



Magothy River Association

Saving our river for future generations

FALL 2025 Newsletter



MRA OYSTERS TURN 50!

The Magothy River Association is celebrating its 50th year of oyster restoration in 2025 with the addition of three million oyster spat to Rock Point reef on August 26, 2025. This year's planting of oyster young was purchased from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and delivered by their flagship the Patricia Campbell. Members of the MRA witnessed the deployment of oysters from the Magothy tall ship the Jolly Dolphin.



This is the first year that the MRA has purchased oyster spat for restoration from contributions to the MRA Oyster Fund, much of which was raised by generous contributions to the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race featuring the Jolly Dolphin. MRA plans to continue to expand and refine its oyster restoration, thanks to our members and friends.
Moving Forward.....

A TRIUMPH FOR OYSTERS



In August, the MRA received a call from Arnold resident Charles Dankmeyer with an offer well, ... you know the rest of the saying. As it turns out Charles, an avid restorer of vintage British sports cars, was preparing to take on his next winter restoration project and needed to free up space in his workshop barn. Something had to go. Charles' offer was to utilize the online auto auction website, "Bring-a-Trailer" to auction off his beautifully restored 1974 Triumph TR6 and donate the proceeds to support the MRA oyster restoration effort. Truly an offer too good to refuse.

Preparations were made and the TR6 auction went live on Thursday, September 9th. The auction closed on Tuesday, September 16th, with a winning bid of \$22,500! Needless to say, that's a lot of oysters! The resulting funds will kick the 2026 oyster restoration program into high gear and get the new year off to a winning start. The MRA, and the Magothy River residents are deeply appreciative of Charles' initiative and generosity.

Thank you Charles!



MRA ANNUAL PICNIC 2025



The annual Magothy River Association picnic was held at the Lake Waterford Park pavilion on Sunday, September 28th. The gathering drew about 40 dedicated MRA members and river fans to celebrate another year of efforts to restore and preserve the river we all cherish. Project updates were presented by Paul Spadaro and Sally Horner, highlighting the historic mills of the Magothy and the upcoming Lake Waterford dredging project. The presentations were followed by an audience discussion and Q & A session. The MRA summer interns, Zoe Philip and Spencer Woodbury, were recognized for their help on the annual circumnavigation and SAV mapping project of the Berrywood section of Cattail Creek. As a show of our appreciation, both received a \$100 Amazon gift card from the MRA.

SEINING HENDERSON POINT



In the last week of September, volunteers executed a sample seining off Henderson Point to assess the fish population present. Seining is a two person operation using a 65' net in shallow water. One end stays stationary while the other end is rotationally swept around and returned to the stationary end. This technique delivers a more consistent and repeatable seining assessment each time.

The first seine went through part of a thick bed of widgeon SAV. At this site they caught: 129 of striped killifish (37 of the killifish were big in the 6 to 5 inch range), 6 Mummichog minnows, 11 Sheepshead Minnows, 4 Silversides, 9 small sunfish and a 9 inch pickerel.



The second seine location was approximately 50 feet further down the shore, on the East side of a long rock jetty. This site had only a few clumps of widgeon SAV and more shallow water depth. The variety of fish changed significantly: Only 1 striped killifish, 15 banded killifish, 7 silversides and many more sunfish (40 total).



It is interesting that a change in habitat (or just location) makes such a difference in what is caught. There seemed to be lots of life in the water, but no juvenile white perch or juvenile striped bass were caught.

In addition to the MRA seining volunteers, the MD DNR also executes seining in the Magothy to supplement their long-standing Bay wide survey.

ANADROMOUS SPAWNING HABITATS

Anadromous fish are those that migrate up rivers from the sea to spawn. (Salt water to Fresh water) Anadromous fish species in the Bay include Striped Bass, Hickory and American Shad, Blueback Herring, Alewife, White Perch and Yellow Perch. The Fisheries Ecosystem Assessment Div. of the Maryland DNR have studied the conditions of these vital spawning habitats over the years. This research has consistently confirmed the negative effects that development has on the productivity of the fisheries. The challenges of erosion, sedimentation, thermal pollution, contaminants, road salt and nutrient discharges from sewage leaks and stormwater runoff all degrade the viability of these spawning habitats.

Magothy River: A Vital Spawning Habitat



▲ Shad Spawning Areas

Digitized mapping data by the DNR, starting in the 1970's, details the spawning habitats of anadromous fish.

This map indicates that, when compared to the Severn and South Rivers, the Magothy River continues to provide a crucial spawning area for anadromous species. Therefore, the conservation, protection, and restoration of these spawning habitats remain an important goal for the Magothy River Association (MRA) and its ongoing efforts to restore the Magothy for generations to enjoy.



BALTIMORE PARADE OF SAIL

The annual Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race kicked off this year with the traditional Parade of Sail in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. The parade took place on the evening of October 11th. Contestants cruised the inner harbor loop to the delight of the participant sailors and onshore viewers. The Magothy River Association was well represented by our very own Captain Jack Zuraw and the Jolly Dolphin.



The starter gun was fired for the actual race in Annapolis on October 14th, with 3 classes of competitors. The larger AA Class category race finished at Thimble Shoals, Norfolk, Virginia on October 19th. The Schooner Virginia won by narrowly edging out the Pride of Baltimore by a mere one minute, fifty seconds. An exciting finish to be sure. Congratulations to Captain Jack and all the participants and, as they say in sports, there's always next year!

DEEP CREEK LIGHTED BOAT PARADE



Mark your calendars. The annual Deep Creek lighted boat parade is now set for November 22, 2025. This annual event kicks off the holiday season with the participating Captains going "overboard" on decorations hoping to secure the Best-in-Show 1st place prize. The center of the event will be Donnelly's Dockside Restaurant where entertainment will be provided by a DJ as the official judges view the passing parade fleet and make their final call. All proceeds will be awarded to the winning boat and to the charity of the winner's choice.

Any Captains wishing to enter should contact Jack Bahen at 410-980-2474 **ASAP**. There is a \$35 entry fee that can be Venmo'd to **@john-bahen**. There is also a Captains planning meeting and slip auction on Thursday, November 13th, 7:00pm at Donnelly's Dockside.

FIRST HIKE 2026

Take several self-guided hikes through the Magothy Greenway Natural Area. Explore this important wetland tucked away in the heart of Lake Shore and learn the important role bogs play in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Park Ranger Nick Shearman and members of the Magothy River Association will be onsite Thursday, January 1, 2026 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.



A special thanks to Kelly Shea Morgenstern from Troop 396 of Annapolis who recently completed her Eagle Scout project at Magothy Greenway Natural Area. Kelly cut, routed, painted and installed 22 wooden wayfinding signs and posts throughout the hiking trails to help hikers and equestrians navigate through the park.



SANTA ON THE MAGOTHY



OK boaters, you better watch out, you better not cry, Santa is once again coming to the Magothy, and he knows who's been "Knotty" or Nice. On **Sunday, December 14th**, Santa will be arriving, via the capable assistance of TowBoatUS, at the Donnelly's Dockside Restaurant from 12noon to 1:00pm, and at The Point Restaurant from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. He and Mrs. Claus will be receiving kids of all ages, from 2 to 92!

VINTAGE MAGOTHY POSTERS AND BOOKS



The Magothy River Association will be celebrating it's 80th year in 2026. Part of that impressive legacy is captured in historic MRA posters from way back. These vintage posters, Magothy River Watershed maps, Water Trail Games, as well as Marianne Taylors' excellent book, "My River Speaks", are all available at the Side Street Framers and Gift stores. They have two locations; 558 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park and 8220 Ritchie Hwy., Pasadena.



Please consider these desirable holiday gifts, to give, or to put on your own holiday wish list as well. Sale proceeds go to help support the work of the MRA programs.

Informational Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJQpeSL0ZMM>



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.