



2009 MWMC Carl Weber Award – Dr. Peter Bergstrom

Since 1991, Peter has conducted non-stop, year-round, water monitoring of multiple points along the Magothy River. Early on, he enlisted the help of a handful of volunteers to cover various points around the river, and has continued to collect data himself. One volunteer, Bill Kobett of Mil Bur, still collects data and submits it to Peter.

Additionally, when the Mill Creek sewage spill occurred a few years ago, Peter, along with Dr. Sally Hornor, assisted local residents of Mill Creek to develop a water monitoring program. Data is still collected and submitted to Peter for analysis.

In 2007, the Magothy River Association embarked on a CreekWatchers program. One component of the program was for 25 new data collectors to cover most or all sub-watersheds. The data collection protocol was designed by Peter. The program was implemented, with data being

All of the data collected and submitted is analyzed by Peter and then rolled into a report card of the health of the river. A few years ago, Dr. Bergstrom started the annual publication “Magothy River Index” to benchmark and study the health of the river. This document is distributed to river constituents and presented at the annual “State of the Magothy” meeting.

Dr. Bergstrom theorized a few years ago that for local residents to connect with a body of water, and therefore be active stewards, that body of water should have a name. Peter embarked on a project to confirm the names of all creeks, coves, and streams in the Magothy River watershed. His ultimate deliverable was to install signage where roads cross a Magothy subwatershed to bring attention to the connection to the main river. His efforts can be found on Rt. 648 at Old Man Creek and Lake Waterford, and at the bridge on Magothy Bridge Road. The fruits of his labor were commissioned on the now famous Magothy River illustrated map.

Peter also developed the Magothy River Tour found on the MRA web site. See <http://www.magothyriver.org/our-river/>. He is to be commended for not only confirming the names of all branches leading to the river, but by putting a face on those names.

Dr. Bergstrom has the best of both worlds – a career at NOAA as a Fisheries Biologist with expertise in underwater grass, and the passion to lend his expertise to a local watershed organization. He unfailingly is committed to protecting and restoring his local river. Peter is always available for consultation whether it is a type of bird, local flora and fauna, or questions about underwater grass.

Dr. Bergstrom, as a long time volunteer for the Magothy River Association, has kept steady scientific oversight of the MRA and their activities. He has provided the data and analysis to benchmark the health of the river, and then continued said analysis over the years to study the trends, good or bad.

Dr. Bergstrom was the recipient of the 2008 “Bernie Fowler Award” recognizing his contributions to improve bay health and habitat. In addition to his volunteer efforts with Magothy River Association, Peter is a member of the Maryland Lower Western Shore Tributary Team and the Maryland BayStat Science Advisory Panel. Dr. Bergstrom’s commitment to saving the bay is well known around the region.