



Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia, Inc.
Schools Restoring Oysters to the Chesapeake

January 14, 2011

Louis Smith
2212 East Admiral Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Dear Louis,

On behalf of Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia (ORKV), please accept my sincere gratitude for your construction and donation of 14 complete oyster floats. I am very impressed that you had the maturity and organizational skills to raise funds, purchase materials, coordinate a corps of boy scouts to construct the floats, and see the whole project through.

Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia is a small, non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of oyster reefs in Virginia's waterways through community-based restoration, public education, monitoring and scientific research. We are motivated by the remarkable decline of Virginia's oyster population, which has decreased by 99% over the last two centuries. This decline has had drastically negative consequences for water quality and habitat in Virginia's tributaries, and oyster reef restoration is a necessary component in reversing the trend.

Our highest profile program, known as "Schools Restoring Oysters to the Chesapeake," annually engages 7,500 students from 150 school classes (K-12) in raising oysters for use in reef restoration efforts throughout the state. As students raise and monitor their oysters throughout the school year, they learn oyster biology, estuarine ecology, water chemistry and field sampling techniques. Then as students contribute their oysters to local sanctuary reefs in the spring, they learn perhaps the most powerful lesson of all, that they *can* make a difference in the health of the environment.

Your Eagle Scout oyster float construction project and donation allowed ORKV to provide 14 new oyster floats to the following eleven schools, augmenting the scale of our student oyster restoration program: Corporate Landing Middle School (Virginia Beach), Kemps Landing Magnet School (Virginia Beach), 2 to Ocean View Elementary School (Norfolk), 2 to Plaza Middle School (Virginia Beach), Seatack Elementary School (Virginia Beach), St. Margaret's School (Tappahannock), Ware Academy (Gloucester), Waters Middle School (Portsmouth), 2 to Western Branch Middle School (Chesapeake), the Williams School (Norfolk), Point Option (Newport News).

I don't know how we could have met our float demand this year without you. On behalf of all of us - the staff and board of trustees at Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia, the teachers and students in the program, and especially Virginia's oyster resource - I thank you again for your contribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Sorabella".

Laurie Carroll Sorabella
Executive Director

*Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is entirely tax-deductible.
This letter serves as your receipt and proof that no goods or services were exchanged for your gift.*