



NEWS

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CCA MD Chapter Looks for Oyster Growing Leaders

Being accepted as a partner in the Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) program, the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland's Patuxent River Chapter is now seeking waterfront property owners to become leaders in growing oysters in their creek.

The chapter plans to plant approximately 1.5 million spat on shell in cages this summer in tributaries to the Patuxent River with materials provided by the MGO project and an earlier grant from The Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion Resources. MGO was initiated by Governor Martin O'Malley and is administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

"Our biggest need now is to find a 'creek captain' who will lead efforts in his or her creek," said Scott McGuire, chapter president. "We are especially looking for people who live on St. Leonard Creek in Calvert County but also would like to work in Battle, Kingston, Town, Lewis, and Cuckold Creeks.

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In the CCA MD approach to oyster gardening, a creek captain works closely with the chapter oyster committee to recruit growers in the creek, coordinate obtaining materials, placing spat at homeowner piers, and assisting growers in other needs.

“Last year we established procedures for planting oysters in Hellen Creek (Calvert County) and St. Thomas Creek (St. Mary’s County) for creek captains to follow, and the chapter will work with these individuals to assure they are successful. But they are key to making local projects successful.”

The chapter last year planted more than 64,000 oysters in St. Thomas and Hellen Creeks.

People interested in becoming creek captains and growing oysters should contact McGuire at smcguire@gmail.com or 301-752-3623.