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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 94  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

March 8, 2017

[Join or Renew](#)

Speak out now:

**KEEP OYSTER**

**SANCTUARIES OFF-**

**LIMITS FROM HARVEST!**

[Sign the Petition](#)

## Annual River Clean Up

**Kitts Point, St. Ingoes State Forest**

Saturday, April 8

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

46621 Beachville Road

St. Ingoes, MD 20684

[RSVP](#) Please to:

info@stmarysriver.org



### [INSIDE THIS EDITION](#)

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**BECOME A CERTIFIED**

**MASTER**

**WATERSHED**

**STEWARD**

**ARE YOU LOOKING TO  
IMPROVE LOCAL WATER  
QUALITY?**

**Application Deadline**

We will take on a new area

this year; an area that provides for paddling or hiking to pick up trash. We will meet at the second parking area on the right after you have entered the state forest. After a brief safety talk, we will disperse in teams to different areas of the park - boaters can launch and pick up trash from the water. We will have some gloves and plenty of trash bags. Bring drinking water, sun screen, hats, boating gear (if needed), and work gloves if you have them.

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## Oyster Sanctuary Update

**And OAC Meeting Summary**

Friday, March 10

[LEARN MORE](#)



Restored oyster reef in the St. Mary's River - photo by Meghan Webster.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Oyster Advisory Commission continue to debate the declassification of oyster sanctuaries with watermen eager to harvest areas that have been off limits for six seasons. At the last OAC meeting February 13, DNR staff unveiled a strawman proposal," which suggests openingg up parts of seven sanctuaries and adding four new ones. Overall the proposal would reduce the Bay area of productive bottom within sanctuaries by more than 1,000 acres - an 11% reduction from current area. Clearly the majority of folks attending these meetings are opposed to any reduction of sanctuary boundaries and, in fact, have called on the OAC and DNR to increase sanctuary area by about 25%. The St. Mary's sanctuary was not a part of the proposal.

Scientist serving on the OAC appear to all agree that a reduction is not in the best interest of the watermen or the Bay's health. They add that the proposal did not follow the recommendations of the 5-year report and has no science to back it. It is just a collection of disjointed recommendations from county oyster committees and community groups.

In response to the threat to the sanctuaries, legislation is working its way through Annapolis that would forbid any boundary changes until a stock assessment was completed in 2018. House Bill 924 has a growing support and needs your help - please call your representative and ask them to support HB924.

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assessment is completed in 2018. House Bill 924 has a growing support and needs your help - please call your representative and ask them to [support HB924](#).

The OAC meets again on Monday March 13 at 6 P.M. at Calvery United Methodist Church in Annapolis. We urge you to attend that meeting where it is expected that opposing views will spar for their cause and others might try to form a compromise. [[Meeting Details](#)]

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## STEM Summer Interns

### CAPSTONE Presentations



For the past four summers, SMRWA has mentored STEM Academy interns from Great Mills High School to foster future Bay leaders - introducing them to the hard yet rewarding work that comes with environmental conservation and habitat restoration. This past summer, our interns installed six residential storm water mitigation projects, or rain gardens, providing them a chance to learning about, design, and build a functioning rain garden. Rain gardens filter nutrient and sediment pollutants from rooftop and driveway runoff, and—most importantly—protecting our waterways. Our two 2016 STEM interns, Hunter Rooney (middle left) and Jill Carty (middle right), presented their

summer experience on and off the river as well as their future education decisions. Hunter is accepted at Coastal South Carolina and UMBC and hopes to decide soon where he might attend next fall. Jill will be attending Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire. Meghan Webster (right), former STEM intern (2014), will be entering her junior year as she transfers to Coastal South Carolina this coming fall to study marine biology and pre-med. Meghan is currently the Association's Outreach Director.

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



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

## Upcoming Events:

- **CBL Science For Citizen Talks**  
*Series Begins*  
Tuesday Mar. 28  
7:00 pm  
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory  
Solomon's Island  
*FREE* [LEARN MORE](#)
- **River Clean Up**  
Saturday Apr. 8  
9 to 11 am  
Kitts Point, St. Inigoes State Forest  
*FREE* Please [RSVP](#)
- **Earth Day on the Square**  
April 23  
12:30 - 4:30  
*FREE* Leonardtown Square

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