

## Three Join Scientific Advisory Committee

We welcome three new members to our scientific advisory committee. **Dr. Kelton Clark** is the director of the Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center in St. Leonard, on the lower Patuxent River estuary. Kelly is an estuarine ecologist with a keen interest in experimental design, predator-prey interactions, and the effects of riprap on nearshore estuarine animal communities. As a research scientist with the Smithsonian Institution, he investigated the relationships between blue crabs and their prey, the Baltic clam.

**Eugene Meyer** is a newly retired biology professor from Loyola College in Baltimore. Gene is a herpetologist and animal ecologist with a wide-ranging interest in the behaviors used by animals to avoid detection. He's been a partner in several of our herp studies, and always provides useful and unique insights that enhance our projects. He has special interest in the role of deer, raccoons, and disease in structuring forested and suburban ecosystems

**Dr. Jeff Campbell** is an assistant research scientist in the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Jeff has been helping with several studies at the Sanctuary and uses his expertise in ecological informatics to help "mine" our data for trends and patterns. In October, Jeff presented a paper at a National Science Foundation symposium on Data Mining and Cyber-Enabled Discovery for Innovation. His talk, "Data Mining for Ecological Research: Lessons Learned from Amphibian and Reptile Activity Analysis", made use of Jug Bay data.

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## Aquatic Research Draws Volunteer

Being wet and muddy is something that doesn't bother volunteer Yuka Tasumi. In fact, she's taken part in some of the coldest (and hottest), wettest, rainiest, muddiest activities here at Jug Bay! Yuka participates in nearly every research project at the Sanctuary, from the salamander study to winter bird census to fish surveys. She also helps with marsh clean-ups, invasive plant control, and even house painting! "I'm really hooked on activities in Jug Bay!" she says.

Yuka and her husband, Satoshi, came to the United States nearly three years ago from Tokyo, Japan, when Satoshi was employed by the University of Maryland Center of Marine Biology to work on a research project concerned with a parasite of Chesapeake Bay oysters.

Yuka grew up on Sado Island in the Japan Sea. Every summer, as she swam, she grew to love the ocean. In college, she majored in biochemistry and fish physiology and then went on to earn a Masters degree, studying serum protein level changes involved in thermal acclimation of Rainbow Trout and Mummichogs. Preferring fieldwork to the laboratory, she worked for a consulting company on projects such as vegetation mapping, environmental assessment, and riverbed restoration.

Finding a similar job in the U.S. was difficult. "To find Jug Bay's volunteer activities was a great pleasure for me because the Sanctuary does very professional wildlife research, and it's easy to join in," she says. "It's a way of getting more field work experiences."

Yuka first got her feet muddy helping with a restoration project at Poplar Island, sponsored by the National Aquarium. "We planted cordgrass seedlings at a tidal marsh site restored with dredge materials from Baltimore harbor," she says. "It was really muddy work and we wore water shoes or

**Volunteer Yuka Tasumi helps set up fencing for the Wild Rice study.**

*Photo by Jeff Campbell*



diver's booties and walked and planted in the mud and got muddy." When she recently traveled to Popular Island with the Sanctuary's volunteer excursion, she was able to see what had happened on the planting site. She participated in similar planting events at Barren Island and Eastern Neck, as well as clean-up events at Fort McHenry, and she also volunteers for the Jones Falls Watershed Association. Yuka worked as an

intern at Heathcote Community, an intentional, sustainable community in Freeland, Maryland. For their Natural Building project, she helped cover an exterior wall with lime plaster. It was there that she learned about Jug Bay from one of the other Heathcote interns.

"I came to the Sanctuary because I wanted to do the fish survey and to see a real wild Mummichog, which I studied in my Master's degree," Yuka says. "It was a great excitement to see them 10 years after! I really love aquatic studies like the fish survey, stream monitoring, SAV monitoring, and Wild Rice study. It is so adventurous and a lot of fun to untie a boat and go into the marsh. I hadn't experienced these kinds of activities in Japan, but I don't care about getting wet and muddy and it was so much fun!"

She also enjoyed learning about birds, amphibians and reptiles. "I didn't know anything about them before I came to the Sanctuary, but I read Sibley's and other guides and learned species one by one," she says. "Through these activities at the Sanctuary, I think I got a good global point of view of relationships among wildlife."

We will miss Yuka when she returns to Japan in the new year. "I'd like to continue these kinds of activities after I'll go back to Japan," she says, "and to work in aquatic ecology in the future."