

Trib Strategies Released

Over two hundred members of the Maryland Tributary Strategies teams assembled at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial stadium, in Annapolis to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Tributary Teams Program. The group winned and dined and watched Department Natural Resources Secretary Ronald Franks unveil the State's Tributary Strategy, which is a blueprint for how Marylanders will work together to preserve, restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay Estuary. Also, recognition was also given to distinguished watershed citizens. Retired Senator Bernie Fowler was given a lifetime achievement award (golden overalls) for his work on behalf of clean water. Also, the 2006 Bernie Fowler Award was given to George Wilmot of Charles County for his considerable work protecting our State's water resources. The Chesapeake Bay Trust also awarded Charlie Conklin the Annual Ellen Fraites Wagner Award. Now in a second decade, the Maryland Tributary Strategies teams continue to work on the hard problems facing our State's watersheds. Are you active in your own Tributary team.



Senator Fowler, George Wilmot, Charles County Commissioner Al Smith, DNR Secretary Franks

Patuxent Riverkeeper Mentors African Riverkeeper

With over 150 Riverkeeper internationally, it was only a matter of time before the Waterkeeper movement expanded into Africa. Waterkeepers are in Australia, England, India and South America. As of March 2006, the newest water keeper program on the planet happens to be located in Senegal, West Africa. Say hello to the Hann Baykeeper where citizen advocates are laboring to preserve the commercial fishing industry that is the life's blood of coastal villagers in this developing nation. The Hann Bay faces problems from industrial polluters, raw sewage, dumping and a regulatory system that has been ineffective in preserving water quality and resistive to change (sound familiar?) The Patuxent Riverkeeper has agreed to work with this new program in a mentoring capacity (albeit as a long distance relationship) in order to provide help and encouragement during the crucial early phases of the growth of this newest Riverkeeper program. New York based Waterkeeper Alliance staffers Marc Yaggi and Tom Byrne recently visited Senegal to view the work of watershed activists there and sent the following dispatch: "Senegal was great! Such wonderful people and a great country. They have some terrible air and water pollution, among other problems like AIDS, unemployment etc. Hann Bay is extremely polluted, with raw sewage, industrial effluent, villagers' organic waste, etc. One interesting thing with that is in the village they have no sanitation collection. So, literally every two minutes, female villagers walk down to the beach with a big bucket of food and cleaning waste on their heads. They then proceed to dump it right on the beach. It was a big step forward when our prospective Baykeeper group worked with the community to set up designated wooden ramps every 50 yards or so for them to do the dumping. Prior to that, the waste was just dumped anywhere on the beach. As I'm sure you can imagine, these folks have a big job ahead of them". In addition to sharing information with the Hann Baykeeper, the Patuxent Riverkeeper hopes to raise funds to assist a representative from the new Senegal program to attend the June 2006 Annual Waterkeeper conference which will be held in San Francisco. Patuxent Riverkeeper believes that the problems of the first and third worlds may look cosmetically different but are basically the same. Finding ways to co-exist with the earth is just as important in Maryland as it is in sub Saharan Africa. We feel we have much to share and much to learn through collaborating with global partners. Stay tuned.



Waterkeeper Alliance staffer Tom Byrne inspects a drainage pipe flowing into the Hann Bay in Senegal

Paxriverkeeper Spring Kayak Rentals !

Patuxent Riverkeeper is a few steps closer to the vision of launching a non-profit kayak outfitting venture in the Central Patuxent region. As spring arrives, so have ten new touring kayaks from the Old Towne Company. The shipment includes paddles, safety vests, spray skirts and other equipment to help us make the river more accessible to many people who have asked us for information and help getting onto the river. The Riverkeeper is also training guides and volunteers to help with safety concerns. Patuxent Riverkeeper has partnered with several other local "keeper" organizations on other tributaries to develop tour itineraries, paddle trails and other ways to show the public not only the work being done by their Riverkeepers, but also to help more people connect with our resources and find their muse on several of the Chesapeake Bay's premier tributaries. By the time summer arrives, we will have completed all the arrangements related to insurance, rental fees, guide training, tour dates and other details. Want to get onto the river? Contact us for more information!

PRAD Announces Expansion

For twenty-nine years the premier Patuxent River Festival in Southern, MD has been Patuxent River Appreciation Day, hosted by the Calvert Marine Museum. While the event has always featured demonstrations, Contests, exhibits, duck calling competitions and other slices of tidewater life, "PRAD" is now poised to enhance the annual event by hosting a Patuxent Summit. The Summit will be a true "watershed" event aimed at bringing together people, agencies, stakeholders and any parties interested in the health and future of the Patuxent; to learn what is done to protect it, to interact with policy makers and to provide input about how we all can make a difference cleaning up the river and keeping it that way. There will be workshops, seminars, plenary sessions and presentations by groups and individuals closely involved with issues and answers about the Patuxent. PRAD 2006 is schedule for Columbus Day weekend (October 5-8) Event partners involved in planning the occasion presently include. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Morgan State Estuarial Laboratory, Chesapeake Biological Lab, Calvert Marine Museum, St. Mary's College, Historical St. Mary's City, Patuxent Riverkeeper and the MD State Patuxent River Commission. More information will be available in future Riverkeeper advisories, and also on the web sites of the various participating organizations.

Mark the Date!
April 8, 2006
Pax Clean-up 2006
www.cleanpatuxent.org



Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Webster and Old Towne's "Quigley" unloading the new kayaks

Upcoming River Events:

March 31, 2006

Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor's Center
17th Annual Patuxent
Wildlife Art Show and Sale
Artists' Reception (ticketed event)
6:30 - 9:30 PM
Art Show and Sale (free to the public)
Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2
More info: 301-497-5789

March 26, 2006

Friends of Jug Bay Annual Meeting
3-5pm
Guest Speakers Janet Owens and Ed Reilly

April 8, 2006

Annual Patuxent Clean-up
Site leaders and volunteers needed!
www.cleanpatuxent.org

April 12, 2006

Patuxent River Commission Meeting
4 -6 pm
Maryland Department of Agriculture

April 15, 2006

Jefferson Patterson Park
Earth Day Celebration

April 22, 2006

Fun of the Watershed Day
Supplee Lane Recreation Area
Information: 1-800-828-6439

April 22, 2006

Maryland Native Plant Society:
Non tidal wetlands field trip
10am- noonish
Free and open to the public
More info: mmalloy@umd.edu

April 29, 2006

Patuxent Roughnecks first trip
Explore the river trails, help remove blockages
More info: 301-249-8200 ext 6



Snow melting near Piney Orchard

The “Patuxent Roughnecks”...to clean a river...somebody’s got to get dirty!

As the winter storms fade into seasonal memory and we approach the spring, it is time to survey the aftermath of the winter on our precious land and water trails along the paddling Patuxent. The Patuxent Roughnecks team is ready to plan its very first survey and planning meeting. The aim for the first meeting is to survey and plan our work for the 2006 season. The team will meet at the Queen Anne Bridge parking area on April 29, 2006 at 9am in the morning and walk upstream along the banks to survey river blockages, land trail conditions, review mapping of blockages and to discuss blockage removal priorities for the year. Come with us! Plan to get some exercise, see the sights and plan on...(you guessed it!) getting muddy/dirty! This important first meeting will help us assess the size and skills of the founding Roughnecks, list the tools and other resources needed for future trips and to plan out a tentative work trip schedule. Suggested work for the Roughnecks this year could possibly include sections of the planned Patuxent Watertrail, clearing portage sites from the paddling sections between Governor’s Bridge (Bowie) and Queen Anne (South of Bowie) and also on Piney Orchard Road (Odenton). We hope Roughnecks will become a band of skilled (and safe) workers who become knowledgeable about the land and water trails that serve the Patuxent, dedicated to camaraderie, and constructive work outdoors to retain accessibility on the river. Also, for those interested, after our hike up stream we will have chili and refreshments at the nearby home of Patuxent Riverkeeper, Fred Tutman at 18600 Queen Anne Road. Please RSVP to the Riverkeeper office if you plan to participate: 301-249-8200 ext 6.

Patuxent River Legislation 2006 Session

The following pieces of legislation are being considered in the Maryland Legislature and in our view have particular significance to the Patuxent River. Information is provided here for informational purposes and to encourage citizens to become actively involved in contacting your elected representatives and participating in the public deliberations about these potential new laws.

Healthy Air Act SB-154

Sponsor(s) Senators Pinsky, Britt, Brochin, Conway, Della, Dyson, Exum, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, Giannetti, Gladden, Green, Grosfeld, Hughes, Jones, Kelley, Lawlah, McFadden, Ruben, Stone, and Teitelbaum

Synopsis: Establishing limits on the emissions of oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide from specified facilities by specified dates; requiring the Department of the Environment to set emissions budgets; requiring the Governor to include the State in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or requiring the Department to adopt regulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from affected facilities; establishing a Maryland Carbon Reduction Fund.

Stormwater Bill (SB-625)

Sponsor: Senator Green

Synopsis: Requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt postdevelopment water quality standard regulations; requiring the Department to inspect specified development sites for compliance; authorizing the Department to test stormwater runoff and specified downstream water as part of inspections; authorizing the Department to charge a fee; and prohibiting persons engaged in specified development activities from causing or contributing to violations of specified water quality standards

Nitrogen Caps (HB-1588)

Sponsor(s) Delegates Kullen, Bohanon

Synopsis: Establishing the total maximum daily load for nitrogen within the Patuxent River Watershed as 1,200 pounds per day; altering the calculation of concentrations and weights of phosphorus and nitrogen for specified purposes; requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations that adjust the concentration and flow levels to ensure that the total daily load for nitrogen is not exceeded.



Delegate Sue Kullen and Riverkeeper Fred Tutman field questions about new Patuxent Legislation



The Patuxent Chalk Point would be one of several power plants effected by SB-154

Bay Restoration Fund (SB-379)

Sponsors Senators Dyson, Middleton, Miller

Synopsis: Requiring upgrades to enhanced nutrient removal at specified sewage treatment plants in the Patuxent River watershed on or before January 1, 2011; making the upgrade of specified sewage treatment plants in the Patuxent River watershed a priority on or before January 1, 2011; and requiring the Bay Restoration Fund to be used to pay for funding for upgrading to enhanced nutrient removal for specified upgrades to specified sewage treatment plants in the Patuxent River watershed.

Minorities in the Environment (HB-412 & SB-350)

Sponsors: Delegates Oaks, Rosenberg, Carter; Goodwin, Hammen, Madaleno, Mandel, McHale, Montgomery, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Taylor, and V. Turner

Senators Gladden, Britt, Conway, Currie, Exum, Hughes, Jones, Kelley, Lawlah, McFadden

Synopsis: Establishing a Task Force on Minority Participation in the Environmental Community; requiring the Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding methods of improving minority participation in the environmental community, methods of improving communication to minority communities, and methods of improving the flow of information and services into minority communities.

Laurel Mill/Bond Bill (HB-1621 & SB-988)

Sponsors(s) Senator Giannetti, Delegates Menes, Boschert, V. Clagett, Frush, Love, Moe

Synopsis: Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$300,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Patuxent River Commission and the Mayor and City Council of the City of Laurel for specified improvements to the Historic Laurel Mill Ruins; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds; requiring the grantee to grant and convey a specified easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds.

* For bill info and status see: <http://mlis.state.md.us/>

Patuxent Sojourn 2006:

Theme: Lost Towns of the Patuxent

Tentative schedule for this year's Sojourn

Join us for a day or for several dates. Register early! www.paxsojourn.org

Day 1: Thursday June 15, King's Landing Kick-off

Registration, car shuttle, dinner, safety briefing, concert

Day 2: Friday June 16, King's landing to Eagle Harbor (TBD) (3.5 Miles)

Breakfast, car shuttle, paddle, lunch, Wise Oak Farm, Mirant, Eagle Harbor, dinner, evening entertainment

Day 3: Saturday June 17, Eagle Harbor/Charles Co to Indian Creek (5.75 miles)

Breakfast, car shuttle, excursion TBA, camp, dinner, Riverkeeper talk

Day 4: Sunday June 18 Indian Creek to Patuxent Camp Sites (TBD) at Jack's Bay (8.25 miles)

Breakfast, car shuttle, lunch, "Terrapin Talk", storytelling, dinner, local history and archeology

Day 5: Monday June 19 Jack's Bay to Greenwell Park (7.5 miles).

Breakfast, car shuttle, lunch and tour at Sotterly, dinner, "Sprit of the Sojourn Award", legislator's meet and greet and marine archeology lecture TBA

Day 6: Tuesday June 20, Final Paddle from Greenwell to Jefferson Patterson Park (2 miles)

Breakfast, car shuttle, Jefferson Patterson lab tour, wrap up luncheon on Broomes Island