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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

June 23, 2016

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Tech Center Kids Do It All



JUNE 2, 2016—At the beginning of June, James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center's Natural Resource Management Class took a trip down to St. Mary's College to help plant oysters. Students also pulled a seine net to catch small river inhabitants that add to the biodiversity of our aquatic world. They learned the importance of reef balls as three dimensional structures to oyster restoration sustainability and even helped build one! We demonstrated the components of a reef ball from the mold to the "ingredients." On top of it all, they bagged 200 bags - 100 bushels - of oyster shell for us to strike in our next oyster nursery set scheduled for Tuesday June 28.

Outreach is a key
element to promoting

sustainability and cleaning our waterways. Field trips to the shoreline help to personalize the concerns for our natural environment and emphasize ways each of us can assist with river clean up. We even had a handful of kids voice their interest in helping us out on an ongoing basis.



Crab-Fest

JUNE 11, 2016—Marylanders' enthusiasm for our local blue crabs was evident at the 31st Annual Crab Festival! Just like crabs, oysters are also a very big part of our Bay's ecosystem. While our exhibit included several feisty blue crabs, it was the oyster and their water-filtering ability that we highlighted at the festival.



Our partners and VEX robotics World Champs, the fourth- and fifth-grade Ridge Elementary Rock & Roll Rockets joined us to help fundraise and talk to common crab enthusiasts about the significance of being Bay stewards! *(And they raised \$281!!)*

Chesapeake Public Charter School Contributes to Our Reef



MAY 31, 2016—High schoolers weren't the only ones making reef balls recently. Chesapeake Public Charter School's 6th grade classes joined us at the end of May to learn about reef balls and the benefits of making them. By raising the oysters up out of the river bed and on to a reef ball, there is a better chance of survival due to better access to flowing water, higher oxygen levels, and lower risk from suffocating in the silt at the river bottom. The 6th graders made two concrete reef balls for our sanctuary and we inscribed the school acronym on them to commemorate the event!



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



Upcoming Events:



• 11:00 to 4:00 September 24
Historic St. Mary's City

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