



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

Contact: Mike Bento
(202) 320-3174
Mike@engagestrategies.us

Anacostia Watershed Society Christens New Boat “Lotus Bloom” joins fleet in time for summer cruises

Washington DC, May 19, 2016 – The Anacostia Watershed Society, joined by executives from Bloomberg and members of the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2016 today christened and placed into service the Lotus Bloom, a 27 foot Carolina skiff that will provide tours of the Anacostia River, from Yards Park all the way up to the Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

In place of smashing a champagne bottle, the Lotus Bloom was christened with beer from Bluejacket Brewery, (<http://bluejacketdc.com/>) a local microbrewery located on the banks of the Anacostia River. The bottles were then recycled.

“The Lotus Bloom significantly increases our capacity to educate citizens and civic leaders about the restoration of the Anacostia River,” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “Literally every tour we give turns skeptics into advocates who then partner with us to sustain our momentum to reach the goal of a swimmable and fishable Anacostia River by 2025.”

The Lotus Bloom is a gift to the Anacostia Watershed Society from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP. Bloomberg, a major sponsor of the Anacostia River Festival and the 11th Street Bridge Park, has partnered with AWS on local clean-ups along the Anacostia while Bloomberg Philanthropies’ environment program works to drive measurable, local action on climate change and sustainability around the world.

“We are delighted to be partnering with the Anacostia Watershed Society and other local organizations to empower citizens to take action and make our rivers and our communities more sustainable and more livable,” said Josh Eastright, Head of Bloomberg Government. “We look forward to seeing the Lotus Bloom sailing up and down the Anacostia River, bringing enjoyment and education to thousands.”

Immediately following the christening, members of the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2016 embarked on a tour of the Anacostia River to learn more about progress on reaching the goal of swimmable and fishable by 2025.

About the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society's programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. www.anacostiaws.org

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. Bloomberg Philanthropies' Environment program brings together a wide range of partners, including cities, businesses, public health advocates and citizen's groups, to address some of the most serious threats to our environment, including climate change and overfishing. Bloomberg Philanthropies drives measurable, local action on climate and sustainability through the Sustainable Cities program, the Clean Energy program and the Vibrant Oceans Initiative. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), and Twitter [@BloombergDotOrg](#).

About Bloomberg

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About Leadership Greater Washington

Leadership Greater Washington's (lgwdc.org) mission is to bring regional leaders together from the business, government and non-profit sectors to make a positive impact in the Washington DC metropolitan region. Since 1986, LGW has developed over 1600 leaders through its flagship offering, the Signature Program. This is an intensive 10-month program that immerses a class of leaders in regional civic engagement providing a platform for members to identify challenges in the region, drive dialogue and create connections that facilitate solutions.

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