

# Magothy River Association

December 2021



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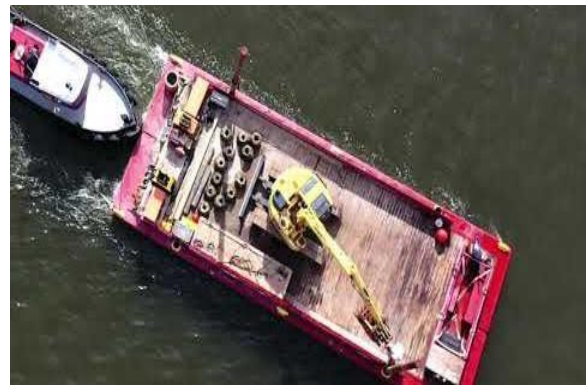
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## President's Message

It has been a good year for the Magothy River watershed. MRA volunteers have done some amazing work. Here's a recap:

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## January 2021

Volunteers deployed reef balls to improve fish habitat. Coming up, this year we are applying for permits to add a 400 foot by 800 foot section to the river for additional reef balls.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/video-100-cement-oyster-reef-balls-planted-in-magothy/>

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## President's Message Continued



### March 2021

Volunteers documented the largest Yellow Perch spawn in recent years, on the Magothy by Lake Waterford. Unfortunately stormwater sediment exiting Ecology Services' dirt parking lot contaminated the entire 2021 spawning class. Maryland Department of Environment fined Ecology Services \$2.5 million for the destruction of the Yellow Perch. The \$2.5 million fine turned out to be the largest fine ever issued in Maryland. MRA will continue to monitor the situation with Ecology Services and document the 2022 yellow perch spawn. MRA plans to make sure that the sediment problem at Lake Waterford is addressed and fixed.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/video-magothy-yellow-perch-spawn-washed-out-by-runoff/?amp>



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### April 2021

Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman visited Beachwood Park on Saturday, April 24, in honor of Earth Day and to recognize the Magothy River Association's efforts to enhance the Park. MRA volunteers, with the help of Maguire Marine and other local businesses, installed a series of walled terraces to prevent further erosion and enable better public access to the water.

<https://youtu.be/JTJBHIFRQ2Q>

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### August 2021

MRA and AACC's Environmental Center agreed to work together and pool resources to explore the use of drone technologies in SAV mapping and other environmental research activities. We have had some promising results so far. Details to follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlJd1Rrok5A>

## President's Message Continued

As this year comes to a close, I'd like to thank all of the MRA volunteers who have done SAV monitoring, construction site monitoring, our videographer and Living History team. Thank you for all your efforts this year -- you made a difference!

There are many programs going on with the MRA. See something where you could help? Come to a meeting. Working together we can restore the Magothy for generations to enjoy.

Do you still have Christmas shopping to do? Visit Side Street Framers and purchase a Magothy River Trivia game.

Hope to see all of you at the First Day hike at Magothy River Nature Gateway park. Details below.

Moving forward.  
Paul Spadaro

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## MRA News

### First Day Hike

### New Year's Day Walk

January 1, 2022; 9 am to 2 pm

Self-guided hike through the Magothy Greenway Natural Area from 9 am to 2 pm. Explore this important wetland tucked away in the heart of Lake Shore and learn the important role bogs play in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. A Park Ranger and members of the Magothy River Association will be onsite from 10am to 2pm to share maps, resources, and suggested routes.

Hot Chocolate will be provided. Participants should meet in the Looper's Field Parking Lot. Bring your own water bottle.  
Register at link below: ActiveNet #27661.

<https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/forms-and-publications/winter-program-guide.pdf>



## State of the Magothy Presentation

**SAVE THE DATE** - March 16, 2022

Our 2022 State of the Magothy presentation will be a Zoom event at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. This presentation is based upon the data collected by Magothy River Association volunteers who monitored 25 sites, every two weeks from mid-April to mid-October 2021. Our creeks and mainstem remained unusually fresh in 2021, with no salinity levels over 10 ppt. We saw consistent green algae growth this year rather than the more typical boom and bust growth of red-brown algae that produces mahogany tides. We also saw low visibility due to algal growth in surface waters and low oxygen levels in waters overlying the bottom.

Dr. Sally Hornor will present the 2021 Magothy Index, and provide more details. There will be a second speaker,



Tim Tumelty from AACC to discuss the new drone project between MRA and the Community College. The Zoom information will be posted on the MRA Facebook page shortly before the event. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

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## Magothy River Trivia Game

Looking for a unique local holiday gift for friends or family? How about buying the Magothy River trivia game. We have added a new series of trivia cards to the game, version 2. See video below. The games are available at the Side Street Framers gift shop in Severna Park. Games sell for \$40 and if you bought the trivia game last year the new deck of cards/version 2 will only be \$10. Also available on sale for \$20 dollars are the Magothy River watershed maps. This map is also a wonderful holiday gift.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Y9gJnKTuQI>

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## MRA Receives Grant

The MRA is excited to report that we have received a grant from the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County to produce a video about the history of Beachwood Park. The video will be part of our Living History video project, in which we highlight a historic site in the Magothy River watershed and then link the video to our Magothy River Water Trail map.

The history of Beachwood Park is interesting, as it was the only beach resort in the watershed that was open to the Black community. In addition to beach activities, Beachwood Park was the site of many well-known Black entertainers, and it attracted folks from Anne Arundel County and Baltimore.

We encourage anyone who has knowledge of the history of Beachwood Park to email Andrea Germain at [a3germain@gmail.com](mailto:a3germain@gmail.com), Andrea who is coordinating the project.

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## Mt Misery Update

MRA joined Round Bay residents to file an appeal in Circuit Court against the Board of

Appeal's decision for granting the developer's motion to dismiss the residents' case. Their decision was based on a technical point. MRA believes these residents deserve their day in court. Their concerns about stormwater causing mudslides and compromising the health of both the Severn and Magothy must be addressed. We are preparing for a long fight concerning MT Misery.

However, we are making progress. After a meeting with Pittman and Planning and Zoning where MRA directly stated our issues with the current site plan for Mt Misery, we are happy to report that the County has removed some of their early approvals concerning the Mt Misery site plan. We hope that the County does not approve plans to build 2 houses on a hilltop that has extremely steep slopes and bypass the county codes.

We believe a better use of the property would be to set aside a section of this hilltop as a memorial to the 250 Union troops who built the fort and were stationed there for 4 years. These brave troops endured the threat from local residents trying to poison them while camping out on a remote hilltop with endless heat, cold and mosquitoes. Their sacrifice helped end slavery.

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## Living History Update

We are happy to announce a new twist to MRA's ongoing Living History Program Vintage Boats of the Magothy. Grab a cup of coffee and sit back and enjoy this wonderful 4 minute video overview of "PATCHES", which is part 1 of a 4 part story produced by MRA videographer Charles Germain.

Next up - we are working on EMILY ANN, a story about a 1940 tugboat that was built in Baltimore and was docked on the upper Magothy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP14esKtXMA>

