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INSIDE THIS EDITION

A River Affair

Legislation Update

WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

March 31, 2015

Save The Date For

A River Affair

Sunday June 7th from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
at the State House - Historic St. Mary's City

Join us for the fifth anniversary celebration of the St. Mary's River and our campaign for clean water. This event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations from local vendors.

Tickets are \$70 per person and can be purchased in advance by check or via [PayPal](#). All proceeds benefit the restoration of the St. Mary's River. *For more information call us at (301)904-2387.*



SMRWA Legislation Update

HB 638 Withdrawn - Sanctuaries Saved

HB 0638, which proposed the re-designation of the upper St. Mary's River to allow for commercial oyster harvesting, was held on March 4th. This bill was met with overwhelming opposition from the public and was withdrawn that evening by sponsor Delegate Holmes after receiving an unfavorable report from the Environment and Transportation committee. We

can't thank you enough for taking action. Because of your efforts, our sanctuary is saved.

SB 919 - Limiting the WIPs

The SMRWA is in opposition to SB 919 which would have placed a two year prohibition on actions to clean up the Bay under the county Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). On March 27th the bill was killed after receiving a unanimous unfavorable report from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee. Programs and strategies that would help Maryland to meet Bay restoration goals will still be able to continue.

HB 551/SB 620 - The Bag Bill

The SMRWA supports the Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2015 (HB 0551) which bans most plastic shopping bags and requires a fee of 10 cents per bag for those who choose to use store-supplied paper bags. Participating stores can credit consumers 5 cents per reusable bag. Nearly 50% of all fees collected are earmarked for local community greening projects. This bill was heard by the senate on March 10th.

SB 684 - The Bottle Bill

The SMRWA supports the bottle bill, a recycling program that will refund consumers 5 cents per bottle they return, increasing the overall amount recycled and directly cutting down on litter. The senate hearing for this bill was held on March 10th and still no decision has been announced.

Upcoming Events:

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



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



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- **EARTH DAY on the Leonardtown Square**
Sunday, April 19, 2015
12:30 - 4:00 pm
- **ARTS FESTIVAL**
Saturday, May 2, 2015
Time TBD
Chesapeake Charter School
- **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**
Tuesday, June 17, 2015
1:00 pm on
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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