

EYC Environmental Committee
2023 Annual Report
Chairs: Virginia Tippie & John Butler

In 2023, the Environmental Committee continued to make progress on our various initiatives: Clean Regattas; Green Club - Waste Management & Energy Sustainability; Water Quality Monitoring; Oyster Restoration Efforts; Environmental Education; and Special Events/Community Outreach.

Clean Regattas

Over the 2023 racing season, we registered all our major regattas and our Friday night race series with Sailors for the Sea. During the first week of May, the Environmental Committee worked closely with the Santa Maria Cup Committee to help make this major (“Grade 1”) international women’s match racing regatta a model “clean regatta” event at the “platinum level.” Throughout the event, the organizers, club staff, and regatta participants (sailors, race committee, umpires, and spectators) all helped maintain consistent use of the 20 “best practices” recognized by the international Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Program on the water and at the on-shore events. Subsequent major clean regattas at the gold level include: One Design Classic 6/17, Maryland Cures Cancer 6/24, Boomerang Race 7/8-7/9, and the Friday Night Beer Can Series. We also recognized CRAB Cup on 8/19, when we presented our 2022 EYC Clean Regatta Award to CRAB for their commitment to achieving gold or platinum level certification every year since 2016. It is anticipated that this year’s CRAB regatta will be certified at the platinum level.



Green Club

Waste Management: Last year the Green Team formed a committee to study the feasibility of composting on a full-time basis. It was quickly determined that the most effective strategy is to focus on the food scraps from the kitchen, as opposed to trying to manage composting receptacles in the common areas. With the assistance of EYC Management and Annapolis Composting we were able to do a trial run in the kitchen beginning July 1. The trial run worked well, and we are now continuing to compost food scraps.

Energy Efficiency: The Environmental Committee has an Energy Efficiency Working Group that identifies and supports projects that reduce the Club's energy usage footprint. The Energy Efficiency Working Group supported the following projects:

- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. The Environmental Committee formally endorsed and supports a project to install two Electric Vehicle charging stations in the Club parking lot. The Club can obtain rebates from its electric utility, BG&E, for installing this equipment. The Working Group arranged site visits from electrical contractors and the Club has received estimates from three contractors for the Board to consider.
- Refrigeration Equipment and Lighting. The Working Group arranged site visits by electrical contractors under a BGE energy efficiency rebate program which resulted in the Club purchasing new high efficiency equipment for its walk-in refrigerators.

Water Quality Monitoring

This year had been a busy and successful year for the water quality monitoring team. The Green Team volunteers are continuing to perform water quality monitoring within the EYC marina, as well as at the Severn River oyster reef. Volunteers have been trained to utilize a Secchi disk and YSI Meter to test and document trends in water clarity, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and pH level. The water quality monitoring is typically performed on "A" dock adjacent to the living wave wall containing the Green Team's managed oyster shelves. Periodic water quality monitoring is also performed at the Severn River oyster reef which is located between Route 50 and Naval bridge. The monitoring is typically performed on a weekly basis and during unusual weather events.

The Green Team water quality volunteers are also working with the Jr. Fleet Sailing Program to educate kids on the importance of the bay's water quality and how to limit human impact on the bay's ecosystem. This summer the Green Team volunteers engaged the kids in the use of the water quality equipment and proper documentation of the collected data. Additionally, the Green Team ambassadors educate the kids on how water quality directly affects oyster and crab production. The collected water quality data is entered onto spreadsheets and graphs to better evaluate trends in water quality and to study the effectiveness of the living wave wall within the marina. All the data is shared with partners performing water quality studies in the area.



Oyster Restoration Efforts

Our oyster initiatives continued with oyster cages under the docks and our living oyster wave wall.

Oyster Gardening: On July 5, with the help of our Junior Sailors, we took the young oysters growing in our marina out of their cages and placed them on the Severn River reef. This effort to restore the bay's oysters is part of the Marylanders Grow Oysters Program. On October 10, we began the cycle again when we filled 40 clean cages with spat-covered shells and placed the cages under A and B docks. Volunteers will help us nurse the spat and dunk the cages to clean the baby oysters through the next several months until they are big enough to be placed on the Severn River reef next summer.

The club also continues to host a Chesapeake Bay Foundation oyster shell recycling center on the property. The recycled shells are used for oyster gardening efforts.



Oyster Wave Wall: Over the summer, our special concrete wave wall triangles were placed in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation vats that contained oyster larvae. The floating larvae then set on hard substrates like oyster shells and concrete triangles forming oyster spat. On August 28, once the spat was set the EYC triangles were placed on the marina shelving by our volunteer divers, noting available space for future triangles. At the same time, volunteers recorded the location of older triangles. As the oysters grow, their job is to attenuate the waves at the marina and clean the water.




Environmental Education

We are fortunate in Annapolis to be at the heart of many of the state and regional activities focused on environmental restoration and protection and natural resource management, and particularly as related to Chesapeake Bay. In addition, several EYC members of our “Green Team” have had careers in environmental science, engineering, management, and policy which have kept us in good contact with working professionals. This allows us to maintain a very full and active program of monthly lectures from local and regional environmental thought leaders, public servants, community organizers, and experts. These lectures are typically offered in the evening on the fourth Wednesday of non-summer months in-person and by Zoom “webinar” and “Facebook-Live” posting. These lectures provide a valuable service to our members, help bring members to the club’s dining and bar facilities, provide a major community and regional service, and enhance the club’s reputation as a local leader in environmental stewardship. In December of 2022 and January through November of 2023, we organized seven evening panel discussions lecture events, each of which featured engaging and highly qualified speakers. Each event was enjoyed by several dozen (20 to 50) members and guests “on site” at the club while also providing service to similar numbers of virtual attendees. Virtual attendees were of roughly similar numbers and included a combination of members and non-members.

Date	Flyer	Description
December 2		<p>Kandis Boyd (then Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office), Sean Corson (then Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office), Ann Swanson (then Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission), Virginia Tippie (first Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Office):</p> <p>“Chesapeake Bay Holiday Celebration”; panel discussion of the past, present and future of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership</p>

Date	Flyer	Description
January 25		<p>Hillary Harp Falk (President & CEO, Chesapeake Bay Foundation):</p> <p>“Facing Our Unfinished Challenge to Save and Keep Saved the Chesapeake Bay”</p>
February 22		<p>Bill Ball (EYC Green Team Member and former Executive Director, Chesapeake Research Consortium):</p> <p>“Chesapeake Bay Blues, Greens, and Goofs: Protecting Water Quality in the Face of Climate Change”</p>
March 22		<p>Kate Fritz (CEO, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay):</p> <p>“The Importance of Community Involvement in Chesapeake Bay Restoration: Acting Locally on Regional Issues”</p>
April 19		<p>Matt Rutherford and Nicole Trenholm (President and Vice President, respectively; Ocean Research Project):</p> <p>“Launching Annapolis’s Polar Exploration Flagship, a Decadal Mission to Address a Warming Arctic, and Scientific Highlights from the Maiden Voyage”</p>
Sept 27		<p>Eddie Gonzales (Director, Partnerships and Grants, National Park Service Chesapeake Office):</p> <p>“The National Park Service and Chesapeake Gateways Program: 25 Years of Support and the Opportunities that Lie Ahead”</p>

Date	Flyer	Description
Oct 18		Melissa Boyd Acuti (Park Ranger and Chief of Interpretation for Maryland Park Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources): "The Saw-Whet Owls of Maryland"

For additional information on the lecture series go to the EYC Environmental Stewardship website at:
<https://www.eastportyc.org/about/environment>

Special Events and Community Outreach

The Environmental Committee organized several "club-wide" events in collaboration with other committees and other local non-profit organizations.



- On **Saturday April 22, 2023**, the Environmental Committee teamed up with the House Committee and Family Committee to sponsor a major all-EYC event on the back lawn and first floor of the Club - **Earth Day 2023: Celebrating the Earth and the Bay through Art**. The event included: local folk, jazz and instrumental musicians on stage; kid-friendly arts & crafts stations; a display of art work, photographs, and crafts by EYC members; an Art Gallery & Sales area; a Silent Auction; environmental exhibits/displays; oysters on the half shell; and club food & drink specials. Net proceeds from the event, which came primarily from the Silent Auction, amount to over \$700 after paying for the costs of the event. These proceeds were all given to the EYC Foundation for use toward STEM education activities and bay stewardship efforts.

- On **Thursday, June 8**, we celebrated World Oceans Day with a showing of the film "My Octopus Teacher" followed by discussion. This Award-winning film is the inspiring true story of a filmmaker who forges an unusual friendship with an octopus living in a South African kelp forest. An interesting discussion among EYC club members who'd had personal encounters with sea creatures followed the film.

- In August, we were disappointed that City of Annapolis safety concerns (relating to the Truxton Park ramp and dock facilities) prevented our co-sponsorship of the annual "Kids on the Creek" event. In this event, EYC traditionally provides a flotilla of boats and volunteers to take under-privileged Annapolis children out for free boats rides to learn about the bay. We are hopeful that this wonderful community outreach event can be held in 2024.



- On October 14th, the committee worked with the Special Events Committee to register the "2023 Party in the Port -Boat Show Edition" with Sailors for the Sea. This major event used 100% compostable materials and guests were encouraged to leave their single-use plastic and aluminum cans at the entrance door waste bins.



- During the holiday season, the Environmental Committee traditionally hosts a special holiday event. Last December our special event was a Celebration of the Chesapeake Bay with federal and state leaders highlighting the progress in the bay since the signing of the first 1983 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. This year we will celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of the bay on, Wednesday, December 6, with a presentation of Chesapeake Wildlife Photography by Bay Naturalist and EYC member Jack Turner. Bay Photography taken by Jack Turner and other EYC members will be on display and available for sale.



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.