



Anacostia Watershed Society

(301) 699-6204 Fax (301) 699-3317
Email: info@anacostiaws.org
<http://www.anacostiaws.org>



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CONTACT

Steven F. Reynolds
Anacostia Watershed Society
p. 301-699-6204
f. 301-699-3317
e. sreynolds@anacostiaws.org

ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY NAMES NEW PRESIDENT

Former environmental consultant Jim Foster to lead influential, D.C. metro area environmental group.

Washington, DC—On Thursday, December 18, 2008, the Board of the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) named Jim Foster—a former environmental consultant and current Acting President of a small community-based environmental organization in Southern Anne Arundel County—to be the organization's next president. Jim brings many years of environmental activism and consulting experience to AWS. Accepting his new appointment, Mr. Foster vowed to continue working with AWS's existing partners in the local environmental community, and forge new relationships between elected officials, communities, and property owners that will benefit the Anacostia River and all who live within its watershed. "Working to make the Anacostia fishable and swimmable for future generations is an honor," Foster said, "This great river has borne the brunt of development since the first Europeans came here. We will not rest until the river is once again a sacred place."

Mr. Foster expressed his gratitude to AWS Founder and Past President Robert Boone and Executive Director Jim Connolly for choosing to remain through the organization's period of transition. Citing his great hopes for the future of AWS, Mr. Boone confirmed his ongoing role as Chairman of AWS's Board of Directors saying, "we need to turn this river into a national treasure." Boone also indicated that he will work with the organization on occasional special projects as needed. Jim Connolly announced his intention to provide administrative continuity throughout the transition. In return, Mr. Foster thanked Connolly for his dedicated service to the organization remarking, "Jim has set a very high standard for me to achieve here: I look forward to working with him to secure that standard."

Noting Foster's many years of experience addressing environmental issues in other nearby locales, Mr. Boone referred to him as "the right person to lead AWS and shape its environmental mission as the organization grows into its bright and promising future." Under Mr. Foster's direction, AWS will continue providing education, action, and advocacy to clean the river, recover the shores, and honor the heritage of the Anacostia River and its many tributary creeks and streams in Maryland and Washington, D.C. The group also will continue spotlighting and restoring the intrinsic, natural beauty and importance of a river known in times past as "the forgotten river," or "the other river" in our nation's capital.

For a decade and a half, AWS has partnered with Seafarers Yacht Club and a multitude of public and private organizations to sponsor an Earth Day cleanup and celebration on the Anacostia River. In 2008, more than 1,900 volunteers turned out for the cleanup portion of the event where they removed more than 50 tons of trash from the river and the surrounding shoreline. The 2009 Anacostia River Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration is scheduled for April 18 and forms part of a broader public/private venture to create a trash-free Potomac River by the year 2013. The waters of the Anacostia River and the Potomac River join together at Haines Point near the National Mall in the District of Columbia.

"We will not fail in our efforts to bring the Anacostia back," Mr. Foster said of AWS. "It will take new methods and tools to fix these problems, more education and citizen participation, and new partnerships to achieve our mandate, but we will not give up."

For more information about AWS and the Anacostia River visit us on the Web at <http://www.anacostiaws.org>.

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