



Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association
PO Box 333
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September 2007

Coming Soon — Turner's Creek Demonstration Project

At our September 12 meeting, Kent County Environmental Planner Amy Moredock gave us a preview of an exciting project planned for Turner's Creek.

The project, funded by Maryland's Coastal Zone

- An "afforestation area," where new trees will be planted.

Amy described how she has required the County to submit to all of the same steps that a homeowner would have to follow in

which will result in a requirement to plant additional trees elsewhere on the site.

The buffer will be expanded at the top of the bluff to provide more area for water to be absorbed rather than flowing directly into Turner's Creek.

The bio-retention area will put water from the pavilion roof into a rain barrel and then into a rain garden — a passive structure with native plants that will hold the run-off until it can be absorbed into the soil.

As we learned at our "Backyards to the Bay" program last spring, the function of buffer management, afforestation, and bio-retention is straightforward. It

slows the movement of water toward our creeks and rivers — and gives the ground a better chance to absorb water and to filter out nutrients that otherwise would end up in our rivers and the Bay.

According to Amy, work on the project should begin in November. The SRA has offered to let our members know — via email — when the project begins and to help with the planting of grasses come spring.



Management Program, will provide both homeowners and contractors a view of some of the "best management practices" for shoreline protection and restoration.

The project will include four major elements:

- A "hybrid" living shoreline restoration project
- A buffer management plan
- A bio-retention area, including a rain garden and rain barrel.

getting approval for a similar project.

The living shoreline restoration is called a "hybrid" because it will include some stone — groins or jetties perpendicular to the shoreline will help hold in place the sand in which water-tolerant grasses will be planted.

There will be some grading of the steep banks and some tree removal to provide enough light so that the grasses will grow —

Nellie Crockett Moonlight Cruise

We had a very successful fundraiser and a delightful time on August 30 aboard the *Nellie Crockett*. Thanks to John Burke for organizing



the event and to Ted Parish for being a great host.

Quick Takes

- **September 18.** A big day! The Waterkeeper Alliance Board of Directors meets to consider the SRA's application.
- **October 6.** Sassafras Samplers water testing. To volunteer, contact Ted Carski on (410) 275-1316 or jcrthc@dmv.com.
- **October 9.** SRA monthly meeting at the Granary. Topic TBA.
- **October 13.** We need volunteers to take 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 help, contact Joan Zellers on (410) 348-2364 or joanz@atlanticbb.net.