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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

February 26, 2014

## Many Thanks

St. Mary's River Watershed Association is grateful to everyone who sent in their membership renewals over the past holiday season, and to our new members who joined after our last e-newsbrief. If you have not done so, we encourage you to [renew your membership](#), or [join our Association](#) today. It's easy, and a great way to help save our environment. We are only as effective as our membership empowers us to be—we cannot do what we do without you!

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Give the Gift of a  
**Living Reef** for  
**St. Patrick's Day**



Really GO GREEN this year. Give a satisfying gift for a healthier St. Mary's River on St. Patrick's Day! One Reef Ball will be etched with your name and installed in the St. Mary's River where up to 1000 oysters will make it their home. [Download form](#): or [purchase online](#).

## Oyster Reef Project Continues Despite Wind, Snow, and Ice



Our marine contractor, Colliflower & Peterson, Inc. were hard at work in January and February of this year installing three reef mounds made of 140 tons of concrete rubble, which was donated by Carruth & Son, Inc. Many of you called or emailed us (and sent us photographs - thanks!) after seeing them working in the snow in Horseshoe Bend in front of St. Mary's College. These latest installations are the tallest mounds in our design and rise seven feet off the bottom. Bottom oysters are under greater stress from siltation, predators, and low oxygen than oysters growing up off the bottom on reefs. By some accounts, historically more than 80% of oysters made their home well above the bottom.



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Ongoing monitoring and research by the college and area students will determine if three dimensional structures, as opposed to bottom cultivation, is a viable restoration method. They will look at the ecological benefits, the sustainability of the reef ecosystem, and the economics of building structural oyster reefs. Over the course of the next few years we hope to develop enough reliable data to inform restoration projects elsewhere in the Bay.

In September and October, our partner the [Institute of Maritime History](#) assisted with the installation of 280 reef balls into 17 mounds - many of these stacks of reef balls are nearly six feet tall. Currently we have installed eleven concrete rubble mounds and seventeen reef ball mounds.



This spring and summer we will continue to make and install reef balls and build another concrete rubble mound—all with volunteers. We're looking to begin the two weekends after Mother's Day and complete the full reef as designed by August 1. Please take a look at your calendar, and email us at [info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org) to volunteer. We need your help!

The St. Mary's River Oyster Reef is a partnership project of the local Rotary clubs and Rotary District 7620, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the St. Mary's River Watershed Association.

## Volunteers Needed for the 6th Annual St. Mary's River Clean Up Saturday, April 5

Enjoy a wonderful paddle while helping clean up the St. Mary's River, Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 12 noon during the St. Mary's River Cleanup hosted by the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. Volunteers will paddle up and down the St. Mary's River Water Trail from the end of Adkins Road. The public is invited to participate.

Last year, 24 volunteers paddled their way along 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.



Meet at the end of Adkins Road, off MD Route 5, at 9 a.m. Bring your own boat, canoe, or kayak, life vest, and paddling gear. Help cleanup the St. Mary's River and improve your watershed! **Registration is required for this event. Send an email to [info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org) or call us at 301-737-2903.**

## Want to help your Watershed?

Your membership dues and donations enable us to carry out projects that help the environment. Come volunteer and help us do the work that needs to be done. Attend the events throughout the year, and bring your family and friends. This helps to spread the word about the work we are doing! Thank you so much for your continued support.

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

## Upcoming Events:

- Chancellor's Run Park Clean Up  
Thursday, April 3, 2014 - after school  
Call to register to volunteer at [info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org)
- Join us for the 6th Annual RIVER CLEAN UP  
Saturday, April 5, 2014 - 9 am to noon  
Call to register to volunteer at [info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org)
- Earth Day on the Leonardtown Square  
Sunday, April 13, 2014, 12:30 to 4 pm
- Potomac River Swim  
Saturday, May 31, 2014  
Point Lookout State Park  
Bring a dish to share - lunch begins at 10 am  
More info 301-737-2903.



### 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.

We're on the web!  
[www.smrwa.org](http://www.smrwa.org)



- *SAVE THE DATE*

## *A River Affair*

Sunday, June 8, 2014, 1 to 4 pm  
The Inn at Broome-Howard  
Historic St. Mary's City  
More info 301-737-2903.

- LEAD Teen Oyster Planting  
Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 9 am to noon  
College Waterfront

- *SAVE THE DATE*

## *Riverfest 2014*

Saturday, September 27, 2014, 11 am to 4 pm  
State House, Historic St. Mary's City  
More info 301-737-2903.

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