

SHORT TAKES

For a complete list of events happening in Maryland State Parks, visit dnr.maryland.gov/calendar



Top: Matt Teffeau, Maryland Farm Bureau; Del. Michael Smigiel; Del. Steve Hershey; Del. Jay Jacobs
Bottom: President of Senate Mike Miller; Governor O'Malley; Speaker Michael Busch

Sundays Open for Game

Governor Martin O'Malley has signed legislation allowing for additional Sunday hunting opportunities in Carroll County, Queen Anne's County and Dorchester County.

Hunters play a large role in the State's conservation efforts. Not only will

families gain additional opportunities to share in this time-honored tradition, but local businesses and economies will benefit from more citizens and out-of-state residents choosing Maryland as their hunting destination.

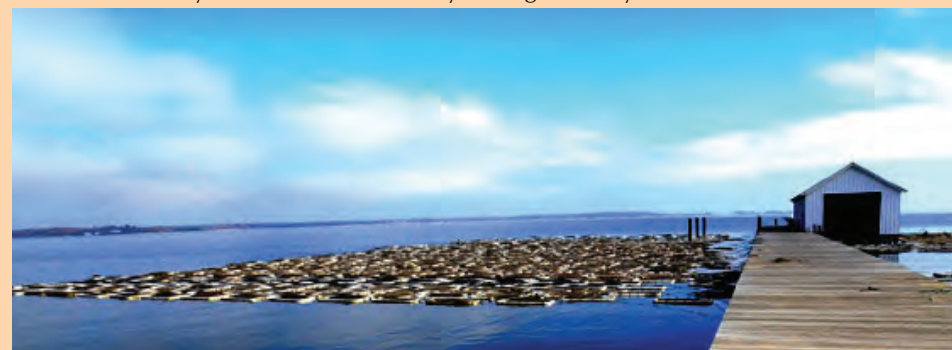
DNR offers many programs —

Major Oyster Restoration Project Receives Approval

Governor Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works approved a wetlands license enabling a landmark oyster restoration effort to move forward. The \$31 million project — funded by the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA and the State of Maryland — will ultimately

replenish 371 acres of oyster bars on the bottom of Harris Creek in Talbot County.

DNR created the sanctuary as part of the 2009 Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan. As more facilities followed suit, the State significantly increased its network of



Results of Maryland's 2012 Fall Oyster Survey showed population and reproduction increased for the second consecutive year.



A Mentored Youth Hunt at Pintail Point on the Eastern Shore

including Junior Hunter Field Days, Mentored Youth Hunts and Becoming an Outdoors Woman — that provide wildlife management and hunting education in a safe setting.

dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide

oyster sanctuaries — from 9% to 24% of remaining quality habitat. The project now underway will again serve as a prototype for future endeavors.

Replenishing the oyster population is a critical component to restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Oysters themselves naturally filter water — one can filter up to 50 gallons a day — and the reefs they form provide habitat for other marine life.

That's good news for water, good news for marine life and good news for people who enjoy the recreational activities and delicious dishes provided as a result.

To learn more about what's to come at Harris Creek, watch the Oyster Restoration video at youtube.com/accessdnr.



A wheelchair access platform for fly fishing is available to anglers at the Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area.

Accessibility for All

DNR makes special efforts to ensure all agency facilities, programs and public lands are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

The Universal Disability Pass provides free, lifetime day-use entrance into State Parks for an impaired guest and one accompanying person. DNR also offers complimentary lifetime hunting and fishing licenses to Maryland citizens certified as former prisoners of war and veterans with service connected disabilities. Passes and licenses are available only at licensing and registration centers.

The DNR Advisory Council — consisting of staff as well as members of the public — meets quarterly at the Tawes Building in Annapolis. Citizens interested in joining can contact Richard Allen in the Office of Fair Practices at 410-260-8058.

The council is currently gathering information from individuals with disabilities to improve their experiences on park trails. Anyone able to provide feedback can do so by contacting Steve Carr at 410-260-8478.

dnr.maryland.gov/ofp
dnr.maryland.gov/download/udpfaq.asp



A fishing trip made possible by DNR's accessibility commitment.

Gene Deems Named Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Gene Deems of the Office of Communications for being selected as the 2012 Employee of the Year! While dozens of other deserving employees were nominated, Gene's colleagues chose him for his tireless efforts promoting the agency's great work.

As e-Gov and Online Services Manager, Gene's unwavering attitude and contagious good cheer provides top-notch customer service. Whether working with internal partners or external stakeholders, he offers not only advice but real, hands-on support as well.

In more than three decades with DNR, Gene has lent his diverse talents to an extensive list of accomplishments. In helping develop the department's first website — which also began Maryland government's online presence — he established the statewide Internet and privacy policy. Though the multi-faceted site today receives hundreds of thousands of hits per year, Gene continues to generate e-newsletters and social media than any other agency.



Secretary Joe Gill presents Gene with the award.

He created and manages shopdnr.com, providing Marylanders with easy access to items such as Park Passes and the *Gift of Trees* while increasing DNR's revenue by thousands of dollars a month. He also plays a huge role in the Black Bear Conservation program, Maryland Seafood and DNR's partnership with Maryland Public Television.

Former Secretary Griffin Honored by Sportsmen's Foundation



Griffin served as Secretary for 9 years over two terms.

The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation presented Former DNR Secretary John Griffin with its distinguished Sportsmen's Best Friend of the Year Award at their 12th Annual Banquet and Auction.

He accepted the award on behalf of all of DNR, noting the "extraordinary team of dedicated natural resource professionals who work to manage Maryland's fish and wildlife populations while providing opportunities to sportsmen and women."

John left DNR in May to take on a new role as Governor Martin O'Malley's Chief of Staff.

mdsportsmensfoundation.org