

# The Dredging *link*



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## State of Maryland Dredging Outreach Newsletter

### MPA's Celebration of Earth Day

With the abandoned industrial buildings behind them and a clear view of the Francis Scott Key Bridge before them, it was the perfect spring day for the 14 Maryland Port Administration (MPA) employees who volunteered to plant 240 native trees at the Port's Cox Creek dredged material containment facility on Friday, April 20th. Although the Port will receive necessary mitigation credit for the planting, the event was organized to coincide with the celebration of Earth Day. Approved leave was granted to the employees from various departments who volunteered for four hours of labor and fun in the sun.

Trees were originally planted by a contractor at Hawkins Point dredged material disposal facility three years ago to mitigate for the dike construction at Cox Creek, located in Anne Arundel County along the Patapsco River. However, the heavy deer population in the area destroyed most of the trees. The species planted at Cox Creek include black cherry, red cedar, sweet gum, American persimmons, and blackhaw. They were chosen because they are food trees that attract wildlife.

Prior to the event, the site operators, Maryland Environmental Service (MES)

made arrangements to loosen the ground. MES will now be responsible for the monitoring and maintaining the area where the trees were planted.

This is the second tree planting activity made available for employee participation. The first was done in October 2006 at Swan Creek the wetlands area adjacent to Cox Creek. At that event, 114 native trees were planted. According to Brendan Ghrist of MES, only 1-2% of the trees planted last year were lost.

Gina Watson, who volunteered from the Office of Security, expressed her enjoyment in participating and would love the opportunity to do it again. "The event enhances the employee's knowledge about the facility and we can now appreciate the hard work the site operators (MES) do in maintaining it."



Amber Hart, Gina Watson, Joe Ford, and Marty Liiv prepare to plant trees.

### Innovative Reuse Committee Completes First Phase of Study



A coal mine in Western Maryland

Recycling of dredged material into innovative new uses recently took a big step forward. The Innovative Reuse Committee (IRC), appointed by Maryland Port Administration (MPA) to make

recommendations on how the state can incorporate recycling Baltimore Harbor dredged material into its long term management plan, made its report to the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Executive Committee on May 3rd.

Over the course of a year, the IRC studied a dozen options and concluded that Maryland has many opportunities to reuse at least a portion of the material it annually dredges from the harbor's channels. Options include reclamation of abandoned sand and gravel pits as well as coal mines, capping of brownfields and landfills, combining with organic material to make topsoil, using it as an ingredient in construction materials such as cement and flowable fill. The IRC discovered that technologies for all these uses have been tested and found to be workable.

The IRC recommends to MPA that the state move forward to implement one or more demonstration projects.

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## Innovative Reuse Committee Completes First Phase of Study

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The committee also recommends that further investigations be conducted to find specific locations where there is a large capacity to accommodate dredged material over a long period of time. Additionally, the question of contamination of harbor sediments needs to be explored, because evidence suggests that only a small portion of maintenance material from the harbor is actually contaminated. The IRC recommends that the state review its data and if appropriate revise its policies regarding the handling of harbor material. New Jersey's program for placement of dredged material has been suggested as a possible model for Maryland.

While costs for recycling dredged material continue to be higher than traditional methods, the IRC believes that over time the costs will become more competitive.

The meeting summaries can be accessed at [www.mpasafepassage.com](http://www.mpasafepassage.com). Copies of the IRC report and the appendices are available upon request by writing to [mpasafepassage@marylandports.com](mailto:mpasafepassage@marylandports.com) or calling 410-631-1106.

We're On The Web!

[www.mpasafepassage.com](http://www.mpasafepassage.com)

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## McKee leaves Baltimore District after 29 Years

On April 19th, the Port of Baltimore community gathered to say farewell to a long-time supporter, Jeffrey A. McKee of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. After 29 years with the Baltimore District, Jeff has accepted a position in the Navigation Branch at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, DC. A luncheon was held in his honor at the Sparrows Point County Club with more than 90 colleagues and friends in attendance.

Although soft spoken, Jeff's reputation for being honest and straightforward rang out as the common theme among those making presentations and

remarks at the luncheon. His professional accomplishments include the successful completion of the Brewerton, Tolchester, Harbor Channel and Anchorages projects, development of the South Cell at Hart-Miller Island and the construction of the Poplar Island Restoration project.



Jeff McKee (right) with former District Engineer John P. O'Hagan, Joan McKee (wife), and Frank Hamons of Maryland Port Administration.

## Farewell to Chrissy Albanese

Chrissy Albanese, the tour coordinator stationed at Poplar Island, is saying farewell to Maryland and moving to Oyster Bay, New York. Chrissy has served as the dedicated tour coordinator and guide for the dredged material project sites (Poplar Island and Hart-Miller Island) since February 2003. During that time, she has scheduled and conducted hundreds of tours, and presented before thousands both on and off site. She was instrumental in developing, coordinating and implementing the terrapin release partnership between the University of Ohio and Arlington Echo (Anne Arundel county school outdoor environmental education center), and creating a curriculum for grades nine—12 with a focus on students having a meaningful outdoor field experience at Poplar Island. She also contributed to the Port of Baltimore's education outreach effort.

In her new position as Director of Education and Citizens Science for the Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary, she will oversee four to six educators, conduct programs in natural history, conservation, birding and live raptors, increase volunteer stewardship, and develop partnerships with other environmental education organizations. We wish Chrissy all the best as she charts new territory.

In the interim, the seasonal educator Robin Batheller, will continue to coordinate and conduct tours at Poplar.

For tour information email [poplartours@earthlink.net](mailto:poplartours@earthlink.net) or call (410) 770-6503.



Chrissy Albanese explains development of Poplar Island Restoration Project to a visitor at an environmental fair.