



# Sassafras Update

Sassafras River Association  
PO Box 333  
Georgetown, MD 21930

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## Meet the Sassafras Riverkeeper!

On May 13 at the Granary, Kascie Herron, selected to be the first Sassafras Riverkeeper, donned an SRA hat to the applause of Association membership. Kascie, who graduated from



include an assistantship with Washington College's Center for Environmental Studies. She is currently employed with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She is a certified trainer in DNR stream sampling protocols.

As Riverkeeper, Kascie will serve as the "eyes, ears, and voice" of the Sassafras River. She will establish regular patrol on the

River this summer, looking for potential sources of pollution, and will advocate on behalf of the Sassafras River with local, State and federal agencies responsible for clean water. She will also lead an assessment of the River, identifying threats to water quality and prioritizing solutions.

Washington College in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Environmental Studies and Humanities, was picked from among 20 applicants. She will start on June 9.

In addition to her coursework, Kascie's qualifications

A Cecil County native, Kascie said, "Preservation of environmental health has always been a great concern of mine. It is important that an improvement is made in the Sassafras River and the Chesapeake Bay within my lifetime, especially for generations to come. I believe that with united efforts of various river associations, as well as support from Washington College, the Center for Environment and Society, and most importantly, the citizens of Kent and Cecil Counties, I can help the SRA improve the health of our River."

Funding to support the Sassafras River Association's programs comes from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Town Creek Foundation, the Rauch Foundation, the Munson Foundation, the Shared Earth Foundation, and from SRA members.

## May Meeting Puts Spotlight on Septics

A panel of experts was on hand at the May meeting of the SRA to talk about using the Bay Restoration Fund to install nitrogen-removing septic systems. As we know from past meetings, traditional septic systems do not remove nitrogen.

Jenn Hicks of the Chester River Association made the principal presentation, supported by Kent County Environmental Health Officer John Beskid and MDE program manager Josh Flatley.

The bottom line is that money is available for watershed residents in both counties to add nitrogen-removing units to their existing septic systems. To begin the process, Kent residents should call John Beskid (410-778-1361) and residents of Cecil County should call Josh Flatley (410-537-3635).

## June 10 — Conversation with the Riverkeeper

When we introduced Kascie Herron to the SRA membership on May 13, there wasn't time for people to have a chance to chat with her personally and to hear her thoughts about her role as Sassafras Riverkeeper.

Although she will have been on the job for just one day on June 10, we want you to have a chance to get to

know her better — and vice versa. So we'll meet at the Granary at 7 pm for an "open session" with the Riverkeeper. This will be a good first chance for everyone to learn more about Kascie's background and interests and for her to learn about your concerns for the River.

If things go according to plan, we'll have the Sassafras

Riverkeeper's vessel launched and ready for christening as well.

We'll also be giving Kascie a send off — one of her first duties will be to represent the SRA at the Waterkeeper Alliance Conference in Seattle in late June.



## Contact the Riverkeeper

Starting on June 9, Kascie Herron's telephone number as Riverkeeper will be (410) 708-3303. Sassafras River Watershed residents and visitors with concerns about the state of the River or specific issues are encouraged to call her.

She will also be reachable via email, at an address to be announced.