



WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PO Box 94, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT—

Dear Friends of the St. Mary's,

I hope that this message finds you well, and like me, eagerly waiting for it to finally warm up. I went out in the garden this morning to pick some kale and mustard greens that had wintered over, only to find that once again, the leaves were frozen solid. Well as they say, it won't be as long as it has been.....

It's been a busy spring on the river. The most exciting news is that construction on the 3-D oyster reef that we're building in partnership with our local Rotary clubs and the college is well underway. For pictures and information about the project, check out our Facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/96048465209>

Special thanks go out to Rotary, especially the Leonardtown, Lexington Park, College Park and Annapolis clubs and Rotary District 7620, Colliflower and Peterson (our builders) Carruth and Son concrete, the Dean Lumber Company, Cullins Trucking, Vestor Light Hauling, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

We've also been doing some important work on the land as well to help improve the quality of water flowing into the watershed. As a result of a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, we have entered into partnerships with home

builders Marrick Homes and Stanley Martin and successfully installed demonstration rain gardens at model homes in new residential neighborhoods under construction in Wildewood and Elizabeth Hills, which are both within the St. Mary's River watershed. Please check them out.

Finally here are a couple of important dates for you to put on your calendar.

The ninth annual meeting of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association will be held at 5:30PM May 9, at the Lexington Park Public Library. I hope that you can join us.

And please save the date for our 3rd annual "A River Affair" which will be held from 1-4PM on Sunday, June 2nd on the State House lawn on the banks of the St. Mary's at Historic St. Mary's City. Please bring a friend (or two, or three) to enjoy an afternoon of excellent food, entertainment, and friendship, and to help us to reach our goal of a healthy and vibrant St. Mary's River.

Thanks, and see you on the river.

Joe Anderson



Joe Anderson

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 9, 5:30 P.M. AT LEXINGTON PARK LIBRARY
- A RIVER AFFAIR - JUNE 2, 1 - 4 P.M. AT HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY'S STATEHOUSE
- RIVERFEST 2013 - SEPT. 21, 11 - 4 P.M. AT HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

3-D REEF PROJECT	2
RIVER-FRIENDLY	2
NEWS BRIEFS	3
A RIVER AFFAIR	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	4

SMRWA Annual Meeting May 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Join us at the Lexington Park Library to hear designers Bob Paul PhD and Chris Tanner PhD, and Rotary Project Director Steve King discuss the exciting 3-D oyster reef project. The agenda will include nominations and elections to the board of directors. For more information, call us at 301-737-2903. The public is encouraged to attend this FREE event.



3 - D Oyster Reef Ready for New Inhabitants

The three-dimensional oyster reef has become a reality. Partners from St. Mary's River Watershed Association, the Leonardtown Rotary Club, and St. Mary's College of Maryland came together to kick off the project with a ceremonious groundbreaking in November and this spring, we're pleased to announce the installation of phase one is nearly complete.

Six mounds four feet high and twenty feet in diameter have been placed along the five-acre plot in front of the college. Project contractor Colliflower & Peterson has been busy at the waterfront, precisely placing 160 tons of concrete rubble and 91 reef balls in their designated spots.

This concept, based on the comprehensive design plan created by professors Chris Tanner and Bob Paul, acknowledges the once naturally occurring three-dimensional oyster reefs that rose up from the river's bottom to beyond the water's surface.

Recreating these structures will give the oysters access to more nutrient-rich

environments throughout the water column, increasing the oysters' sustainability, density of living animals, and richness of habitat diversity. The better the oysters are doing, the more they will positively impact the water quality of the St. Mary's River and larger ecosystem.

Tanner and Paul, along with SMCM students, will conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the project, developing a model of best practices in the process. Many will watch the project's progression throughout the state, as it may become a model to replicate in the broader efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

Soon, we'll move to the second phase and seek volunteers from our community to help place oyster shell and spat on shell onto the reef. This innovative project is sure to spark a lot of talk and opportunity to get many involved in our campaign to restore the oyster population and improve the health of the river.



Project contractor Colliflower & Peterson places reef balls in designated locations to construct the 3-D Reef in the St. Mary's River.

Building River-Friendly Neighborhoods



Representatives from SMRWA and Marrick Homes join County Commissioner Cindy Jones in a formal ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling a green model home at Elizabeth Hills.

"We've always made it our [SMRWA's] mission to work with developers and this project demonstrates to young people that effective things can be done to protect our environment."

—Bob Lewis, executive director

What happens when environmentalists and developers are on the same team? Homes that simultaneously feature low-impact development practices and offer added value for home buyers.

SMRWA teamed up with regional consultant Ridge to Reefs in this National Fish & Wildlife Foundation-funded project and initial outreach promptly led to formal partnerships with Marrick Homes and Stanley Martin Homes Wildewood.

The local developers employed the eco-conscious practices at new subdivision model homes, with site designs capable of capturing more than 75% of storm water run-off.

This partnership is bringing innovative, environmentally mindful development practices to fruition in a highly visible way.

New Grants Awarded

The Association is thrilled to announce several grants we have been awarded to support oyster restoration, community education and outreach. The **Chesapeake Bay Trust** awarded the group \$25,000 to continue with phase two of the 3 - D Oyster Reef project.

“The Trust has been a huge supporter of the Association since our founding in 2005,” said Executive Director Bob Lewis.

Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship, now in its fifth consecutive year of funding local oyster restoration efforts, has also awarded the group a \$20,000 grant.

Leonardtown Rotary Club continues to provide monies from their generous donors, area clubs, and District match funding. To date Rotary has funded more than \$22,000 for the design, phase one, and current phase.

St. Mary’s Gets Spring Cleaning

On April 6, twenty-four volunteers walked or paddled their way along two stretches of the St. Mary’s River to rid her waters and banks of unsightly and hazardous trash. All told, 17 bags of recyclables, 11 bags of trash, 19 tires, 980 pounds of loose trash - including a mattress, a dinosaur and an empty wallet - were collected during the three-hour outing.



Join Us for

A River Affair



Mark your calendars and join us for an afternoon celebrating the St. Mary’s River on Sunday, June 2 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Statehouse Lawn in Historic St. Mary’s City. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchase online at www.SMRWA.org or by calling 301-737-2903.

I would like to become a member of the SMRWA

Annual Membership Options	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$1,003.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$303.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$103.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate <i>suggested</i>	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

Total: _____

I prefer an electronic newsletter.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Mary’s River Watershed
Association and mail this form
along with your check to:

SMRWA
PO Box 94
St. Mary’s City, MD 20686

Name

Address

Email Address

Phone



OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the well-being of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.



Upcoming events:

- April 21 - Earth Day on the Leonardtown Square from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- May 9 - SMRWA Annual Meeting at Lexington Park Library beginning at 5:30 p.m. "Why a 3-D Reef Project?"
- June 2 - **A River Affair** from 1 to 4 p.m. at State House lawn
- June 8 - St. Mary's County Crab Festival at the County Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (also Alumni Weekend)
- June 15 - Juneteenth Celebration at Freedom Park from noon to 8 p.m.
- June 25 - LEAD Teen Leadership Conference community service at SMCM waterfront from 9 a.m. to noon
- September 21 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Historic St. Mary's City



SMRWA Annual Meeting
 May 9th at 5:30 p.m.
 Lexington Park Library