



Growing oysters for a cleaner Bay

Fall 2020

<http://www.oystergardener.org/>

Note to all Oyster Gardeners

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, TOGA will not conduct nor participate in public gatherings in the fall of 2020. The float sale described below will be conducted with minimal person-to-person contact, social distancing and mask wearing. We will update our event schedule in the Winter 2020 Newsletter. Thanks for your cooperation. The TOGA Board.

**TOGA Oyster Float Sales
Williams Wharf Landing
1039 Williams Wharf Road
Mathews VA 23109
Saturday, October 3, 2020
9am – 12pm**

The Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association (TOGA) will hold the Fall Oyster Float Sales Event at Williams Wharf Landing in Mathews County, VA. Located just south of the historic Mathews Court House on the East river, with its own history of oyster operations, historic boatyard and steamboat landings, this facility proved to be an excellent venue for our 2019 event in both attendance and sales.

NOTE - although this is an outside facility, we ask that all participants wear masks and socially distance out of respect for other attendees. In order to keep the crowd thin, we also ask that you come at the following times according to the first letter in your last name: A-G, 9-10AM; H-N, 10-11AM; O-Z 11AM-12PM. If this is an inconvenience, then come when you can.

Numerous types and sizes of oyster floats, accessories, and supplies will be available along with outside vendors to sell “spat” (young oysters). This event is one of TOGA’s primary fundraising activities with all proceeds benefiting TOGA 501 (C) 3 charity and the TOGA/VIMS Student Endowment.

Spat providers are invited to attend. A list of known spat providers with contact information is included below. You are encouraged to contact them individually to determine spat availability and when and where you can purchase them.

Please use the Registration Form located at the end of this Newsletter or our website www.oystergardener.org to place your order for floats. Please order as soon as possible. Remember that the floats are being built by a few Board members working at home without some of the power equipment we normally use.

We may not be able to fill orders received after September 19. You may submit this form to P O Box 2463, Gloucester VA 23061 or by email to vicspain@rocketmail.com or bandbingram@gmail.com.

We hope you can join us at Williams Wharf Landing in October.

-Brian Ingram, MOG

Spat Providers

Oystermama's Bay-bies (Diploids and Triploids), Mathews, VA
Justine Kendrick and Judy Ambrose
oystermamasbaybies@yahoo.com
804-725-855, 804-725-8556

Keith Rodgers

Bay Watch Oyster Seeds, LLC.
PO Box 535, 271 Bay Watch Lane
Reedville, Va. 22539
804-453-4367
baywatchoysterseeds.com
baywatchoysterseeds@nnwifi.com
baywatchoysterseeds@gmail.com

Darryl Krolicki

Oyster Gardening, LLC
Captain Tom's Oyster Floats
www.oystergardening.com
darryl@oystergardening.com
804-580-5021 (business)
703-850-7147 (cell)

Matt McShane

Great Wicomico Oyster Company
jmmcshane@verizon.net
oysterwoman193@gmail.com
<https://www.greatwicomicooyster.com/>

Lynton Land (Diploids Only)
125 Airstrip Lane, Ophelia, VA
ls1@vabayblues.org
804-453-6605

Mike Lightfoot (Triploids Only)
1152 Wilton Rd, Hague, VA
703-919-2723
jacksoncreek1152@gmail.com

Keith Rodgers

Baywatch Oyster Seeds LLC (Triploids Only)
PO Box 535, Reedville, VA
baywatchoysterseeds@nnwifi.com
804-453-4367

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Company LLC

PO Box 96, Wake, VA 23176
804-776-0220, 804-338-6530
sales@bayoyster.com
<http://bayoyster.mybigcommerce.com>

Madison Boyd Tribute

TOGA lost a visionary leader and tireless volunteer when cancer took 85-year old Madison Boyd on April, 12, 2020. A big man



who spoke softly and carried himself with quiet dignity, Madison strove to instill positive values in young people and children. After running a general contracting business in the Washington, DC metropolitan area for forty years, he still identified himself as an avid waterman and fisherman with a passion for the rivers and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. He was a Master Oyster Gardener well versed in marine ecology.

It was Madison's vision, persistence and concern for the needs of young people that led to the creation of TOGA's demonstration oyster garden at Camp Kekoka on Pittman's Cove.

For five years, he served as the de facto project



manager and champion of this challenging effort, leading other TOGA volunteers, college students, camp counselor trainees, school kids and whoever showed up for his work details in building a unique educational and experimental environment. Madison actively supported many other community service endeavors as well. These include:

Founding and leading the 2nd Chance Ministry when he felt compelled to intervene in the "school-to-prison" pipeline. His personal guidance helped troubled youth become productive.

Supporting NAACP activities.

Teaching Sunday School, managing the church softball team, leading Bible Study and cooking for everyone.

Starting the Boys and Girls Club "Oyster Club" mentoring program.

Tutoring fourth grade math.

Supporting the River Road Food Pantry.

Supporting the annual Belle Isle "Think Outside the Sink" annual field trips for middle schoolers.

Lest his legacy be forgotten, Nick Ferriter and Klaus Boese, two of Madison's closest cohorts on the Camp Kekoka project, are anxious to see the torch passed to a younger generation of TOGA volunteers. Longtime TOGA stalwart Ken Hammond is leading an effort to replace the Pittman's Cove dock and upgrade adjacent physical



facilities to allow better access to a wide variety of oyster-gardening techniques, including experimental approaches.

Madison Boyd will be sorely missed, but his influence on TOGA will continue to resonate with our outreach efforts to instill environmental stewardship in children and young people.

-Mike Sanders, MOG

Results of Float Sale June 2020

Thanks to all who participated in our virtual float sale in June. As you probably know, the pandemic prevented our regular routine of float workdays and gathering at the Deltaville Maritime Museum for the float workshop.

We hope everyone had a chance to get the equipment you needed from TOGA and were also able to track down the spat to go with your cages.

Altogether we delivered 57 cages to oyster gardeners by meeting them at various parking lots on the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Peninsula. To be safe, Brian

Ingram, Carl Zulick, Ken Hamilton, Doug Schaefer, Ken Paugh and Vic Spain built the cages at home. Not as much fun as the workdays we normally have, but we still enjoyed meeting many oyster gardeners.

The sale will allow us to make a substantial contribution to the TOGA/VIMS Student Endowment.

-Vic Spain, MOG

The 2020 Master Oyster Gardeners Course is Going Virtual

It's no surprise that the pandemic postponed the two-day Master Oyster Gardeners Course originally scheduled for June of this year. The VIMS campus remains closed to visitors so rather than wait until 2021, the decision was made to forge ahead by transitioning the course to virtual /remote learning.



The course, typically held on 2 concurrent Saturdays, is being broken up into “bite-sized” remote learning modules, no longer than 2 hours each, which will be spread out over time during the weekdays.

If you were interested in attending, but the Saturday scheduling and travel didn't work for you – now is your chance. Scheduling, slated for mid-late September, will be a bit more challenging but live offerings will be recorded for those who can't make it. We'll still be interacting, albeit virtually, with the benefits of less information overload, the ability to spend more time discussing fundamental content, and having a digital archive of materials for reference.

The hands-on laboratories, so critical to this course, will be postponed to a date when the class can reunite. We still ask that interested TOGA members apply for the course which you can do through this online link:

<https://forms.gle/GJkAkaG8wYxxUcXH8> or by contacting Karen Hudson directly (khudson@vims.edu).

The chosen platform is Zoom videoconferencing and more details on the modules and schedule will be coming soon. We have several slots still available so don't delay!

-Karen Hudson, VIMS

UPDATE: Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Citizen Science Study

In November 2019, Ph.D. student Annie Schatz of VIMS initiated a citizen science-based oyster growth study in cooperation with TOGA and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

A citizen science study is defined as one conducted in part by nonprofessionals who help scientists with their research.

The study was designed to show how oysters respond to three different levels of seawater acidity (i.e. pH) during their period of settlement and transition from larvae into juveniles. Tests were designed to collect data that would measure how the stressful early-life exposure may impact oysters later. Annie's hypothesis was that there would be differences in growth and survival of the lab reared juveniles because the pH conditions they were raised in were significantly different.

At the beginning of the study, Annie grew three batches of oyster larvae (i.e. baby oysters) at VIMS under the specified controls and conditions. Six TOGA members volunteered their sites on the Rappahannock and York Rivers for the study (3 geographically separated sites on each river). After testing data collection



techniques, it was decided to eliminate the middle pH sample so that volunteers could collect the data in under one hour. Fifty spat were provided to the TOGA volunteers in November and December. Twenty-five of those oysters were previously exposed to more acidic water conditions as larvae at



VIMS. Ms. Schatz helped volunteers plant the spat in mesh bags suspended within cages hanging from their piers (see photos). Tools and measuring devices were supplied by the study, and Annie instructed volunteers how to use them. The volunteers maintained the bags of spat over the winter to make sure they stayed clean and secure in the water. Beginning in March they

collected water quality data monthly (such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and pH) with a handheld instrument and measured oyster length using electronic calipers. Results were carefully recorded by the volunteers through June. A data logger placed on each cage also collected and stored continuous water temperature data over the course of the study, which was downloaded for later analysis.

Annie is currently working to process the data that she collected while raising the larval oysters at VIMS so that she can compare it to the data collected by TOGA members to answer her study question. Annie expects to have some preliminary results to share with us later this year.

The results will provide hatcheries and conservation groups with information that can make their efforts more sustainable in the future. The project shows how non-governmental organizations like TOGA can benefit science and the economy while leveraging the capabilities of its membership and the power of association.

Annie and the TOGA Board thank those who volunteered and the proponents of the study, knowing that the results will help us develop guidelines and improve efforts to plant and successfully raise oysters in the future.

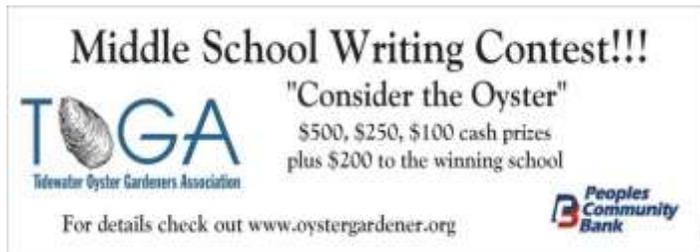
- Annie Schatz, VIMS Ph.D. student and
Carl Zulick, TOGA Board

Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association 2021 Middle School Writing Contest

After seven very successful Middle School Writing Contests, the Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association (TOGA) and People's Community Bank are continuing the writing competition with prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 for the top three essays. The theme of the essays is "Consider the

Oyster"- a wide open category that must include an essay based on oysters.

Additionally, the school of the first-place entry will be awarded \$200 to spend on educational aids. The competition is open to all Virginia students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Home-schooled students are welcome to enter.



"The 2019 increase in prize money indicates the commitment TOGA members have shown to increase the emphasis on education for our organization," said Terry Lewis, President of TOGA. "Reaching young people at an early age is very important to start a lifelong interest in ecology and the importance of the health of the Bay," he said.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association annual membership meeting at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences on January 9, 2021. The winner's parents, a mentor, or teachers may be guests of TOGA for the presentation event. The winning entries will be read by the students at the awards program during the Annual Meeting.

The three top winners will be published on the TOGA Website and may be published in other publications or websites, including the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association website. Essays can be written about oyster life, history, recent



developments, or even recipes with background from how the recipe came about. If you know Middle School students, please encourage them to enter.

Previous year's winners are now growing oysters in the floats they won for their essays. This is a great way to encourage youngsters to get involved with oysters, learn about the ecology of the Bay, and help improve our environment.

The article should be written in WORD format and attached to an e-mail. The submissions can be made between now and the December 15, 2021 deadline.

-Terry Lewis, MOG

Dues for 2020

If you received this newsletter in the mail, please check the year by your name on the address label. If it is 2019 or earlier, then 2020 dues were due in January 2020.



If you believe there is an error, please contact Vic Spain at vicspain@rocketmail.com or 804-642-6764.

Annual membership is \$15 (per family) and is for one calendar year, not 12 months from payment date.

Members...

- Receive newsletters with the latest oyster gardening information.
- Participate in educational events sponsored by TOGA.
- Learn about innovations in oyster gardening techniques.

•Benefit from the expertise of hundreds of others interested in growing oysters.

Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to update your membership. You may also use it simply to update your information. It is important that your address and email address are correct as that is our primary way of communicating with members. You may also share this membership form with a friend.

Chesapeake Oyster Alliance Survey

In support of the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance goal of putting 10 billion oysters in the Bay by 2025, we are continuing to collect TOGA member data on how many spat are put in each year.



We are asking that, if you have not done so yet, please consider providing information about how many oysters you and your family are putting in the Bay. To do so, simply fill out our membership form when you renew your membership or update your information.

The following chart shows the data we have collected so far. Thanks to those who submitted their information.

-Vic Spain & Kathy Haurand, MOGS

Results - 2019 - July 2020

344 People responded to the survey
Based on 2020 Dues paying members, then balance of 2019 dues

Type Grown		
150	Both	43.9%
57	Diploid	16.7%
135	Triploid	39.5%
342 Responded		100.0%

Spat Annually*		
247,040	Both	52.9%
70,150	Diploid	15.0%
149,825	Triploid	32.1%
467,015		100.0%

Shell Disposal		
253	Back to Water	80.6%
9	Erosion Control	2.9%
32	Landscaping	10.2%
19	Recycling	6.1%
1	Other	0.3%
314 Responded		100.0%

Main Tributary to Chesapeake Bay		
Back River	0	0.0%
Chesapeake Bay	15	4.4%
Chincoteague Bay	1	0.3%
Fleets Bay	13	3.8%
Horn Harbor	0	0.0%
Ingram Bay	35	10.2%
James River	16	4.7%
Milford Haven	10	2.9%
Mobjack Bay	46	13.4%
Plankatank River	32	9.3%
Poquoson River	11	3.2%
Potomac River	47	13.7%
Rappahannock River	75	21.8%
Winter Harbor	4	1.2%
York River	29	8.4%
unknown	10	2.9%
Total	344	100.0%

Our newsletter and many of our activities are funded by the sale of **Chesapeake Bay license plates**



<http://dmv.virginia.gov/exec/vehicle/splates/info.asp?idnm=CB>

What did one oyster tell the other oyster?



You never open up to me

Newsletter News

The newsletter is published 3 times a year and is mailed to all TOGA members. Full color copies of this and past newsletters may be seen on the



website at
<http://www.oystergardener.org/newsletters>

The deadline for the next newsletter is November 16, 2020. Any TOGA member who wishes to submit an article for the newsletter may do so prior to the deadline date. Articles will be printed as space allows.

Email to either Vic Spain at vicspain@rocketmail.com and/or Kathy Haurand at kathaurand@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

3 October 20, Fall Oyster Float Sales Event (Williams Wharf Landing Float Sale)– Event Coordinator: Brian Ingram, bandbingram@gmail.com, Williams Wharf Landing, 1039 Williams Wharf Rd. Mathews, VA 23109 9AM – 12PM

16 November 20, Articles for winter newsletter due.

15 December 20, Middle School Writing Contest Essays due, Event Coordinator: Terry Lewis, lewistmn@msm.com. See TOGA Website for Information at www.oystergardener.org

9 January 21, TOGA Annual Meeting, VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), 1370 Greate Rd, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, See TOGA Website for Information at www.oystergardener.org

6 March 21, TOGA Volunteer Thank You Party Event Coordinator: Terry Lewis, lewistmn@msm.com Piankatank Community League, 11888 Harcum Rd., Gloucester, VA 23061, 1PM – 4PM



ONE OYSTER CONTAINS...

- TWICE AS MUCH PROTEIN AS A LARGE EGG
- TWENTY TIMES MORE ZINC THAN A 6OZ STEAK
- MORE VITAMIN D THAN A SERVING OF FARMED SALMON
- AS MUCH B12 AS THIRTEEN CUPS OF YOGURT

A Spat of History

History and Mission Statement of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission



<http://prfc.us/history.html>

The states of Maryland and Virginia are both vitally interested in conserving and improving the valuable fishery resources of the tidewater portion of the Potomac River, maintaining law and order and peace and safety on the river, and recognizing that certain provisions of the Maryland-Virginia Compact of 1785 had become obsolete, agreed in 1958 that such conservation and improvement could be best achieved by a commission comprised of representatives of both Maryland and Virginia. That agreement led to the adoption of the Maryland and Virginia Potomac River Compact of 1958 (Compact) which created the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and charged it with the establishment and maintenance of a program to conserve and improve these resources.

The adoption of the Maryland and Virginia Potomac River Compact of 1958 and the establishment of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission were in direct response to the historical battles between the fishermen and the law enforcement during the late 1940's and most of the 1950's.

The Maryland and Virginia legislatures adopted the Compact, but enactment was delayed because the Compact was petitioned to statewide referendum in Maryland. Following its passage by the citizens of Maryland it was submitted to the United States Congress for ratification. **President John F. Kennedy signed the enabling legislation in December 1962.** The Potomac River Fisheries Commission held the first meeting January 10, 1963.

Today, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) regulates the fisheries of the main stem of the tidal Potomac River from

the Maryland/Washington D.C. boundary line (near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge), to the mouth of the river at Point Lookout, MD and Smith Point, VA. The PRFC regulates all recreational and commercial fishing, crabbing, oystering and clamming in the main stem tidal Potomac River, and issues licenses for those activities.

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission coordinates regulations with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources(DNR), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, (DGIF) and with the other Atlantic coastal states through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).



Presidential Yacht Cruising on Potomac River with Pres. John F. Kennedy and Harold Macmillan Aboard

More Background

One night in 1959 a Colonial Beach resident (Berkely Muse) on board a high-speed oyster dredge boat poaching oysters in the Potomac River was shot and killed by pursuing Maryland oyster police. That is usually considered the end of the Oyster Wars and led to the formation of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

--Vic Spain, MOG

TOGA Membership Form

P.O. Box 2463, Gloucester, VA 23061

Date: _____ Please Check: _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Annual Dues are \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Body of water where oysters will be grown: _____

What type do you grow? (sterile triploids, fertile diploids or both) _____

Approximately how many spat of each type do you plant each year? _____

What do you do with your shell from harvested or dead oysters? _____

_____ Please check here if you use this form only to update your information (and not to pay dues)

Oyster Float Workshop Registration Form

Williams Wharf Landing, Mathews, VA
10AM to 12PM, Saturday, October 3rd, 2020

Please mail this Registration Form to TOGA, P.O. Box 2463, Gloucester, VA 23061
Or email this Registration Form to vicspain@rocketmail.com or bandbingram@gmail.com

Name: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Mailing Address: _____

**This Registration Form MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
for TOGA to have sufficient materials available for your pre-built float(s) and devices!**

Pre-Built Floats and Devices

Please see our website <http://www.oystergardener.org/#!devices-and-desgns/c2ir> for more information
about the various types of Pre-Built Floats and Devices.

Qty	Cost Each	Description	Qty	Cost Each	Description
_____	\$110	Taylor Float with Top	_____	\$15	Top for Taylor Float
_____	\$95	Taylor Float, no Top	_____	\$65	Flip Float
_____	\$45	Bender 42 inch	_____	\$55	Bottom Cage
_____	\$50	Bender 50 inch	_____	\$50	Tidal Tumbler

Payment for floats, devices will be collected at the check-in table at the Oyster Float Workshop.

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Gloucester, VA 23061

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Growing oysters for a cleaner Bay