

\*\*\*\*\* **PRESS RELEASE** \*\*\*\*\*

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## **SMRWA at the River Concert Series**

A typical Friday afternoon along the St. Mary's River involves people relaxing in a serene environment while viewing the river and its wildlife. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the first in series of Friday events began changing the quiet scenery of St. Mary's City into a bustling crowd of people waiting to listen to a mixture of jazz, Finnish and Russian musical compositions.

"We always have a good time at the River concerts – add a wonderful scenic location and you have the recipe for a great party!" said Will Gates, Captain of the replica Maryland Dove, "Keeping the river clean, scenic, and productive is an important part of this recipe and is an important responsibility to future generations"

As children and adults alike walked along College Drive or blew bubbles on the townhouse green, the vendors eagerly waited for them to walk up to their tables and offer sentiments about their organization or to sell their local foodstuffs. On the northern-most end of College Drive passersby were drawn in to the St. Mary's River Watershed Association's exhibit in which an energetic crab and a few dozen thirsty oysters immediately drew the attention of both young and old.



*Capt. Will Gates at the SMRWA booth relaxes momentarily before the concert begins.*

"Most of the children were surprised to witness our tank of mature oysters take only one hour to filter ten gallons of dirty river water," said Allison Rugila, a student intern at the SMRWA. "Some stopped by the table multiple times to see the change in the clarity of the water over time—and they brought along friends with each successive trip"

The SMRWA also featured a Knaggs acoustic guitar raffle for a chance to own the hand-made acoustic guitar from the Chesapeake Bay Eastern Shore. For a \$25 donation, you could be part of the raffle and have a chance in winning a guitar and hard case valued at \$2000. For

more information visit <http://www.smrwa.org/KnaggsGuitar.html>.

The River Concert Series continues every Friday until July 29<sup>th</sup>. The July 22<sup>nd</sup> concert is dedicated to the environment and our river. Please join with us on this special occasion in celebrating the St. Mary's River. Knaggs acoustic guitar raffle tickets will be available. We will also have the aquarium demonstration of the oysters' ability to clean our water...maybe a feisty crab or two.

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