

2022 Fall Magothy River Association Newsletter

Editor Andrea Germain

Newsletter Highlights

- * New Meeting Format
- * Holiday Gifts
- * January Yellow Perch Presentation
- * State of the Magothy Reports
- * Volunteer Opportunities

Editor's Message: So much has been going on with the Magothy River Association! Our all-volunteer organization has been involved in many projects, and the following is just an overview of what we are doing.

President's Message

I wish you and your family a happy holiday season and I hope that you will make this new year's resolution to join the all-volunteer Magothy River Association. Our leadership depends on your membership. Working together, we can and will restore the Magothy for generations to enjoy.

New Meeting Format. Because of the Covid pandemic, we moved to a monthly online meeting via Zoom. We plan to continue the online meetings during the winter but would like to open them up to the public, so people in the Magothy watershed know what we're doing and can participate. Our plan is to have a theme meeting with a speaker or a special program, probably every 3 months. Once the weather improves, we would like to hold the meetings

outdoors in various communities, instead of in one place. It would be great if we could hold the meetings in communities that have had major water restoration projects, such as the Berrywood project, which have been publicly funded.

If you live in a community that has sponsored a water restoration project and would like to share its experiences, or if you have suggestions for topics that would be of great interest, please contact Paul Spadaro or Andrea Germain.

We would also like to sponsor meetings on topics that would be useful on conservation or preservation issues.



January meeting. Shawn Kimbro, the author of three popular fishing books, will give a presentation to the MRA focusing not only on fishing but also on preserving and protecting the Yellow Perch in the Magothy River. His presentation will be in opposition to the DNR viewpoint that the Yellow Perch in the Magothy are a deadend species. The meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm**. A zoom link will be posted a few days before the meeting.

Holiday Gifts. The Magothy River map, Magothy River Trivia Game, WatersSavers Calendar, and "My River Speaks," by Marianne Taylor are available for purchase at Side Street Framers in Park Plaza, Severna Park. Please support the MRA and purchase a gift from our valued sponsor, Side Street Framers.



January Walk

First Walk on January 1. There are several free, guided hikes offered by the County on New Year's Day. The programs are free, but registration is required. Register online at bit.ly/firstdayhikes2023. There are three to mention (1) **Magothy Greenway Natural Area**, from 10 am to 2 pm (this is a self-guided). Participants should meet in the Looper's Field Parking Lot. Register at ActiveNet #30975. (2) **Lake Waterford Park** from 10 am to 11:30 am, with the rangers. Register at ActiveNet #30974. (3) **Kinder Farm Park** 10-11:30 am. This is with a ranger. Register at ActiveNet #30973.

These walks are a great way to start the New Year right!

MRA State of the Magothy LIVE. We plan to hold the annual MRA State of the Magothy meeting in March at the AACC. The meeting will be held in the lecture hall in the new Health and Life Sciences building on Friday, March 31.

Reports

Mt Misery update- recap The builder had appealed the decision not to extend the variances to build on the steep slopes for lots 389 and 390. The appeal was held last month and the BOA decided not to extend variances on lot 389 and extend the variances on lot 390. This split decision is OK because lot 390 has the combined driveway to reach both houses. The

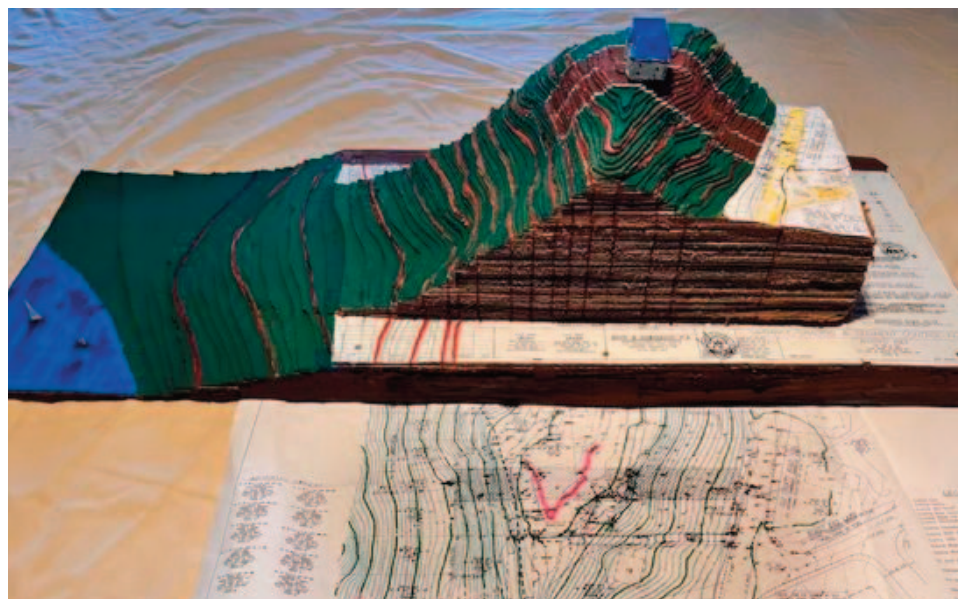
county has already informed the builder they will NOT approve the grading permit for lot 390. Which kills the project, Give credit to the Pittman administration and planning and zoning for protecting round bay residents.

To add perspective to this decision. Check out my model which converts the "actual" developer's 2d site plan into a 3 d model to illustrate the

extraordinarily steep slopes. I have updated my model to include the "actual" locations of the two 5,200 square foot houses planned to be built along the knife edge ridge line where the civil war FT Gray was located.

Note each layer of cardboard represents 2 feet; each red line represents 10 feet. The brown areas represent lots 389 and 390. Old County Road and the Severn River are incorporated at their "actual" scale positions. The footprints of the scale houses are incorporated into the model from the actual site plan. The entire project is located in a critical area. MT Misery is 152 feet above the Severn River.

Our voices have been heard. The developer now has to come up with a new site plan and new variances to take into account the extraordinarily steep slopes.



Mount Misery Living History Video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0NzYt43lfc>
Mount Misery was a Civil War fort that played a key role in the beginning of the war. Because of its strategic position between the Magothy and the Severn Rivers, the fort was able to block Confederate troops from moving from Baltimore to Annapolis, and then on to Washington.

Paul Spadaro and Danielle Dupcak have been researching the fort and have found a fascinating collection of letters written by the troops, as well as newspaper articles, bullets and other artifacts. They will work with Charles Germain to create a Living History video possibly with actors portraying the soldiers. Work on the video will begin in the spring.

We are always looking for interesting stories about the Magothy.



cover for the nursery and repaired the viewing platform. Unfortunately, the bearings in the pump motor failed mid-season, requiring an expensive repair.

The MRA generously authorized covering expenses up to \$600, with the idea of buying two pumps and keeping a spare on hand in case of an emergency. Because of dramatic price increases, we were only able to replace the bad motor, keeping the external pump structure, at a cost of over \$450.

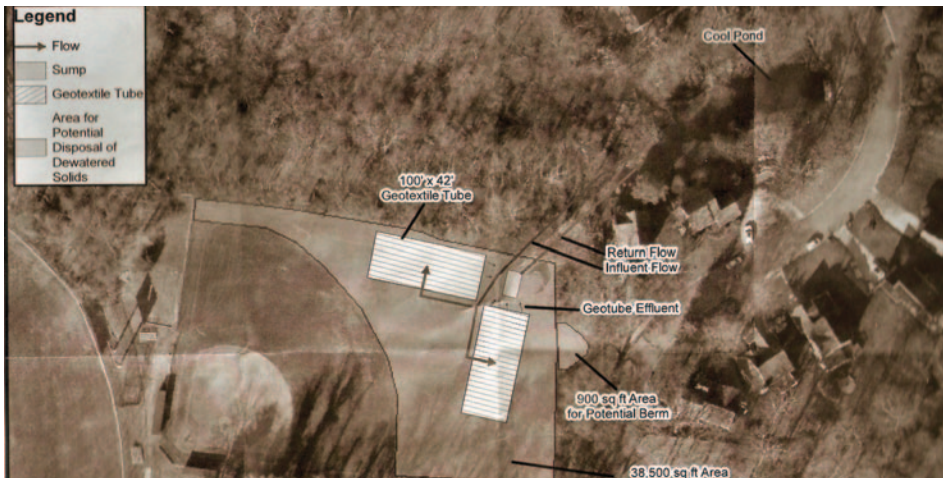
The nursery expected to receive a new generation of oyster spat on shell in early September but did not receive the delivery until the end of October. Because of the delay, we lost several oyster growers.

In mid-November, we learned that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was offering an additional 40,000 oysters for the Magothy, bringing our yearly crop total to approximately 100,000 oyster babies. Good news for the Magothy, with hopes that the oysters will clean the water.

Cool Pond. Cool Pond is a small pond adjacent to the new Severna Park High School property. During the construction of the new



*March from Annapolis to
Washington April 24 1861
R. G. Rathbone*



high school, the storm water controls failed, resulting in the pond being filled in with sediment. Residents complained to the County and Stuart Pittman. After looking at the pond, the County accepted responsibility and gave the Cool Pond community \$48,000 to repair the damage to the pond. MRA is administering the grant. The key highlight of the project is that the pond will be dredged. The sand and sediment will be pumped out of the pond and deposited onto a nearby section of County Parks and Recreation land. Once the dredging is complete, and the construction site is stabilized, MRA will work with the high school to plant trees and restore habitat to the pond. We hope to begin the project in early March and have an Earth Day tree planting in April. Because we are using a hydraulic dredging procedure, there will be no truck traffic carrying sediment away from the pond, causing disruptions to the community.

The Enclave. The proposed Enclave development, which we thought was not approved because of the many variances requested by the developer, seems to have been approved without anyone noticing. We will need help from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance to appeal the approval. This site is very close to the Berrywood restoration site on steep slopes, causing a huge amount of stormwater runoff into Cattail Creek.

Placemat Program. The MRA has a unique educational placemat series. Education is the key to becoming a good steward of the environment and of the Magothy River watershed. Since

2000, the placemats focus on themes to promote an awareness of watershed challenges and were designed for elementary and middle-school aged children. These placemats are free and available to restaurants and schools. They feature drawings of local flora and fauna, puzzles, and fun facts about the Magothy River and the watershed.

Themes are: "Scientific Divers of the Magothy"; "Boating Safety on the Magothy" "Magothy River"; "Underwater Grasses of the Magothy River"; "Bogs of the Magothy watershed"; "Oysters of the Magothy River"; "Fish of the Magothy River"; "Trees of the Magothy"; "Ducks of the Magothy River"; and "Native Americans of the Magothy River."

If are a restaurant owner would like to participate in this program, send an email to President@Magothyriver.org

Volunteer Activities.

* **Mt. Misery**, if you're a history buff and would like to do some research on this fort (Maryland Archives has lots of information), please let Paul Spadaro know.

* **Drone team** to do SAV monitoring and construction monitoring. Interested?

* **Catherine Avenue** cleanup to remove invasive plants and trash. Details to follow.

* **MRA database cleanup.** The database needs to be updated to reflect changes in membership, both in deletions and additions.

Send a message to president@magothyriver.org if you are interested in volunteering.

