



[www.paxriverkeeper.org](http://www.paxriverkeeper.org)

June 2006

Semi-Monthly Update

Patuxent Riverkeeper

18600 Queen Anne Road, Rear Barn

Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

301-249-8200

## 20 Acre Big Box Slated For Patuxent Wetlands!

Anne Arundel County permitting authorities are reviewing plans for a major construction site in the flood plain of the Little Patuxent River. The proposed site for a new Wal-Mart is in Crofton near the intersection of Routes 3 and 450 near the border of Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties. Crofton residents have been vehement in their opposition to the proposed "Big-Box" project decrying traffic concerns, livability and environmental impact on the nearby Patuxent River as well concerns about the Wal-Mart's national reputation for predatory and non-community friendly business practices. The Crofton proposal calls for filling in current wetlands, flood plains and areas rich in green space, flora, fauna and dwindling assets in our fast urbanizing region. The slated building site is dotted with marsh ponds, water lilies, skunk cabbage and sub-tributaries of the Little Patuxent River very near the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge. The applicant proposes to create a 20-acre site, with a massive parking lot and a retaining wall by importing many tons of fill dirt to bring the grade of the lowlands up to the level of the nearby State highway. Patuxent Riverkeeper rejects this form of land use in the flood plan of the river with so many possible adverse consequences for downstream pollution. It is inappropriate to permit uses in the sensitive river corridor to this sort of high impact development. The current proposal threatens to bombard the envelope of the river with the ravages of bulldozers, concrete footings, macadam, acres of impervious surfaces, and laying ruin to a vital chink in the greenway that stretches down the Patuxent from North to South. Citizens and environmental activists are exploring a variety of ways to either redirect this project to a more suitable site or improve the environmental merits of it. Want to know more? <http://www.petitiononline.com/crftn1st/petition.html>.



*Proposed site for the new Walmart to be built in Crofton off Route 3.*

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# Spirit of the Sojourn Award

The Spirit of the Sojourn Award recognizes an individual and/or group who has dedicated significant time to the protection and restoration of the Patuxent River and its resources. This area includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties.

We are seeking requests for a single person and for a group (civic, business, school, etc) that demonstrates a commitment to improving the Patuxent River. In keeping with the spirit of the Patuxent River Sojourn, we would like the nominee to be an "unsung hero" whose behind-the-scenes kind of work has not been fully recognized. It is this kind of dedication to the Patuxent that we aim to highlight during the week of the Sojourn, June 15-20, 2006.

The Individual and Group winners will be presented with their awards and asked to share a few words at the Sojourn on Monday evening, June 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to make a nomination, please send a brief write-up (1-2 paragraphs) detailing the nominee's contribution to the Patuxent, and why they would be deserving of the award. Deadline for nominations has been extended to June 5, 2006.

For more information or to send nominations contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: 6600 York Rd, Suite 100, Baltimore MD 21212 or Fax 410 377 7144; or e-mail Kate Dowling at: [kdowling@acb-online.org](mailto:kdowling@acb-online.org).

## **2006 Patuxent Sojourn Itinerary**

**Join us for a day or for several dates.  
Register early! [www.acb-online.org](http://www.acb-online.org)**



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

Registration, car shuttle, dinner, safety briefing, Rockfish concert

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

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

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

Breakfast, car shuttle, tree planting at Eagle Harbor, tour of Mirant facilities, camp, dinner, Riverkeeper talk, owl prowl

### **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, dinner, "Spirit of the Sojourn Award", legislators meet and greet and evening entertainment

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

Breakfast, car shuttle, Jefferson Patterson lab tour

## Patuxent Roughnecks: River Gladiators get down and dirty!

The Patuxent Roughnecks is a new crew of volunteers working on special river projects to improve paddle navigation and fish passage on the Patuxent River. The crew meets periodically to remove snags and blockages that have impaired the free flowing qualities of



*Chip Walsh surveying the first of two blockages.*

the river. The first trip work trip was May 14, 2006 and others are planned throughout the year river, levels and weather permitting. Safety concerns are first, and ecological concerns are a close second. The Roughnecks try to find ways to clear blockages without negative impact to the surrounding ecology. Patuxent Riverkeeper has been working with marine biologists and others to develop practices that avoid added erosion, loss of spawning habitat, and other adverse consequences that could occur without care and prudence. Many snags in the river, while nuisances to paddlers, serve as hatcheries and habitat for marine life. Yet, stalled areas of the river have lost their vitality and

oxygenation by becoming stagnant at low water and binding the forces of the river into dead pools. Roughnecks live with the reality that working with trapped hydraulic forces, massive fallen trees and complex snags is a job for people with patience, skill and who are in good physical condition.

The first generation of Roughnecks includes a team that looks more like Gladiators than Environmentalists. A motley collection of people in bush hats, neoprene wet suits and chest waders, knee pads, PFD's, sunblock, work gloves and other items typical of a neo river warrior. Roughnecks come in all sizes, both genders, all walks of life and with many specialties. Some are SURVEYORS AND PLANNERS who are involved in surveying and researching the mapping, trails, snags, and taking the time to strategize the best and most ecologically sound and safe method of freeing up a section of the river. Others gravitate toward RIGGING. They work with ropes, chains, block and tackle and other devices to secure logs or obstructions, haul items

out of the river and provide safety team back-up for those working in boats or actually in the river. Lastly are the SAWYERS this includes people who "nip" branches from boats in the water, straddle logs, use bow saws, pry bars and other tools as well as attach rigging to obstructions.

One of the joys of being a Roughneck is finding ingenious solutions with other people who like being outdoors and on the river. Roughnecks work hard and get lots of exercise! They get to hone their reflexes, the ability to hike, climb, (swim), and use hand tools. They also get to see areas of uncanny beauty and places rarely visited by humans. Sure, Roughnecks occasionally skin knuckles, get scratched with briars and carry aches and pains into the next day. But all invariably have the satisfaction of seeing immediate results from their hard work. There is something almost magical about transforming a dark and stagnant section of river into a babbling brook once again, literally buzzing with positive ions flowing down river. Patuxent Riverkeeper is developing benefits for active Roughnecks such as training opportunities, free use of Riverkeeper kayaks, t-shirts, cookouts and more. Upcoming summer trips will feature BBQ lunches on the river a la riverside Hibachi. Stay tuned.

The next workday will be Saturday, June 10th at 10am. We will meet at the parking area of the Family Deli near the Rt 214 bridge in Upper Marlboro. For more information or to RSVP contact Lauren Webster at: 301-249-8200 x6 or Lauren@paxriverkeeper.org



*Steve using a hand saw to remove branches of a tree blocking the river.*

## Patuxent Wild and Scenic

In 2002 the Patuxent River Commission solicited the support of all seven counties that connect to the Patuxent River for a study of the Patuxent's eligibility for the National Park Service's Wild and Scenic designation. There are currently no federally-designated rivers in the state of Maryland, although the State Scenic and Wild designation sometimes causes confusion. The Federal Wild and Scenic program forecloses federal action that may degrade the significant and delineated natural resources of the river. Also, Federally designated rivers require a management plan for the river that balances the interests of the various stakeholders while protecting the resource. Stakeholders work cooperatively to implement the plan. Nearly two years ago, the Patuxent River Commission was unable to determine how to proceed with the study project without incurring the vehement opposition of those on the Commission and others who considered the initiative an attempt to "federalize" the river. Opposition stalled further review and public discussion of the pros and cons of embarking on the study process. Patuxent Riverkeeper believes the study process alone has proved its worth on countless other rivers around the country and has found no evidence of harm to farmers, landowners or anyone else on rivers that currently have this designation. At any rate, we feel the broader community of citizens who care about the Patuxent River should have a chance to learn more about the Wild and Scenic designation and decide for themselves whether to support it.



American Rivers has produced a 19-minute film entitled "Voices of the River," featuring discussions with landowners, farmers and others living and working on federally-designated rivers whose future stake in the watershed depends on having clean water, as well as individuals who recreate on the designated rivers. Patuxent Riverkeeper is hosting a screening of the film on two upcoming dates in Southern MD with an added date to be announced in the northern part of the watershed later. Screening dates: Lexington Park Branch Library, St Mary's County, on July 24, 2006 at 7pm and Prince Frederick Branch Library, Calvert County, on September 5, 2006 at 6:30pm. Extra DVD copies of the film will be available for a modest fee. For more information about this outreach initiative contact the Riverkeeper at: [info@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@paxriverkeeper.org).

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### **Tree Planting Volunteers Needed**

There are still trees in the Grow-out Station. If you or your group are interested in a tree planting we can provide the trees and find a location. The trees are ready to find a permanent home near the Patuxent River. For more information contact Lauren Webster at: 301-249-8200 x 6 or [lauren@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:lauren@paxriverkeeper.org)



## **October Patuxent Summit Planned Preservation Issues are the Focus**

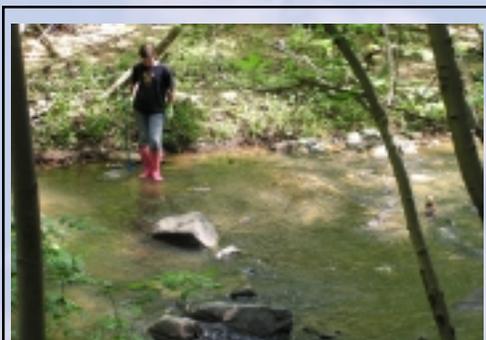
The Annual Patuxent Appreciation Day (PRAD) celebration in Solomon's Island began over 20 years ago as an event to raise awareness about the Patuxent as an annual touchstone to the need to preserve the river. The event usually includes information booth, music, food, competitions, waterfront attractions and a parade. Now, organizers of PRAD have added an additional day to the event to provide a forum for citizens, legislators, students, policymakers from the entire Patuxent River corridor to convene and explore progress, solutions and strategies to protect the health of the Patuxent. The planning team includes members of the State's Patuxent River Commission, Morgan State University's Estuarine Research Laboratory, Chesapeake Biological Labs, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Patuxent Riverkeeper and many others. "PRAD 2006" will on Columbus Day Weekend with the Patuxent Summit events on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the Calvert Marine Museum. For more information visit the Calvert Marine Museum's web site [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com); or Patuxent River Commission web site <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/info/patux.htm>.

### **River Sawyers Wanted**

Before there was electricity and before chain saws, the workhorse on the American Frontier was the two-man cross cut saw. The illustrious history of this hard working tool is closely associated with names like Abe Lincoln, and many others who felled trees and built America as we know it-- with their bare hands. Now, here is your chance to learn how to apply muscle and skill to the challenge of notching logs using this highly effective and all but forgotten art. Strong shoulders, a sense of team work and the willingness to get dirty. That's all it takes to bring back a free flowing river. Any takers?!



### **Local Group Participates in The National River Clean Up Week**



*Volunteer Aine Mangan examining a section of the Little Patuxent River during the clean*

On Saturday, May 13, 2006 a group from Howard County, lead by Sue Mangan, cleaned a section of the Little Patuxent River at the Bollman Truss Bridge in Savage, Maryland. The event was registered as a National River Clean Up Week site. The 11 volunteers worked for several hours to remove nearly 200 pounds of trash from the river, primarily bottles and cans. The find of the day was a train tire. They plan to clean other sites in the Howard County area in the late summer and early fall. Patuxent Riverkeeper will send notice of future cleanups.

## LATINO RIVER VOICES

**Editor's note:** We have found that people from many lands are among the users of our parks and natural resources but are under-represented in the citizen's movement to protect the environment. The Patuxent Riverkeeper English as a Second Language (ESOL) Program strives to teach English while discussing environmental issues and improving intercultural communication on the Patuxent River. Among the goals are to provide a useful service, and to make our preservation programs more inclusive. Silvestre Castillo immigrated to the United States about four years ago from the Dominican Republic. He and his family now live in Gaithersburg, Maryland and Silvestre has been a participant in the Patuxent Riverkeeper ESOL Program since February 2006. Following is an interview with Silvestre.

**Paxriverkeeper:** Some people think that Latinos are more prone to litter in the watershed than others. Is there any truth to this?

**Silvestre:** Yes—a little bit. The problem is the level of education. Sometimes some of the immigrants are not very educated. Also, in our countries, they don't enforce environmental laws. Often, neither the government nor the people care about not littering.

**Paxriverkeeper:** What kind of environmental sensitivity or education was in your own upbringing?

**Silvestre:** I grew up going to private school and there they taught me about not littering and about taking care of the environment. A very common saying in the Dominican Republic is, "If you want to be a real woman or man, you have to have a child, plant a tree and write a book."

**Paxriverkeeper:** If we wanted to involve more Spanish speakers in the movement to protect the environment, what are some possible ways we could do this?

**Silvestre:** (1) Increase the level of people's awareness about the environment and the consequences of not taking care of the environment. (2) Make people aware of the laws. Many Dominicans, who visit the U.S., return to the D.R. and say that they saw a sign that said "\$250 fine for littering." They are very impressed by this because it is a very strong statement. They would not litter if it were going to cost them \$250!

**Paxriverkeeper:** Are there certain messages or themes about the environment that might be especially appealing to Latinos?

**Silvestre:** There was a (TV) commercial in the Dominican Republic in the 1980's that had everybody talking. This is how it went: A bus pulls up and trash starts flying out of one of the windows. A banana peel, cups, wrappers, more and more things fly out the window until, finally, the person comes out and he is wearing a pig's mask. The commercial ends with saying, "Tenia que ser un puerco (It had to be a pig)!" After seeing that, people would call litterers "pigs". It was a very a strong insult, so people wouldn't litter because they didn't want someone to call them a pig.



*Members of the Patuxent Riverkeeper ESOL Program kayaking on the Patuxent River.*

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**Paxriverkeeper:** Is there a cultural bias against involvement in environmental causes ingrained in some Latino societies?

**Silvestre:** This is a very big question because Latin America is 23 countries, but in the Dominican Republic I don't think there is a negative tendency toward the environment. Talking about my country, the attitude is positive. The only problem is that sometimes the rules that need to be followed go against subsistence. So, sometimes campesinos (farm workers), who are very poor, cut down trees to cook their food because they cannot afford to have electricity in their homes.

**Paxriverkeeper:** In the U.S., many Spanish speaking immigrants face severe economic challenges. Do you think a person's economic status has anything to do with their willingness to work on environmental issues and concerns?

**Silvestre:** I don't think so because I am a very poor person, but I am very concerned about the environment. However, sometimes the economic level is related to the level of education—but only **SOMETIMES**, not always.

### **Riverkeeper Guided Kayak Trips**

The Patuxent Riverkeeper kayaks are on the water and rentals are available from Queen Anne to several destinations along the Patuxent Paddle Path. Moderately priced guided tours are also available. See the Riverkeeper web site under "Paddle Tours" for details. Several of the Waterkeepers in the Chesapeake Bay have agreed to partner with Patuxent Riverkeeper to provide premier tours of their watersheds by kayak so people can see first hand the attractions and the basis for the advocacy provided by Riverkeeper. Next to come on line will be tours of the West/Rhodes Rivers and also portions of the Potomac. Here is your chance to see the watershed through the eyes of the advocates who defend them!

## **Upcoming River Events**

### **Children's Day on the Farm**

June 4th 11am - 5pm  
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

### **Roughneck Work Day**

June 10th 10am Meet at Family Deli

### **River Artsfest**

June 10, 2006  
Indian Head, MD  
[www.charlescountyarts.org](http://www.charlescountyarts.org)

### **Annual Bernie Fowler Wade In**

June 11th 1pm Broome's Island

### **Pancake Breakfast**

June 11th, 8:30-11am Patuxent River 4-H  
301-390-7259

### **Patuxent River Sojourn**

June 15-20th  
King's Landing Park to Jefferson Patterson Park

### **Anacostia Trash Survey Training**

June 17th 9-11 a.m.  
Greenbelt Park, Sweetgum Picnic Area

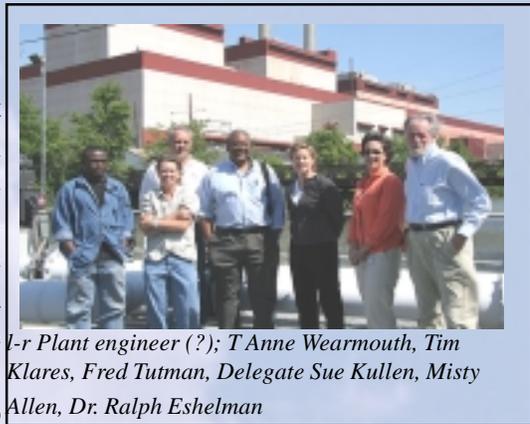
## **Riverkeeper Motor Boat Operational**

The Patuxent Riverkeeper patrol Boat fleet benefited from a generous donation of a new outboard motor from American Honda. An olive colored 16 foot Jon Boat was donated by the Chaney Foundation. The new American-Honda outboard motor is quiet, fuel efficient, and better for the environment than any other previous two-stroke model. The newly equipped Jon Boat is to be used ferrying tools and supplies for the Patuxent Roughnecks, looking for restoration sites and investigating water quality issues. Also, a 23 foot runabout in bright red also takes to the water this summer. The deep water Riverkeeper patrol boat received a newly rebuilt inboard/outboard motor donated by West Marine. The newly refurbished and tuned-up boat will have it's public debut at the June 2006 Fowler Wade-in on Broome's Island. Both boats are the only ones on the river (as far as we know) whose sole purpose is to protect water quality and advance a clean Patuxent River. Many thanks to our generous corporate donors who have helped get us on the water with safe, reliable equipment.

## Riverkeeper Tours Chalk Point Plant

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Riverkeeper Fred Tutman and several others including Calvert County Delegate Sue Kullen and Board member Dr. Ralph Eshelman recently toured the Mirant-owned power plant on the Patuxent River at Chalk Point. The plant was built in 1964 and is the largest capacity electricity generator power plant in the state of Maryland. Reports by the Baltimore Sun recently pointed to a 36% increase in air pollution from Chalk Point over the past three years with no State imposed penalties or notice of violations. Under the Healthy Air Act, the Mirant Corporation has plans to install 1.5 billion dollars of pollution control equipment at its three Maryland Power plants. Meanwhile Patuxent Riverkeeper has received persistent reports of “fish kills” associated with the plant. Scientific advisors to Patuxent Riverkeeper have suggested that the canal used to cool waters emerging from the plant and return them to the river channel may be less effective in the summer months when seasonal heat makes the canal less efficient. Higher water temperatures result in less oxygen in the water which could potentially cause fish to die. Patuxent Riverkeeper is seeking volunteers to help create a monitoring log this summer of water temperatures and other indicators from the outflow of the cooling canal at Chalk Point. Riverkeeper will provide the equipment. Interested parties may contact: fred@paxriverkeeper.



Patuxent River Plant engineer (?); T Anne Wearmouth, Tim Klares, Fred Tutman, Delegate Sue Kullen, Misty Allen, Dr. Ralph Eshelman

## Patuxent and Legislation 2006 Maryland General Assembly Outcomes

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**Stormwater Management:** *SB-688 stalled in Senate Committee.*

Attempts to get better regulatory approaches to Stormwater Management faced stiff opposition from the homebuilders lobby, highway builders, and from municipal interests the opponents to tighter regulation of stormwater and sediment during the session seemed to be the industries and interests in the business of creating impervious surfaces (highways) and the home building industries. SB-688 was hotly debated in the Senate. This legislation was a homage to every concerned citizen that has ever complained about construction sediment clogging up the waterways, only to be told by authorities that the permittee is in compliance and that nothing can be done. SB-688 was a blow against complacency and institutionalized pollution. While several legislators acknowledged that there are real problems with the way the state regulators deal with stormwater, some were stymied by the possible compromises of actually going after the root problems (construction impacts of growth), or at least reluctant to take steps that might alienate the powerful interests that are completely happy with the status quo. It is now clear to the backers of this crucial legislation, that the entire vocabulary of stormwater management really needs to be changed. As long as we continue to discuss the solutions in terms of more silt fencing and funding for added inspectors, we will overlook the fundamental environmental design problems which plague Maryland waterways with growing levels of silt and pollution, while driving the costs of restoration of the Bay to increasingly unattainable levels. We just will never have enough money to clean up the Bay as long as we allow our society to spend billions to pollute the waters. The unsung by-product of the MD stormwater practices is that our technological approach assists builders to put maximum housing density in sensitive areas where siltation, erosion and other problems are to be expected more often than not. Plausible testimony was produced that other States have adopted alternate ways of regulating this problem and have made great strides. New Jersey in particular is actually attaining great results by linking Stormwater management to their water quality standards. We need to do likewise. We need to regulate mandatory design practices aimed at preventing storm water problems rather than controlling them after the fact.

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The movement to bring a better performance ethic to this area of endeavor owes much to retiring Senator Leo Green, whose sponsorship of this legislation two years in a row has been courageous, and in the best traditions of environmental stewardship. Patuxent Riverkeeper and the coalition of supporters for Stormwater regulations that actually protect water quality commend Senator Green for his years of service and extend best wishes to him for a long and happy retirement.

**Patuxent Legislation:** HB-1588/SB-379 Passed with amendments

First the bad news. There is no Easter Bunny, Santa Claus is only a folk tale and ..oh yeah, the so-called flush fee will not clean up the Bay. It's a fact. The Bay Restoration Fund will take the edge off but the technological limits on Nitrogen and so called state-of-the-art are insufficient to restore the Bay or its tributaries, This is especially true if the newly upgraded plants greatly increase their discharge volume into our waterways due to increased capacity, population growth and other factors. The solution to the problem of cleaning up the Patuxent and the Chesapeake Bay is to both upgrade the plants but to be aggressive in other ways to reduce the burdening of our waterways with nutrients. The Good News: We know how to clean it up! The Patuxent River was substantially improved during the 1970's and 1980's as a result of historical lawsuits that were filed by three southern MD counties to regulate water treatment plants. By most reckoning those gains were subsumed in the 1990's by increased growth in the watershed. The point here is that the Patuxent has some experience with these matters. Lesson #1 is that being proactive works. Lesson #2 is that watershed can be brought back and is resilient in spite of the gloomy forecasts of some. Advocates for a clean Patuxent River sought to get the State to live up to its promises from 30 years ago in the wake of those lawsuits.

While some were shouting that the Patuxent was trying to jump its place in line, others were pointing out that the Patuxent was already in line well before the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, Critical Areas Legislation, and way before the Flush Fee. Proponents sought what was already promised, not some special privileges. There were two Patuxent Bills, and ironically both passed after first being heavily amended and diluted and then being merged together. The Senate Bill originally sought to get accelerated upgrades on the Patuxent for ALL its wastewater plants and not just the 6 major ones slated in the first round of the Flush Fee program. The bill that passed still only allows the Patuxent to get further consideration only after the current flush-fee schedule has been met and only then if funds are available to do so. The House Bill sought to actually set a cap on nitrogen for wastewater plants in particular. The rationale behind this bill was that simply getting plants their design capacity is insufficient to restore the Patuxent—it would undoubtedly make things better—but still fall way short of the restoration goals we have always been promised. Setting regulatory caps would be consistent with Federal Clean Water Act goals for impaired waterways and would set a much more aggressive track for cleaning up the Patuxent far and beyond what the public and the legislators are readily prepared to concede through the modest adjustments to their local tax bills enacted by the flush fee.

So in the end it was politically expedient to pass the Patuxent bills, but the bills as written do little or nothing to avert the collision course we are on with declining water quality. Legislative and public supporters of the aim of living up to our best intentions (instead of just good enough) have vowed to try again in future legislative sessions. As Senator Bernie Fowler and others before him have said, never give up!

## Meet the Patuxent Riverkeeper Board of Directors

### **Mr. Mike Tolker**

Mike has worked as an interpretive naturalist in the outdoor education program of the St. Mary's County Public Schools and guided field trips for several local agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. He was a counselor with the U.S. Youth Conservation Corp involved in several environmental restoration and management projects, and later directed similar projects with citizens for the Anacostia River Restoration Project. Mike's conservation work also includes participating in biological monitoring programs, constructing and advancing alternative technology housing and establishing the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association and MD state certification of organic farms.



### **Ms. Lee Paul**

Lee is the academic coordinator at the Kingsley Wilderness Project, an alternative high school in Montgomery County, MD, offering a strong hands-on environmental curriculum for at-risk students. Prior to her teaching career, Lee farmed a 43-acre plot bordering the upper Patuxent River, co-managed a small commercial winery and ran a pick your own/truck farming business. She served on the boards of the Montgomery County Farm Women's Market and the Red Wiggler Foundation; a non-profit organization that provides meaningful employment for mentally-challenged adults. Her life mission is to encourage others to dig in the dirt and play in the water!



### **Mr. Vincent O. Leggett**

Mr. Leggett is employed as a Special Projects Coordinator in the Office of Education, Bay Policy and Growth Management, at the Maryland DNR. In 1984, he founded Blacks of the Chesapeake Project; and in 1999, became the president of Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation (BOC), a nonprofit historical, cultural, and environmental education organization. Mr. Leggett helped establish the Chesapeake Bay Ecology Center, created to carry out a key component of BOC's mission to develop hands-on learning opportunities and create programs to restore and conserve our environment, particularly the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In 2003, the Governor of Maryland commissioned Mr. Leggett an honorary, "Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay," the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a private citizen in the environmental field. Mr. Leggett has also developed a school curriculum entitled, "Exploring the Chesapeake Bay Through Ebony Eyes," which is being used in several area school systems. Mr. Leggett also authored several books.



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**Mr. Richard Dolesh**



Richard Dolesh has worked with parks, resource conservation and natural resources for nearly all of his professional life. Most of his experience in these areas has been on the Patuxent River. He is currently a Senior Policy Associate with the National Recreation and Park Association, previously was Director of Forest, Wildlife, and Heritage Service for Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and before that, Richard was Chief of Natural and Historical Resources for Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). He is the author of a number of articles in the Parks and Recreation Magazine and other publications relating to parks and conservation.

**Dr. Ralph Eshelman PhD**



Ralph is the owner and CEO of Eshelman & Associates, a cultural resource management and museum consultation company. He was the founding director of AAM accredited (1981) Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland, a local government sponsored museum. Ralph was responsible for numerous aspects of the museum's operations including administration and exhibit development. Through the museum Ralph worked closely with local government, museum board of governors, the public and a large contingency of volunteers. Dr. Eshelman is considered a

leading authority in the history and paleontology of the Patuxent River and he has written numerous books, articles and treatises in this field. He holds a number of honorary title and awards and has served in numerous boards and panels.

**Riverkeeper Daybook**



sea duck eggs



Patuxent tidal marsh



Water Lilly in Crofton



Eastern shore tidal marshes



Sleepy turtle



Jug Bay

## **Patuxent Riverkeeper's Plan for Protecting the Patuxent River**

After nearly two years in operation, the Patuxent Riverkeeper organization has emerged as a viable watershed protection organization thanks to the hard work of our members and volunteers. Any new group finds themselves at a decision point in this work. One road leads solely to raising awareness about problems without actually challenging the status quo. But an alternate route leads towards actually attacking and doing something lasting about longstanding problems. One is very easy and the other extremely difficult. So many have promised so much, for so long, that many people who care about our river have become cynical and lost hope that anything can be done. Why do we need another the group working on the same old problems? The Patuxent Riverkeeper tries to bring new blood and fresh ideas to the fray. Our aims:

1. Establish a vigorous method of classifying and pursuing meaningful citizen's complaints in order to improve the level of diligence and the enforcement of existing water quality regulations.
2. Establish a credible, viable and well known watershed protection organization that openly conducts advocacy and is a trusted spokesperson for the entire river system.
3. Assert a watchful presence over the river as a firsthand advocate. Patrol the river and create a network of citizen's informants and partner with other groups with compatible aims. Use boats, planes, or on foot to become familiar with the waterway, and understand its problems.
4. Build an influential line of communication to the river's opinion leaders, movers and shakers, legislators and others who define or influence public policy for the river.
5. Launch projects, secure funding and other in kind resources in order to restore and improve the river.
6. Direct the greater share of our resources into advocacy work for the river and avoid becoming top heavy with staffing, or infrastructure that diverts from our core mission.
7. Work systematically on strategic campaigns, issues and projects aimed at bringing about significant improvements to the health of the river.
8. Advocate for stricter standards, preservation and other avenues of protecting, acknowledging and championing those assets worth saving about the river.

You may support these aims by donating funds, resources or volunteer time to the Patuxent Riverkeeper.

### **Join & Support Patuxent RIVERKEEPER**

(membership application)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \$35

Student \$25

Booster \$100

Sustainer \$500

Patuxent Riverkeeper; 18600 Queen Anne Road; Rear Barn  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774      301-249-8200