

# The Floating Gardener

A Publication Provided by The Magothy River Association

## Update on Maryland Tax Credit for Floating Gardeners!

A Letter from the Editor

When I first wrote about a tax credit for floating gardens last July, thermometers were nearing the 100 degree mark. What a difference 6 months makes! Temperatures are now nose-numbing and a skim of ice has begun its first tentative march on the Magothy. Happy New Year!

Along with the frigid air, January brings the start of a new legislative session in Annapolis. You may recall that in 2015, the Clean Waterways Tax Credit Act – SB85/15 proposed an income tax credit for residents who purchase floating gardens. The sponsor of this bill was Senator Bryan Simonaire. Like the tax credit for oyster floats, SB85/15 would allow for reimbursement of money spent to purchase and install floating gardens up to \$500.00. It's a terrific incentive that's bound to increase participation. In July Senator Simonaire reported on the bill's progress:

*"We had wonderful testimony from your community and around the county. The National Aquarium's floating garden program was also presented and received well. This is the second year I submitted the legislation and we are making progress. I thought we had the votes for the bill this year, but we ran out of time and a vote was not taken. I am hopeful we can pass this in the next session. Any participants in the floating garden efforts would be welcomed for next year's hearing to present real life experiences."*

The new legislative session begins today and although there's been no date set yet, the hearing on this bill is expected to be early in this session. We have been asked to show our support for Senate Bill 43 – Clean Waterways Tax Credit Act by sending representatives to Annapolis to testify during the hearing and/or send letters of support to the Budget and Taxation committee beforehand. You may view the bill here: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2016RS/bills/sb/sb0043F.pdf> (Note: the bill ID has been updated for 2016. SB 43 is the new version of SB85/15)

**If you are interested in giving oral testimony in support of floating gardens, please send your name and contact info to me [mrafloatinggardener@gmail.com](mailto:mrafloatinggardener@gmail.com) ASAP!**

For reasons of security, we are required to present a list people who will be participating in advance. I'll notify you of a hearing date when it's scheduled.

If you can't be there in person, your written testimony would really help push this bill through. Please send your testimony to the **Budget and Taxation Committee**, Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing 11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991. Be sure to reference that your correspondence is in **SUPPORT SENATE BILL 43**. You may also send it directly to Senator Simonaire's office to the attention of Kara Contino, Legislative Assistant, [Bryan.Simonaire.District@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Bryan.Simonaire.District@senate.state.md.us).

With your help, this tax credit will become a reality in 2016. Please take the time to support **SENATE BILL 43**, either in person or by writing. You'll be helping the environment and reap some monetary benefits too, come tax time! Thank you.



## Upcoming Events

### January 13 – Tonight!

Green Drinks Happy Hour  
To honor the Magothy River Association's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

Brian Boru Restaurant

5:30- 7:30PM

### Happening Now!

Frigid weather is finally here! Oyster gardeners, please remember to lower your cages so that the spat is not left high and dry in freezing temperatures during tidal changes.

Also, please remember to bring your animals indoors. They are not built to survive the frigid conditions.

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