

rumors and says, "For the most part the people in the community knew I had retired from Easton police department; knew that I was on the town council and knew why I left the council - it was because I was hired for the Hurlock police department. It wasn't a matter of being a quitter or a loser. I left the Hurlock department for personal reasons and two weeks later I had my knee replacement." Following his recovery he joined the sheriff's department.

Mayor Spratt is "fine." She says, "I have got way, way too much support

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company was the site of the recent Hurlock election, election director, works with chief judge Wilface to Hurlock voters, and new town resident purchased the town's 1st Habitat for Humanity

from everybody who feels bad that I didn't win the election. But it was close. If he hadn't played dirty politics and posted stuff on Facebook I might feel a lot different about it but I feel sorry for the people." She believes not only that Mr. Henry will not continue the projects her administration began, but indicates that department heads will resign and says, "I don't know what he's going to do. I think it's a convoluted mess. The people are just up in arms and



SUBMITTED TO DORCHESTER BANNER

Johnny Shockley showed oyster spat being raised at Hoopers Island Oyster Co.'s nursery in Fishing Creek to members of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Board and staff.

## Bay

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est independent conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Bay.

CBF Board of Trustees Chairman Harry Lester said, "Hoopers Island Oyster Company is a strong example of the role aquaculture can play in helping to clean up the Bay. From hatchery to table, Hoopers Island employs the latest technologies to produce millions of oysters that filter millions of gallons of Bay water by consuming algae and suspended solids during their grow-out period. Restoring Bay water quality is a herculean task, but a task that can be made lighter by the contributions of oyster growers like Johnny Shockley, Ricky Fitzhugh and others."

Allison Colden, CBF's Maryland Fisheries Scientist, helped coordinate the 2017 retreat.

"Growing the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay is a top priority for CBF. In addition to restoring reefs that provide habitat for numerous Bay spe-

ing lost filtration capacity that benefits water quality," she said. "Aquaculture provides an avenue for increasing filtration while providing local communities an economic boost - a win-win. We hope a growing, robust oyster aquaculture industry will accompany ecological restoration and improved science-based management to continue to grow the Bay's oyster population."

Mr. Shockley and Hoopers Island Oyster Co. Managing Partner Ricky Fitzhugh shared his vision for restoring oysters in the Bay with CBF and discussed the possibilities for public-private partnerships that would bring watermen together in cooperatives to raise oysters that could be sold at market while also creating sustainable populations.

"Private sector involvement like we are doing at Hoopers Island to raise seed, grow oysters and produce aquaculture equipment to serve fellow farmers is vital to the progression of the oyster industry," Mr. Fitzhugh said. "We are creating the infrastructure needed to support the industry and restore the oyster population in the Chesapeake and its tributaries."