



Magothy River Association

Saving our river for future generations

SUMMER 2025 Newsletter



Who We Are....

The Magothy River Association (MRA) is dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the water quality, plants, and wildlife of the Magothy River and its watershed. Founded in 1946, the MRA is an all-volunteer group incorporate as a non-profit 501 © (3) charitable organization representing over 300 individual members and 30 community associations within the Magothy River Watershed. The organization designs and executes projects that restore and protect the welfare of the river and it's watershed.



THE GREAT CHESAPEAKE BAY SCHOONER RACE

The Magothy River Association (MRA) is proud to team up once again with the Jolly Dolphin for the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race. Thanks to the generous support of residents who cherish the Magothy River, MRA has made an impact in restoring oyster habitats, improving the water quality and preserving the river's natural and historic treasures. The Jolly Dolphin's Captain volunteers his time and boat to help the MRA raise funds to protect this unique ecosystem. Please consider donating—every contribution makes a difference.



The participate and donate, use this QR or URL:

<https://gcbsr.app.neoncrm.com/JD25VR>

The Jolly Dolphin is a wooden sailing vessel modeled on early Chesapeake Bay oyster dredges. Referred to as a "three sail bateau", or "two-masted skipjack", it is a successor to the bugeye. Jolly Dolphin was built for a Delaware family for recreational use by James B. Richardson on LeCompte Creek, Maryland in 1958. Restored with the help of the Richardson Maritime Museum from 2007 to 2010, privately owned and maintained, the Jolly Dolphin has provided traditional sailing experiences for community outreach.



Over the years, Jolly Dolphin's passengers have included middle school and high school STEM students, conservationists and Maryland history enthusiasts. She is currently berthed on the Magothy River.

Magothy Day Celebration 2025

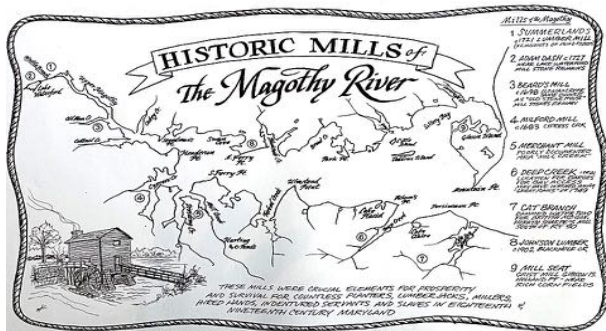
To honor the anniversary of Captain John Smith's first exploration of the river in 1608, the MRA and Magothy River fans officially celebrated Magothy River Day on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Donnelly's Dockside Restaurant graciously aided the event by hosting the Jolly Dolphin Schooner at their dock. This historic crafts owners, Jack and Donna Zuraw, offered tours and stories of its legacy and significance. Donnelly's also generously donated 10% of all meal tabs to the MRA Oyster restoration program for the day.

Magothy River Day, declared by the Magothy River Association, as a day that encourages all watershed residents to appreciate our remarkable river and acknowledge the dedication of past, present, and future volunteers committed to its protection and preservation for generations to come.

Severna Park July 4th Parade



After months of dedicated design, and thanks to our sponsors Maguire Marine Construction, David Orso Real Estate, Anderson Marine Construction and Level Up builders, MRA volunteers were excited to enter our parade float for the Severna Park parade: "Mills that Built the Magothy." This year's float features a representation of a sawmill, complete with a mill house and a working water wheel. The design illustrates how water was diverted to turn a wheel, which in turn powered a shaft connected to a saw blade.



Did you know that there were nine water mills around the Magothy, beginning with Beards Mill on Old Man Creek in 1698? These mills were critical for the prosperity and survival of early settlers along the Magothy River.

Breaking News!:

We're excited to share that the Magothy River Association's parade float, "Mills that Built the Magothy," won the award for Best Nonprofit! It was a wonderful day for the parade, and our MRA volunteers handed out over 500 educational placemats along the route to inspire young environmental leaders. The working water wheel and "Magu the Mill's Puppy" were big hits with the crowd.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers over the years, the Magothy River Association has won this award several times. For example, you can see one of our winning floats from 2004 celebrating our reef ball project. Our parade floats consistently reflect our ongoing efforts to preserve and protect the Magothy River and its watershed for future generations to enjoy.

MRA Summer Interns

College students Zoe Philip and Spencer Woodbury have joined the MRA as summer interns for 2025 and are already making significant contributions. Zoe and Spencer have completed mapping the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in the Berrywood section of Cattail Creek. Accomplishing this difficult work, often under challenging conditions, is a major step forward for the MRA goal to-do list. Zoe will begin the work of preparing a map from their field notes.



Zoe is currently a senior at McDaniel College majoring in Environmental Studies with a Biology specialization and minoring in Art. Zoe hopes to find a job in restoration once they graduate and their favorite fieldwork experience has been catching salamanders for a biological survey.



Spencer is currently a senior at University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC) and is studying the traditional track for engineering. He manages the radio station at UMBC and enjoys attending concerts and enjoys running. He grew up on the Magothy River and loves nature and wildlife. Spencer hopes to find a career in energy, water treatment or manufacturing.

Mid Summer Algae Observed

During the busy week of June 13th, Dr. Sally Hornor and our Summer interns, Zoe Philips and Spencer Woodbury broke from the SAV mapping project to investigate a concerning algae bloom in a remote section above the Magothy River bridge. The MRA collected a water sample and provided it to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for evaluation. The DNR Lab studied the sample provided and determined that the algae species in the sample is one that does not produce the dangerous toxins.

These greenish, cloudy and rotten egg smelling events are referred to as "pistachio tides". As reported in the Capital Gazette, John Hopkins University is working with the MRA this summer to research the bacterial blooms that occurred in Cattail and Old Man Creeks.



This bloom looked alarming to us, especially since water temperatures above 30°C can significantly impact the Magothy's water quality. Moving forward, MRA plans to enhance our monitoring activities throughout the summer. The goal of this increased effort is to develop an effective warning system that will help protect watershed residents from the toxic and deadly H₂S gas that develops in a Pistachio tide. It looks like it will be a long, hot summer, so please report anything concerning you observe to both the MRA and DNR.

To report an algal bloom or fish kill contact **(866) 633-4686**. Or you can report algal blooms on **DNR's Eyes on the Bay website**.

If You See A Bluegreen Algal Bloom:

When bathers see bright green waters, sometimes with a surface scum that resembles green paint, they are advised to take the following precautions:

- Do not swim in areas where a bloom of blue-green algae is evident;
- Do not drink/cook with suspected water. In-home treatments like boiling, chlorine bleach or water filtration units offer little protection from HAB toxins;
- If contact is unavoidable, wash off with clean water;
- If you feel unwell or skin irritation persists, see a physician or healthcare provider;
- Keep pets and livestock away from bloom areas; and
- Contact your veterinarian for sick pets.

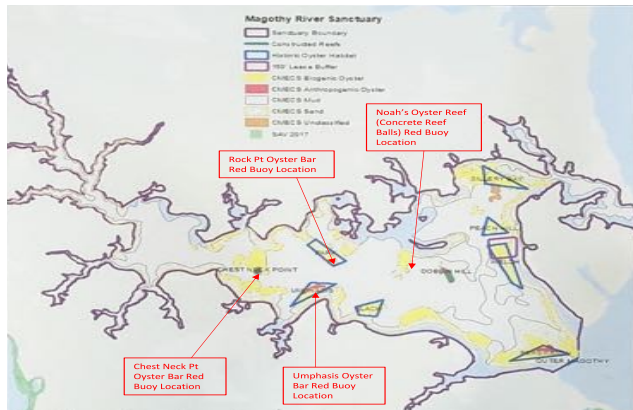
Growing Oysters & Reef Balls!



In the Spring, the MRA volunteers, in coordination with the Coastal Conservation Association, assisted the students in the environmental class at Broadneck High School in creating 75+ new reef balls. The students learned the process of assembling the forms, mixing cement and casting the reef ball forms.



The MRA has been back on the river checking oyster growth and fish habitat at Chestneck Point and Rock Point. We're happy to report that the oysters planted in the river are thriving! .



The Magothy currently has four artificial oyster reefs in the river. With the volunteer services of Mike Maguire of Maguire Marine Construction, reef balls were added to Noah's reef off Dobbins Island in June this year.

If you're interested in becoming a Magothy River oyster gardener, please contact **Brad Knopf** at **bdknopf@gmail.com**. The Magothy can benefit from every oyster we can get.

Lake Waterford Volunteer Planting



On Tuesday, June 22, volunteers from the MRA, St Martins in the Field Elementary School, and staff from Anne Arundel County Parks & Recreation gathered at Lake Waterford. The day was spent planting the newly excavated and sculpted water retention slope with native erosion controlling foliage.



Within a matter of hours, this passionate, energetic group of volunteers installed several hundred plant in the slope.



Become a MRA Member-Get Involved!

Becoming a member of the Magothy River Association is a great way to stay informed and discover opportunities for volunteering for action that fit your passion. Please consider joining this dedicated group of Magothy River lovers at whatever level of involvement that works for you.

Individual and Family membership are easy to complete, either online (<https://www.magothyriver.org/get-involved/become-a-member/individual-and-family-memberships/>) or by mail using this link to a printable application form. (<https://www.magothyriver.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/mramembershipform.pdf>)

All additional information can be found on our website or Facebook page.