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PRESS RELEASE



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24th Annual Bernie Fowler Wade-in at Jefferson Patterson Park Sunday

“Guess-the-Depth” contest returns online for 2nd year

ST. LEONARD (June 10, 2011) – The 24th annual Bernie Fowler Patuxent River Wade-In event – an enduring symbol of the need for impassioned stewardship of Maryland's water resources -- will begin at 1 p.m. at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD 20685.

As a young man in the 1950s, Bernie Fowler stood chest-deep in the Patuxent and was able to see his feet on the river bottom while netting blue crabs. Senator Fowler held the first Patuxent "wade-in" in 1988 to assess whether he could still see his feet while wading into the river. His white sneakers disappeared from view in a disappointing 10 inches of water. The senator, who served in the Maryland State Senate from 1983-1994 after having been a Calvert County Commissioner from 1970-1982, last year was joined by more than 100 attendees at the 23rd annual version of the event. His sneakers were visible last year until he reached a depth of 34.5 inches.

For the second year in a row, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) is holding an online "[Guess-the-Depth](#)" contest on its website leading up to Sunday's Wade-In. (Sorry, no prizes, only bragging rights for getting closest to the mark. Twenty-one people entered the "Guess-the-Depth" contest last year with guesses ranging from 20 to 41.5 inches. A link to the contest, a list of last year's entries and of the results year by year is available online at <http://planning.maryland.gov/ourwork/patuxentrivercomminfo.shtml>.

We welcome your participation in the "Guess the Depth" contest until 1 p.m. Sunday and at the Wade-In itself. Also, please visit our "Bernie's Feet" page on [Facebook](#) at MDP staffs the Patuxent River Commission and also oversees Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, home to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) and its more than 8 million artifacts.

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