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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

January 21, 2015

Happy Valentine's Day!

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INSIDE THIS EDITION
Winter Activities
From My Backyard

Need a Lasting
Valentine's Day
Gift?



A satisfying gift to a healthier St. Mary's River - one Reef Ball will be etched with your sweetheart's name and installed in the St. Mary's River where up to 1000 oysters will make it their home. It's as easy as 1 - 2!

[1. Download form:](#)

What to do in Winter? Go Hiking!

The St. Mary's River offer two exceptionally nice trails for hikers, and one for bikers and horse riders.

Historic St. Mary's City offers over three miles of well-maintained trails that abut the tidal river and offer beautiful vistas of the open river and Milburn Creek. After a short leg from the parking lot, hikers arrive at a circular trail that features a tidal pond and a variety of habitats frequented by many kinds of birds. This national award-winning trail is rarely very busy and throughout much of the winter one can meander through without seeing but one or two other parties. This low usage provides great opportunities to bird watch. I encourage you to bring along a snack and spend time in the field around Chancellor's Point where the birds feed early in the morning and late afternoon. Historic's trails are for hikers only - no bicycles, horses, or motorized thingys, and dogs must behave and be on a leash. The parking area is at the blue welcome center off of Rosecroft Road. Check signs for any restrictions, such as control hunts. And stop in at the center or drop them an email and let them know you hiked the trail and how many were in your party. Staff try to track usage as it is useful in securing maintenance funding.



The wild lands, Salem State Forest, and St. Mary's Lake State Park provide another exceptional set of trails for winter bicyclists, horse riders,

or
[purchase online](#) :

2. [Download and print this graphic to surprise your sweetheart.](#)

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and hikers (no motorized vehicles). The 7-mile long trail around the lake is very well maintained and provides fairly good going even in the wettest weather. Sundays are the favorite day for horses. After work hours on weekdays and on Saturdays, backcountry bicyclists and joggers will provide a steady stream of traffic. Families with children can enjoy the playground and picnic areas as well as fishing when the weather warms a bit. Access to the lake and lake trail is from Rte. 5 and Camp Cosoma Road. There is a fee to park. The wild lands are on the northeast side of Indian Bridge Road. There are some trails but they are not maintained and were developed by illegal ATV users. This area is very popular with hunters as is the Salem area located between the lake and the wild lands. In all about 3500 acres of parkland are open to the public and depending where you access it and travel, there are varying restrictions. So check the signs and be sure to put your fee in the box if the parking area requires this - or use your seasonal state park pass. Access to the Salem track and the wild lands is off of Indian Bridge Road (at least three small parking areas). The wild lands can also be access from Old Rolling Road. Hunters need to register.

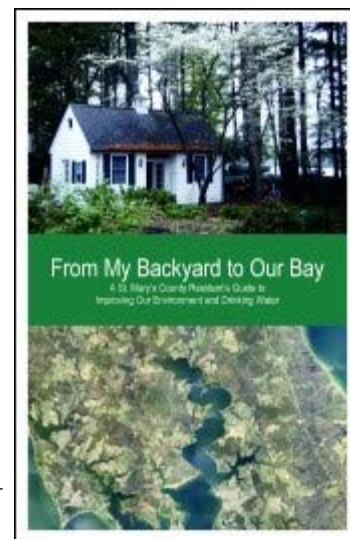
This month the state will close on the purchase of an additional 854 acres of land adjacent to Salem State Forest. Funded by Maryland DNR and the Conservation Fund, this area was allotted for open space, expanding Salem State Forest west to Rte. 5 spanning the St. Mary's River and the Breton Bay watersheds. Development of additional trails permitting easy access to this area are expected in the near future.

From My Backyard To Our Bay

By Mary Ann Scott - Communications Director

From My Backyard to Our Bay is a 40-some page booklet that empowers the reader. From explaining the problems in the Bay, to outlining many solutions, this is a very powerful booklet.

If I asked you to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, you'd probably tell me I was crazy, because you have so little control over what happens in the Chesapeake Bay. But you do have control over what happens in your home and in your yard. (If you have teenagers living in your house, this may not be 100% true.) Multiply your efforts by 17.5 million people—the number of people living in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—and you begin to understand the impact that each and every one of us can have by following the good advice in From My Backyard to Our Bay.



I found From My Backyard to Our Bay at St. Mary's Soil Conservation District back in 2011. I read it and fell in love with it. As someone who

loves the outdoors, and the earth that we are borrowing from our children and grandchildren, I would like to fix all our problems. But I cannot do it alone. Together, however, we can make a difference!

[Click this link to download a pdf from our website. \[3.8 MB\]](#)

Upcoming Events:

- Join us for the
7th Annual
RIVER CLEAN UP
Saturday, April 11, 2015
9 am to noon
Paddling event
Call to register to volunteer at
info@stmarysriver.org
- **Earth Day on the Leonardtown Square**
Sunday, April 19, 2015
12:30 - 4:00 pm
- **Youth Fishing Rodeo**
Saturday, May 9, 2015
St. Mary's River State Park
- **Potomac River Swim**
Saturday, June 6, 2015
Point Lookout State Park
Bring a dish to share -
lunch begins at 10:00 am
More info 301-737-2903.
- **National Envirothon
Oyster Planting**
Monday, June 15, 2015
9:00 am to noon
College Waterfront
- **SAVE THE DATE**



Saturday, September 26, 2015
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
State House,
Historic St. Mary's City
More info 301-737-2903



We're on the web!
www.smrwa.org



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