Early July.** We’re working with the MD DNR to have a repeat of last year’s water chestnut removal. The Sassafras is one of just two rivers on the Bay which is home to this invasive plant. Watch for more information about this interesting, water-based event.
- **July 10.** Each July we’ve gone back to the Turner’s Creek Pavilion — where the SRA got its start in 2004 — for a BYO picnic. We discuss the previous year’s activities and talk about the things that the SRA should focus on for the year ahead. Please come to our important planning meeting.

## June 12 — Ordinary Point: The Full Story

At our June 12 meeting (7 pm at the Granary Restaurant) we will try to answer our most frequently asked question — *What’s going on at Ordinary Point?*

The short answer is that it’s a shoreline restoration project undertaken by Jim and Frances Bayard, the owners of Ordinary Point Farm, to prevent the Sassafras

River’s most distinctive landmark from being completely washed away.

The Ordinary Point restoration work is being carried out by Environmental Concerns, Inc. of St. Michaels and owner Gene Slear will be on hand to talk about the details of the work that’s been done. Jim Bayard will also be there to

answer questions about the project.

We’ve also invited Hunter Harris, of Aloft Aerial Photography to show us some of his remarkable photographs of the Sassafras and other Eastern Shore waterways. Hunter’s work will help us focus on the role we can play as boaters in protecting our waters.