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WATERSHED WATCH

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

November 8, 2017

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Partnership Launched to Assess Oyster Restoration in Breton Bay

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November 18

St. Mary's River Watershed Association formally joined a new partnership project to survey and determine one or more potential oyster restoration sites in Breton Bay. The [Friends of St. Clement's Bay](#) is leading the effort and has already garnered strong support from Mayor Dan Burris and the Leonardtown Town Council. Other partners, who together are seeking funding, include Morgan State Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory, and the James Forrest Career & Technology Center's Natural Resources Management class.



Students from the Forrest Tech Center class collect water quality data: From right - taking the GPS coordinates, salinity, dissolved oxygen, clarity, and recording data while teacher John Spinicchia looks on and reporter Dandan Zou photographs. Kayaks were loaned by the Greenwell Foundation.

Last week, the five partners held their first field assessment by launching

kayaks and canoes at the town wharf and paddling to five sites to collect baseline water quality data, depths, and bay bottom conditions. The preliminary data will be used to formalize a scientific action plan for further survey work and assessments in 2018. Already several partners have pledged services and support and the Friends have applied for grant funding.

"A successful grant award next month will set the stage for ongoing work through 2018 and possibly beyond," said Association director Bob Lewis. "Historically Breton Bay was a productive oyster fishery, but commercial harvest has not occurred there for more than twenty years. We are anxious to bring oysters back to this watershed neighboring the St. Mary's River."

The project is looking for funders and sponsors to cover a variety of logistical and support expenses. Grant monies are earmarked for the science-side—test equipment, laboratory testing, and instructional services. Leonardtown businesses are urged to call Liz Curtz and Bob Lewis to get on board. [301-904-2387]

Annual Meeting

Dr. Henry Miller to speak on Oysters in the St. Mary's

"Some Observations on Oysters and
the St. Mary's River Through Time"

10 to 11 am Saturday November 18
Ruddy Duck Seafood and Alehouse
St. George Island

RSVP is required - text 301-904-2387 or email
info@stmarysriver.org

ELECTIONS OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD
(only members in good-standing can vote)

The Public is Welcome - Please RSVP.



We're on the web!

Upcoming Events:

www.smrwa.org



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ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, November 18

10 am

Ruddy Duck St. George Island

Speaker: Dr. Henry Miller

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