

Annandale High School, Virginia

Freshman Biology Class

Reef Ball Pour – May 2004

Annandale High School (AHS) hosted a demonstration Reef Ball pour for three freshman biology classes. Students produced 9 Reef Balls in various sizes. The events were designed to support the School's efforts to provide enhanced environmental education opportunities. Planning and coordination were provided by AHS freshman biology teacher Jessica Doll and MES Artificial Reef Coordinator and Annandale resident Wayne Young. AHS provided concrete in ready mix bags and MES made its Reef Ball resources and staff available to support the event. The pour was preceded by Mr. Young's lecture in Fall 2003 to introduce Chesapeake Bay restoration needs to biology students as residents in the Bay watershed.

Reef Ball molds for the pour were obtained with grant support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Fish America Foundation, Exxon-Mobil Foundation, and Reef Ball Foundation and program research and development support from MES.

The Reef Balls produced by the students will support several reef development activities during Summer-Fall 2004. These include work by the Magothy River Association (MRA) to develop fishing reefs at multiple locations in the Magothy River. This project is being conducted in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and MES. Some of the Reef Balls produced will also be deployed to one of several permitted "fish havens" in the upper Chesapeake Bay that MES administers.

The Reef Balls used in these projects can be up to 400 pounds apiece and are several feet high. Each Reef Ball provides complex reef structure for attachment by marine organisms including filter feeders and vegetation. The modules will be placed in clusters to magnify their biological effectiveness relative to use by fish populations. The Reef Balls will be monitored to assess their performance.



MES previously installed 225 medium sized Reef Balls at 5 oyster reef sanctuaries under DNR's sponsorship. These modules are field testing the technology's capability to support the oyster recovery program. MES, with assistance from the Reef Ball Development Group, and Reef Ball Foundation are working cooperatively to bring Reef Balls to the artificial fishing reefs in support of reef and oyster restoration activities. MES has established a modest local production capability to support introduction of the technology for developing and enhancing fish habitat and to provide sport fishing opportunities.

Grant support for the development of fish habitat and fishing opportunities using Reef Balls has been graciously provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Abell Foundation, Exxon-Mobil Foundation, Fish America Foundation, and Reef Ball Foundation. In-kind support is being provided by various reef partners.

Check the MES website at www.menv.com for additional information about the Maryland Environmental Service and the agency's environmental restoration work involving oyster recovery, the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project, Hart-Miller Island South Cell Habitat Development and artificial fishing reefs. Information about Reef Balls can be found at www.reefball.com.

Annandale High School Reef Ball Pour

Demonstration Pour, Annandale High School, Annandale, Virginia, May 27, 2004



Reef Ball "Hatching," Annandale High School, Annandale, Virginia, May 28, 2004

