

**2009 Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration
Abstract**

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Presentation Type	oral presentation
Category	Benefits of stream restoration
Title	Boating Habitat: A Balance of Ecology and Recreation
Abstract	<p>The socio-economic benefits of designing a stream restoration to encompass recreational boating with ecological functionality are considerations that should not be overlooked. Boating of rivers is a sport that has been rapidly growing to an astonishing population composed of 31.4 million participants in 1999 (Plyler 2006). With this immense interest in rivers it would be fortuitous to incorporate the recreational benefits of the boater with the selection of a stream type and fluvial hydraulics conducive to the needs of the boater and the ecology. A direct correlation can be seen between exceptional fish habitat and popular whitewater river reaches. Disturbance such as aggradation caused by sediment transport from headwaters has limited the navigability of some river reaches along with the passage of aquatic life. Agricultural disturbance of in-stream cattle fencing can cause safety concerns and limit the navigability of rivers for the boater as well.</p> <p>As popularity of boating increases whitewater boating courses are being built with the utilization of stream discharge for the operation of the in-channel and off-channel courses. The utilization of stream discharge for the operation of whitewater courses would cause a change in stream power and subsequent changes in sediment transport regimes. The sustainability and ecologic functionality of whitewater courses can be maintained if the integration of natural stream design is coordinated with the design of the course. Stream restoration can be achieved to encompass the needs of the entire aquatic community.</p>