



# Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association  
PO Box 333  
Georgetown, MD 21930

August 2007

## Reaching for Our Riverkeeper!

We certainly hope you know that the SRA's Board of Directors has designated 2007 as the year of "Reaching for Our Riverkeeper." We've had a block touting it in the upper right corner of the *Update* every month and we've talked about it at every meeting.



Why a Sassafras Riverkeeper? We've talked about this since our earliest meetings 3 years ago. Joining the Waterkeeper Alliance and hiring a Sassafras Riverkeeper will give our River a full-time voice and advocate — someone whose sole job is to examine the health of the River and its watershed and to take specific actions to fulfill our mission —

*We will be an advocate for the Sassafras River watershed, educating stakeholders; identifying, prioritizing, and addressing issues and problems in the River and watershed; and partnering with other groups that share our vision.*

We think it's time to give you a status report on our progress.

First, let's talk about **fund-ing**: through the dedication and generosity of our membership, the SRA has been

raising about \$10,000 a year. That's a tremendous achievement for an organization that's less than 3 years old. We estimate, though, that hiring a full-time Sassafras Riverkeeper will cost at least **\$80,000 per year** (plus the start-up cost of a boat) — our estimated budget is printed on the reverse of the *Update*.

With the generous assistance of the Rauch Foundation, we have engaged Mary Ellen Olcese, a consultant who assisted the Chester River Association when it made the transition from an all-volunteer organization to having a full-time Riverkeeper.

Mary Ellen has worked with the SRA Fundraising Committee, chaired by John Burke, to develop a solid fundraising plan. The principal sources of that funding will be contributions from you, our members, from future members, and from foundations which support conservation work. It's a daunting goal, but your commitment to the SRA gives us confidence in our success.

The second issue is **membership in the Waterkeeper Alliance**. To be able to use the trademarked "Riverkeeper" name and to receive the support of a nationwide organization with similar

goals, we must join the Waterkeeper Alliance. That's not as simple as writing a check and getting a membership card!

We must demonstrate to the Alliance through a rigorous application process that our goals for the Sassafras Riverkeeper are consistent with its organizational mission.

The SRA has begun that process by submitting an application to the Alliance staff, who will review it and make suggestions. We'll then be visited and interviewed by an Alliance Board member. Finally, our application will be presented to a quarterly meeting of the Alliance Board for consideration. We're working to have our application considered at the Alliance's September meeting.

**How can you help?** Our members will play a huge role in the success of this effort. Of course, we will continue to rely on you for your continuing — and increased! — financial support. Equally, though, we need you to bring new members into the SRA.

You believe in the SRA and its mission of advocacy for our River. Share your enthusiasm with your friends and neighbors — and encourage them to join us today!

## Nellie Crockett Moonlight Cruise

Our most popular annual event sets sail on August 30. After a wonderful dinner at the Granary, we'll board the buy boat *Nellie Crockett* to watch a full moon rise over the Sassafras. Space is limited, so make your reservations early with Jackie Reese — (410) 275-9802 or [jackiereese@hughes.net](mailto:jackiereese@hughes.net).

### Quick Takes

- **August 18.** Sassafras Samplers. Our mid-summer testing will go off on Saturday morning. To volunteer, contact Ted Carski on (410) 275-1316 or [jcrthc@dmv.com](mailto:jcrthc@dmv.com).
- **September 11.** We'll have our regular **meeting at 7 pm at the Granary**. Amy Moredock of the Kent County Planning Department will tell us about an exciting restoration effort at Turners Creek. The grant-funded project will involve shoreline restoration and stormwater management.
- **October 13.** We'll be taking the SRA information booth to the Kent County **Fall Festival** at Turners Creek. Greeting people at the booth is a great way sharpen your knowledge about the River and the SRA. To volunteer, contact Joan Zellers on (410) 348-2364 or [joanz@atlanticbb.net](mailto:joanz@atlanticbb.net).

# Riverkeeper Budget

## One Time

Boat	20,000.00
Equipment	3,000.00
Trailer	2,000.00
Advertising/Selection	500.00

**TOTAL ONE TIME** 

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**25,500.00**

## Recurring

### Boat

Insurance	250.00
Registration	50.00
Docking	2,000.00
Storage	750.00
Maintenance	500.00
Fuel	500.00
	<hr/> 4,050.00

### Office

Rent	11,000.00
Utilities	1,000.00
Phone	960.00
Internet	960.00
Supplies	200.00
	<hr/> 14,120.00

### Personnel

Salary	40,000.00
Benefits	10,000.00
Social Security	3,100.00
Workers Comp	500.00
	<hr/> 53,600.00

### Travel

Mileage Reimbursement	1,850.00
Tolls	50.00
Air	1,000.00
	<hr/> 2,900.00

### Other

River Network Membership	150.00
Waterkeeper Alliance Membership	250.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00
Conferences/Meetings	1,000.00
Annual Conference	2,500.00
	<hr/> 4,900.00

**TOTAL RECURRING** 

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**79,570.00**