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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

February 4, 2015

Happy Valentine's Day!

[Donate Now](#)

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Wrap Your Arms
Oyster Reef Balls
Stream Sampling

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.

Wrap Your Arms!

By Mary Ann Scott - Communications Director

It was Christmas Eve, 2013. Somehow, I came across the story about Fukushima - the nuclear power plant in Japan that was destroyed by the tidal wave on March 11, 2011. Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of the plant or the story. Fukushima continues to spill radioactive waste in the Pacific Ocean, even today. I became so depressed over this situation that it interfered with enjoying the holidays, not to mention life itself. I talked to Bob Lewis, Executive Director, at St. Mary's River Watershed Association about how I felt - I knew he had seen a lot more than I had. Bob told me Fukushima wasn't the worst environmental disaster today. That made me feel a lot better!

During our conversation, I got the impression that many things bothered Bob as well. What he told me is that there are a lot of unfortunate things going on in the world. In order to prevent those issues from interfering with living, Bob said "**you have to wrap your arms around something.**"



It's as easy as 1 - 2!

[1. Download form:](#)
or
[purchase online :](#)

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

[Please email us today!](#)

That's how this graphic came about. When stressed, my computer becomes my canvas, and I often turn my feelings into a sheet of images and words. Yes . . . when you wrap your arms around something - dedicate yourself to it - it prevents you from throwing your hands up in despair.

Bob has chosen to wrap his arms around St. Mary's River and the Watershed Association - as many of you have - and make a difference in the river. He focuses on oyster restoration in the water, and rain gardens on land, trying to restore the natural world. And it's paying off. Last October, the water was clear to a depth of 10 feet. That's cleaner than the river has been in the last 20 years.

The St. Mary's River and its watershed is a part of the much larger Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. To clean up the Chesapeake Bay, you do it one river, one watershed at a time.

If all of us were given the opportunity to do something to help the environment, even a little, the health of St. Mary's River, the Chesapeake Bay, and our natural world would improve through our efforts. Here's your chance. Join our organization or donate today! Thank you for your support.

Stream Sampling Call for Volunteers

**TBD March through
April 2015**

Bob will take small groups of volunteers into the field to collect benthic

animals in partnership with the Maryland Stream Waders program. Hip boots or waders are required. Under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Email Bob to get on his schedule.

[Bob Lewis@stmarysriver.org](mailto:Bob.Lewis@stmarysriver.org)

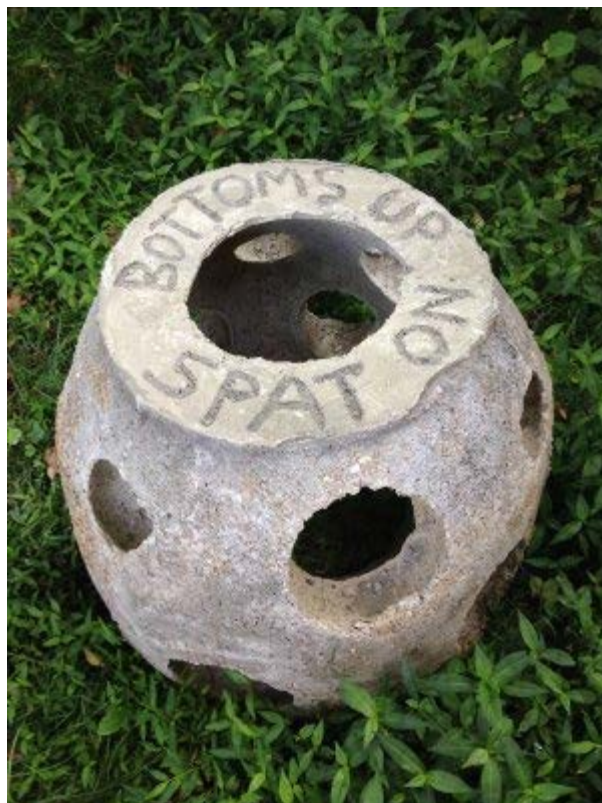


Check out [Maryland Stream Waters](#) for more information.

Give an Oyster Reef Ball for Valentine's Day

Check out rereefthebay.org - there is more information in this website about artificial oyster reefs, and the work that has gone into them. St. Mary's River Watershed Association is continuing to add to the reefs in Horseshoe Bend. In addition to the 500-or so already in the river, there are well over 50 reef balls inscribed with names of loved ones, favorite teams, favorite sayings, and more!

Surprise your favorite Valentine this year with an Oyster Reef Ball inscribed with their name. It will be a lasting gift to a healthier St. Mary's River! See the sidebar to complete your order.



Upcoming Events:

- **STREAM SAMPLING**
TBD
March thru April 2015
Email Bob to get on the



OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability 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



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

schedule

Bob.Lewis@stmarysriver.org

- 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

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